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Friday, December 13, 1996

Agrahayana 22, 1918 (Saka)

FOR REFERENCE ONLY.

LOK SABHA DEBATES **(English Version)**

Third Session
(Eleventh Lok Sabha)



(Vol. VII contains Nos. 11 to 20)

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Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)

....

Friday, December 13, 1996/Agrahayana 22, 1918 (Saka)

....

<u>Col/Line.</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
2/26	Add 'SHRI' after Lt. General	
45/10 (from below)	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Commerce
48/12		
50/27 (from below)		
52/14		
59/13		
84/27		
46/8 (from below)	SHRI MAHESH KANODIA	SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA
48/26		
93/3	SHRI S.D.N.R. VADLHAR	SHRI S.D.N.R. VADLHAR
95/14	Smt. Bhavna Chikhalia	Shrimati Bhavnaben Devraj Bhai Chikhalia
105/24	Sh. Shivraj Singh Chauhan	SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH

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LOK SABHA

Friday, December 13, 1996/Agrahayana 22,
1918 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Two Minutes Past
Eleven of the Clock)

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

RE: AGREEMENT SIGNED AT WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE AT SINGAPORE

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : What has happened in Singapore yesterday? There is a total reversal of the position of the Government of India declared here and also outside. We were assured that in respect of labour standards, MTA and also importers, the Government has taken a firm position that they will never surrender to the pressures being brought by United States and other nations. But today reports are coming that there is a total reversal of the position. We are proud that we have taken a firm stand in respect of CTBT. Now we find that we have surrendered to the pressures of the United States at the cost of our sovereignty, economy and exports.

There should be a discussion on this matter and the Government should respond. The Finance Minister and the Industry Minister are here. They should respond. What is the position of the Government on this matter?... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : It is going to be one world of the multi-nationals only and, therefore, a discussion on this matter is a must ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it must be taken for discussion but it is to be signed today. We have taken this matter to the Government of India. The Forum of Parliamentarians on Intellectual Property held several meetings here. The meeting was also held with the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Finance. The hon. Commerce Minister who has gone Singapore to sign this treaty was also present at that time. We were clearly and categorically told that it would not be signed on the basis of any condition. If you go through the today's newspaper, you will find the evidence of such assurance since Tejendra Khanna States from there that he had again consulted the Government of India. The media persons from India asked him whether he had suddenly changed his stand? Sir, 1989 is again being repeated... (Interruptions) When Indian representatives were discussing in Punta del Este in 1947, the same thing had happened.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it will be signed there within one hour. The Government must do something if it wants to save its prestige and future of the country and does not want to hand over the country's interest in the hands of Multi-National Companies. This matter is not going to wait even till Question Hour since the future of the country is in danger... (Interruptions). All this happened in 1989 and 1987 and it is simply repetition of the history ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Let them make a statement today... (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : The whole nation is concerned about this.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : We have experience it that there is no need to accept it... (Interruptions) Who has given you right to mortgage the country ... (Interruptions) The hon. Minister should reply as to why it is going to be signed when it was assured earlier that it would not be signed... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : It is a very important matter. The Finance Minister is here. Let him clarify the position... (Interruptions)

LT. GENERAL PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria) : This is a total turn around in the stated position of the Government of India... (Interruptions) What the Commerce Secretary has stated in Singapore is a total turn around of what has been stated here... (Interruptions) It is a very very serious matter.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAUDAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : The Government has surrendered before the MNCs... (Interruptions). The Government has marred the pride of the country ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : They should either deny or confirm it.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Please, suspend the question Hour and instruct the hon. Minister to reply... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Does the present Government continue the policy of the previous Government? Now, the Finance Minister is here. Let him clarify the position... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIA (Ujjain) : The hon. Financial Minister should tell the actual position... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, do you want to say something?

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It is a very important matter. It has got to be discussed now itself... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (Balia) (Bihar) : The hon. Minister is giving clarification. Please let him speak... (Interruptions)

[English]

LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria) : This is a very serious matter. This is a turn around of what has already been stated here. The Secretary goes to Singapore, takes a total turn around and says something else... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let us hear the Minister

LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : We have no information about it. The point is that the information is not important. The important thing is the turn around... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let us hear the Minister.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Did it all happen as per the hon. Minister will... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : When the Minister wants to reply, you do not allow him. What can he do?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, the brief to the delegation was very clear, that we have a very clear and strong position on issues relating to labour standards and on the proposed educative process on the multilateral agreement on investment. The delegation was led by the Commerce Minister. There are newspaper reports about the statements made by the Commerce Minister in the Plenary. And, I think the hon. Members, when they get to read the text of the statement, will be fully satisfied that the position taken by India was completely consistent with what was discussed here and what was discussed or disclosed to either this House or to Members of Parliament individually or in groups. The text of the statements made by the Commerce Minister will clearly uphold the fact that we took a strong and categorical position.

It appears again that the situation was evolving. Many countries which stood by the position - you advocated that when you were in the previous Government - in the Conference held here and Harare, have changed their position. This was something which one has to take into account. The newspaper reports have also referred to the letter, for example, of the Malaysian Minister a few days ago to the Commerce Minister and the position has changed.

So, the Leader of the Delegation and the Delegation has continued to make strong statements both in the committees as well as in the plenaries. The final text of the Singapore Minister's Meeting is not available to me in any event so far I have not seen the text as of yesterday. I do not believe that the text has come. The Commerce Minister is expected to return soon and I am sure that the Commerce Minister will make a full statement on the position taken by India, the situation as it evolved and the final declaration adopted in Singapore. I think, the hon. Members should await the Commerce Minister's statement on the matter because only he can give a full picture of what has happened.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : He has indicated it because other people are deluding their intentions. This is what is indicative of it... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let us hear Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : After hearing the hon. Finance Minister, the stand of the Commerce Minister seems to be all right. But once you sign it and then come and give a statement, that will be a *fait accompli*... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let us listen to him first. I am allowing it deliberately because I know the subject.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : What I feel is that the Finance Minister or the Government should verify it... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a matter of Question Hour. This is really an important matter for the country. Are you understanding the implications to this? I am allowing it deliberately because I know and I have taken the initiative in this matter. Please do not disturb him.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) Please save the country.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Shri Chidambaram has rightly explained the situation. He is not aware of the fact whether the situation has changed or not. But he says that some of the previous supporters have changed their position. Let us get an assurance before the lunch hour or after the lunch hour. Singapore is not far away by the present communication system.

MR. SPEAKER : No place is far away these days.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Something should come before we adjourn the House for the day, otherwise, once it is signed with so much of assurances from so many people, it will lead to various troubles. I

think, we can give time to the Government to come with the information...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : The message should be sent to him that we should not get away from our position. The message should be communicated...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : The House may be adjourned for half-an-hour.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has not been empowered to go back to assurance. This matter should be taken seriously.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : We can adjourn the House for half-an-hour. Let them communicate and come back to the House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : What is the decision of the Government? They can communicate it to the House. Let the message go from this House that this House is not at all prepared to surrender to the diktats of the American lobby which will affect our economic sovereignty. Let this message go from this House to the Government, outside and also to Singapore...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Let us give them half-an-hour's time and let them come back...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the hon. Minister, after signing the treaty will come, this matter would have become *fait accompli* and then you would say that nothing could be done on the matter. It is a question of India's pride and prestige. Therefore, please adjourn the House and hold a discussion on it.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Let us adjourn for half-an-hour.

MR. SPEAKER : Half-an-hour will not be enough.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : This message must go from this House that we do not endorse this position.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : They take the House for a ride.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, from the statement of the hon. Finance Minister, it is clear that things have changed and things are changing. At the moment, the Government does not have full information about that. I share the sentiments of the House. It is a very serious matter. As Parliament is in Session, if India has to sign, I think, Parliament has got to know before India signs

I adjourn the House till two o'clock. Let the Government, during this time, ascertain the position and come back.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Production of Tea

*321. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for producing tea in the Eighth Plan period and the achievements made so far; and

(b) the projection made for the production of tea in the Ninth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Year-wise targets for production of Tea in the Eighth Plan and Sactual achievements have been as under:

(Million Kg)		
Year	Target	Achievement
1992-93	765	736.00
1993-94	730	768.05
1994-95	770	743.33
1995-96	780	762.35
1996-97	790	-

(b) A target of production of 1000 Million Kgs. of tea has been proposed for the terminal year (2001-2002) of the Ninth Plan. This is yet to be finalised.

Schemes for Handloom Weavers

*322. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any study regarding implementation of the Schemes sponsored for the upliftment of handloom weavers in the States and proper utilisation of funds provided thereof to the respective State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the inordinate delay being committed by the State Government in releasing funds for different Schemes for handloom workers even after receipt of the funds from the Union Government;

(d) if so, the guidelines and the directives given by the Union Government to the State Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken to check the plight of handloom workers?

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

(a) to (b) No specific Study has been conducted regarding implementation of all the Schemes for the upliftment of Handloom weavers and proper utilisation of funds provided thereo. However, a study on the implementation of the Scheme of Handloom Development Centres and Quality Dyeing Units has been conducted.

(c) The fund releases by the Governments are dependent on observance of various procedural formalities and the progress of the ongoing Schemes. Consequently, there may be a time lag between release of funds by the State Governments after receipt of funds from the Centre.

(d) The State Governments and UTs are advised from time to time to release Central grant to implementing Agencies/beneficiaries in time.

(e) The Government is implementing a number of Schemes for the development of Handloom Sector and welfare of weavers. Requisite assistance are being provided through these Schemes for input support, marketing, skill upgradation and infrastructure development to check the plight of handloom weavers.

Report on Sick NTC Mills

*323. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had asked for a report on the viability of each of the 120 National Textile Corporation sick mills in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof of the reports received so far and the main features thereof; and

(c) the names of sick mills which are reported viable?

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

(a) to (c). The Textiles Research Associations had been commissioned in June, 1993 to study and recommend a modernisation package for the NTC mills. In the report of the Textile Research Associations they have recommended modernisation of 79 mills with an outlay of approximately Rs. 2005 crores which include restructuring of 36 mills into 18 viable units. On the basis of this report the Central Government has approved a rehabilitation package for NTC in May, 1995. Under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, it is the company as a whole and not individual mills that are referred to BIFR. On account of continuous losses and erosion in net worth, 8 out of 9 subsidiary corporations were referred to and declared sick by the BIFR. The rehabilitation package has, therefore, been placed before the BIFR for consideration.

Nidhi Companies

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

(a) the number of proposals for setting up of Nidhi Companies (non-banking financial companies) have been approved by the Government so far;

(b) the number of such proposals which are still pending with the Government, State-wise;

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be approved.

(d) whether the Government have detected any case of frauds by these companies;

(e) if so, the details thereof, and the action taken in this regard; and

(f) steps being taken to modify the guidelines for approval of such companies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Since 1963, 192 companies have so far been declared as Nidhi Companies under Section 620A of the Companies Act, 1956.

(b) As on 30.11.1996, ninety-one applications were pending. The State-wise position of these pending applications is as follows :

S.No.	Name of the State	Number of applications Pending
1.	Tamilnadu	72
2.	Uttar Pradesh	8
3.	Andhra Pradesh	2
4.	Kerala	2
5.	Karnataka	2
6.	West Bengal	1
7.	National Capital Territory of Delhi	2
8.	Pondicherry (Union Territory)	2
Total		91

(c) Pending review of the working of Nidhi Companies, a decision on the pending applications has been kept in abeyance.

(d) and (e). According to available information, the Chennai City Police have registered cases under provisions of the Indian Penal Code and Prize Chit and Money Circulation Scheme (Banning) Act, 1978 against a number of persons concerned with the management of a number of companies/firms, including GNS Nidhi Ltd. and three companies named as benefit fund companies (which are not declared as Nidhi u/s 620A of the Companies Act).

Recent inspection of eleven Nidhi companies under Section 209A of the Companies Act, 1956 has revealed certain contraventions of the provisions of the

Companies Act the directions issued under Sections 637A of the Companies Act, 1956 issued vide Department of Company Affairs Notification No. GSR 773(E) dated 4th December, 1995. Suitable action as warranted under law is being taken against these companies.

(f) A view in the matter will be taken after the review of the working of Nidhi companies has been completed.

Suggestion made by PHDCCI to Boost Exports

*325. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request from Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chamber of Commerce and Industry for reviewing the loan facility provided by the Government to the exporter during the last three years to ensure the achievements of export targets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to achieve the targets fixed for exports during the above period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. In a Note submitted recently to the Ministry of Commerce, the Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) has, inter alia, made certain suggestions regarding credit facilities to the exporters. These include revision of the target for export credit as a percentage of net bank credit, reduction of interest rates for export credit, further review of rate of interest beyond 90 days and upto 180 days, review of interest rates on overdue bills, review of methods of lending to export sector, and some procedural aspects relating to export credit.

(c) to (e). Export promotion is a continuous activity undertaken by the Ministry of Commerce and is based on interaction with industry, trade and other export promotion institutions. The measures to achieve targets fixed for exports are initiated through policy and promotional schemes which include simplification of export and import policy procedures, improving efficiency and competitiveness, focussing on quality and technology upgradation and efforts to actively involve State Governments in export promotion.

In so far as export credit is concerned, banks have been advised from time to time by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to ensure that exporters' credit needs are met in full and promptly. Exporter can avail of rupee packing credit at 13 per cent upto 180 days and at 15 per cent for period beyond 180 days and upto 270 days. In the monetary policy for second half of 1996-97,

the interest rate on post-shipment rupee credit has been further rationalised. Rupee post-shipment credit is available at 13 per cent upto 90 days and at 15 per cent for period beyond 90 days and upto six months from the date of shipment. For ensuring smooth flow of credit to export sector, instructions have been issued by RBI to banks to ensure that :

(i) no worthwhile export order suffers for want of finance;

(ii) grievances of exporter-borrowers in the matter of timely and adequate sanction of credit limits are redressed promptly;

(iii) sanction of fresh/enhanced limits/renewal of limits is made within the period stipulated where application is received with complete details and cases of rejection of export credit proposals are brought to the notice of Chief Executives explaining reasons for rejection.

(iv) export credit target of 12.0 per cent (enhanced from 10.0 per cent under the monetary policy for second half of 1996-97) to net bank credit is achieved by 31st March, 1997.

[Translation]

Rebate on Khadi and Polyster

*326. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have withdrawn the system of rebate which was allowed on the selling prices of Khadi and Polyster;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce a new system of market development assistance under which the benefit is likely to be available of Khadi manufacturers;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(e) its likely effect on the price and demand of Khadi?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). The High Power Committee (HPC) in its report submitted in 1994 had made several recommendations including the replacement of rebate scheme for Khadi with the Market Development Assistance (MDA) scheme with an objective to improve marketing of Khadi products by allowing them the flexibility in utilisation of Government grant for purposes such as advertisement, consultancy services for new designs etc. in addition to allowing some rebate on sale of Khadi. However, Government have not yet taken any decision on this recommendation of the HPC.

[English]

Review of the Advance License Scheme

*327. SHRI SARAT PATTANAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to review the advance licensing scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above review is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Yes Sir. The Duty Exemption Scheme under which Advance Licences are issued is proposed to be reviewed as part of the overall policy review exercise to formulate a new long term policy which will be effective from 1.4.97, as the current Export and Import Policy 1992-97 would expire on 31.3.97. The review will be done keeping in mind the suggestions received from various Export Promotion Councils, trade and industry and Apex Chambers of Commerce, in consultation with the concerned administrative Ministries and shall be completed by 31.3.97.

[Translation]

Setting up Japanese City

*328. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have asked for assistance from Japan to set up an Industrial Model Town in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also received such proposals from other multinational companies and Non-Resident Indians (N.R.I.); and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Governing of India sought assistance from Japan for setting up Industrial Model Town with quality infrastructure to attract large foreign investment

(b) Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was entrusted with the work of conducting a detailed feasibility study for establishing an Industrial Model Town in India. Gurgaon in Haryana State was found to be the most suitable site. The proposal for setting up an Industrial Model Town is under negotiation between the Government of Haryana and the consortium of Japanese companies.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The details of these proposals are given as under :

1. An Information Technology Park is being set up

at Bangalore with equity participation of Tatas. Information Technology Park Investment Pte. Ltd., Singapore and Government of Karnataka.

2. M/s. Unitech Limited, New Delhi were granted foreign collaboration approval for setting up a joint venture company for development of a Technology Park at Gurgaon with foreign equity participation of M/s. First Capital Property Venture Pte. Ltd., Singapore, a consortium consisting of five companies of Singapore.

3. M/s. Modular Industrial Infrastructures Ltd., Calcutta has submitted a proposal for induction of foreign equity from M/s. Lakeland Projects Ltd., U.K. for development of infrastructure for Food Processing Industries. The proposal is under consideration.

[English]

MoUs Signed by STC

*329. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between his Ministry and the State Trading Corporation during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the performance in the business in value terms;

(c) whether the STC has not been able to fulfil its obligations as envisaged in the changing business scenario;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor and

(e) the details of the diversification programmes taken up by STC during the last three years and the achievements made so far thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir. An MOU has been signed between the Ministry of Commerce and STC during each of the last three years. Year-wise details of the targets fixed in the MoUs and the performance achieved by STC are given below :

Year	MoU Target	(Rs. in crores)
		Performance achieved
1993-94	1325	1117
1994-95	1132	1861*
1995-96	1302	1685*

* Including canalised imports

(c) to (e). Consequent upon the decanalisation of import and export of a number of items earlier canalised through STC, the Corporation has reoriented its trading

strategies in a manner consistent with the liberalised economy and competitive environment in the international market. As a part of its diversification of trade activities in the changed business scenario, STC is laying greater emphasis on developing non-canalised trade by way of :

- direct buying and selling;
- development of captive supply sources
- through joint ventures and financial assistance;
- sale of edible oils in STC's own brand name;
- strengthening overseas marketing network and warehousing;
- development of Port infrastructure in the country;
- contemplated plan to import gold and export gold jewellery.

As a result of efforts made by STC to increase non-canalised trade, STC's total turnover on its own account has been consistently increasing as per details given below :

	(Rs. in crores)			
	Exports	Imports	Domestic	Total
1993-94	363	68	80	511
1994-95	429	42	90	561
1995-96	548	143	78	769

Delicensing of Electronic Goods

*330. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved a proposal to delicense the entertainment electronic goods like Television and VCR etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the items to be delicensed;

(c) the impact on the industrial growth after delicensing the above items;

(d) whether the Governmet has any proposal to delicence other items which are under compulsory licensing in near future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. All items of entertainment electronic industry stand delicensed.

(c) Delicensing of any industry implies that the entrepreneur is free to take investment and technology decisions which would contribute to greater industrail growth. However, since industrail growth depends inter-alia on various factors affecting the demand and supply of the industrial sector, the effect of delicensing of any sector can be assessed only with a time lag accounting for the gestation period in putting up an industry.

(d) and (e). Review of delicensing of industries is a continuous process.

[Translation]

Production Cost

*331. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the newsitem appeared in 'Times of India' dated November 14, 1996 under the caption "Production costs are not low in India";

(b) whether productivity and general production costs in India are high despite the availability of cheaper labour;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the cost of raw material and other components are 130% higher in India as compared to the country like Germany; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the cost of production?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). This is not universally true as is borne out by studies conducted by Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices on a range of products and industries. Even the concerned Report recognises the fact that lower costs obtain in certain industries in India.

Scheme for SSI Units

*332. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small Industries Development Bank of India has formulated any comprehensive scheme for the marketing of the goods manufactured in the small scale industrial sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Scheme provides for financial assistance in the form of loan to SSI units existing as well as new and corporate entities. The Corporate entities providing infrastructure, support services etc. to SSI units are also eligible for assistance. The amount of loan sanctioned is need based but not normally below Rs. 10 lakhs per borrower. The repayment of loan varies from 3 to 8 years with moratorium of 1 year. The interest is fixed in a broad band upto 4% above the prime lending rate.

The promoters contribution is minimum of 10% of the proposed outlay. The security for the loan is based on existing fixed assets, other collateral security and assets acquired out of the loan.

Rural Industries in States

*333. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI
CHIKHALIA :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Small Industries Development Bank of India has prepared any project for setting up rural Industries in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has reported that it has been implementing four special schemes viz., Rural Industries Programme (RIP), Micro Credit Scheme (MCS), Mahila Vikas Nidhi (MVN) Scheme and Rural Entrepreneurship Development Programme (REDP) in the rural areas of the country, apart from providing assistance to units in small scale industries/tiny sector located in rural and semi-urban areas for their term loan/working capital and seed capital requirements under SIDBI's composite loan scheme (CLS), Single Window Scheme (SWS) and National Equity Fund Scheme (NEF). The salient features of the four special schemes mentioned above are as follows :

- (i) The objective of RIP is to promote viable enterprises leading to employment generation in rural areas by identifying and motivating rural entrepreneurs in setting up industrial ventures. RIP aims at better commercial exploitation of local resources. The scheme is currently in operation in 11 States having the largest concentration of rural poor.
- (ii) The objective of CS is to meet perceptible gap in financing genuine credit needs of the poor in rural areas. Under the Scheme, assistance upto a maximum of Rs. 10,000/- per borrower is extended at concessional rate. As at the end of November, 1996, 57 voluntary organisations/ non-Governmental organisations have been supported under MCS in 16 States with an aggregate assistance of Rs. 636 lakhs.
- (iii) The objective of MVN is to bring about economic empowerment of women especially the rural poor by providing them avenues for training and employment opportunities by facilitating creation of infrastructural facilities. As at the end of November, 1996, 104 non-Government organisations have been assisted in 23 States with an aggregate assistance of Rs. 417 lakhs.

- (iv) The objective of REDP is to train various target groups in entrepreneurial traits so that they obtain adequate information, motivation and guidance in setting up of their own enterprises. As on November 30, 1996, 269 programmes were conducted in different regions of the country.

[English]

Performance of Indian/Foreign Banks

*334. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branches of foreign banks and public sector banks operating in India, separately, State-wise;

(b) the amount of domestic deposits and NRI deposits attracted by Indian banks and foreign banks, separately; and

(c) the details of the steps taken to bring about attitudinal improvement in the public sector banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The information regarding State-wise number of bank branches separately for foreign banks and public sector banks operating in India is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) The outstanding domestic and Non resident Indian (NRI) deposits of Indian and foreign banks are given below :

Outstanding as on 29.3.1996

	(Rs. in crores)		
	Aggregate deposits	Domestic deposits	NRI deposits
Indian Banks	403405	360361	43044
Foreign Banks	30414	14615	15799

(c) Changes in attitude are sought to be influenced by competition, modernisation and by training programmes relating to attitudinal improvement.

STATEMENT

State-wise Branches position of Public Sector Banks and Foreign Banks

	Public Sector Banks as on last friday of March 1996	Foreign Banks as on date
	1	2
1. Andaman and Nicobar	30	-
2. Andhra Pradesh	3466	3

	1	2
3. Arunachal Pradesh	49	-
4. Assam	821	1
5. Bihar	3042	-
6. Chandigarh	128	-
7. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	7	-
8. Daman and Diu	12	-
9. Delhi	1115	27
10. Goa	258	1
11. Gujarat	3037	1
12. Haryana	1051	-
13. Himachal Pradesh	628	1
14. Jammu and Kashmir	251	1
15. Karnataka	2894	6
16. Kerala	1764	7
17. Lakshadweep	8	-
18. Madhya Pradesh	2816	-
19. Maharashtra	4727	56
20. Manipur	56	-
21. Meghalaya	127	-
22. Mizoram	26	-
23. Nagaland	62	-
24. Orissa	1330	-
25. Pondicherry	60	-
26. Punjab	2051	3
27. Rajasthan	1891	-
28. Sikkim	42	-
29. Tamil Nadu	3380	14
30. Tripura	91	-
31. Uttar Pradesh	5397	2
32. West Bengal	3340	44
Total	43958	167

[Translation]

Simplification of the Process of Exports

*335. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export is declining due to delay in processing the cases of exporters in various departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to simplify the procedure of export; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). No Sir. In absolute terms India's exports have increased from US\$ 26.33 billion in 1994-95 to 31.83 billion in 1995-96. As per data available from Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, exports during April-September, 1996 are valued at US\$ 16.14 billion representing a growth of 9.9% in US \$ terms as compared to exports of value US\$ 14.68 billion for the corresponding period of April-September, 1995.

However, there is evidence of a decline in growth rate in the current year. As per data available from Director General of Intelligence and Statistics exports grew at the rate of 9.9% during April-September, 1996 as compared to 26.4% during the corresponding period last year. The decline in the growth rate of exports is not due to delay in processing the cases of exporters in various departments but is mainly on account of world trade in 1996 showing a marked decline in merchandise exports, estimated at 5% growth in the first half of the year as compared to 8% growth in the last year, high rate of interest charged by banks, non-availability of export credit and infrastructure constraints.

(c) and (d). Simplification of export procedures consistent with the liberalisation of policy, is a continuous process, undertaken in consultation with Export Promotion Councils, trade and industry and concerned administrative ministries. Some of the significant steps taken in this regard include provision of green channel clearances of export and import consignments to specified categories of exporters, introduction of Electronic Data Interchange which envisages computer based operations to expedite various clearances and facilitate networking and free flow of information among the different agencies connected with international trade and exporters and progressive reduction of licencing requirements and other discretionary controls on imports and exports.

[English]

Canalised and Non-Canalised Exports made by STC

*336. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the main items exported with its quantity and value by State Trading Corporation under canalised and non-canalised categories during the last three years;

(b) whether there has been any drift in the STC in its performance objectives;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) A statement showing item-wise non-canalised exports of STC for the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 is attached.

(b) to (d). In the wake of liberalisation/globalisation of exports, STC has re-oriented its export strategy in a manner consistent with the Government's liberalised economic policies and the competitive trading environment in the international market with emphasis on non-canalised exports. As a result of the efforts made by STC to develop non-canalised trade, foreign exchanges earnings of STC has reached the level of Rs. 212 crore in 1995-96 as compared to Rs. 46 crore in 1992-93.

STC : Exports during 1993-94 to 1995-96

Value : Rs. Crores
Qty : 000 MTs in brackets*

Items	1993-94 Actuals	1994-95 Actuals	1995-96 Actuals
1	2	3	4
Non-canalised**			
Castor Oil/seeds	-	9.79	29.62
Jute Goods	2.37	9.80	16.17
Rice	2.60	18.72 (22)	129.12 (148)
Tobacco	9.14	1.94 (0.5)	3.04
Coffee	14.01	23.80 (3)	29.53
Spices	2.23	1.75	1.02
Tea	17.23	5.58 (0.7)	5.24
Extractions	68.25	40.40	82.10
Foodgrains (Wheat)	0.15	16.07 (35)	19.35
Others	932	3.41	4.40
Natural Rubber	10.35	-	-
Cashew	33.36	46.97	35.13
Sugar	43.91	30.46 (34)	17.34
Alcohol	4.94	-	-
Molasses	-	-	-
Sports Goods	4.80	6.05	5.42
Textile/RMG/Coir	9.86	14.63	21.71
Consumer Products	8.52	12.32	6.59
Engg./Const. Materials	23.79	32.51	54.80
Chemicals and Drugs	40.37	39.70	33.44
Meat and Marine Products	2.49	1.05	1.56

1	2	3	4
Fresh and Processed Foods	11.44	6.82	6.49
Leatherware	44.08	39.83	40.72
Brassware	-	2.19	0.52
Sub-total (Non-Canalised)	363.21	363.79	543.31
Off-shore	-	65.30	5.09
Counter Trade	434.67	376.53	201.00
Total Exports	797.88	805.62	749.40

* Quantities have been shown wherever possible/available

** STC is not handling any canalised export commodity

Code for Merger of Companies

*337. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new code for takeover and merger of companies and firms has been lately evolved by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI); and

(b) if so, the main flaws and loopholes in the earlier code Governing such transactions and the details of the major modifications introduced in the system through the new code?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). SEBI has appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice P.M. Bhagwati, former Chief Justice of India to review the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 1994. The objective of the Committee is to suggest amendments in the existing regulations with a view to strengthening the regulations and making the more fair, transparent and unambiguous and also to protect the interest of investors and of all parties concerned in the acquisition process.

Autonomy to PSUs

338. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) an apex body of all public sector enterprises has urged the Union Government to extend the autonomous status to its enterprises to enable them to achieve high profitability rate in the fast changing global scenario;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). The Standing Conference of Public Enterprises, a society registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, has made various suggestions including giving full autonomy and operational freedom of decision making to Chief Executives of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). Taking various measures to improve the functioning of PSUs, including grant of greater autonomy, is a continuous process, and Government have been granting greater powers in respect of financial, personnel and operational matters to the managements of PSUs from time to time.

Impact on Production of Rubber and Coconut due to Import Policy

*339. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the liberalised import policy is likely to affect the rubber and coconut production adversely particularly in Kerala;

(b) whether the Government propose to review the decision of liberalised import policy;

(c) whether the Government also propose to exempt rubber products and coconut value added products from the purview of liberalised import policy; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) At present nothing has come to the notice of Government that may give rise to such apprehension.

(b) to (d). There is no such proposal under consideration at present. However, review of the Export and Import Policy is a continuous process and changes in it are made from time to time as and when considered necessary in the public interest.

Support Prices of Spices

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

(a) whether there has been a decline in the prices of most of the spices during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to fix support price for spices;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). There has been a mixed trend in the movement of prices of spices during the last three years. A statement

indicating movement of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) of spices and condiments is given below :

Annual Average Wholesale Price Index (WPI) of Spices (1981-82 = 100)

Commodity	1993	1994	1995	1996*
Black Pepper	243.4	465.1	538.8	552.5
Dry Chillies	174.1	216.2	355.9	424.7
Turmeric	599.6	458.7	426.3	623.5
Ginger	371.1	500.3	741.5	615.9
Cardamom	1599.7	1007.2	789.1	838.8
Cumin Seed	707.9	393.2	399.3	550.3
Garlic	560.7	965.8	509.4	374.2
Spices & Condiments	474.5	419.4	442.9	501.5

* Ten months average (Jan-Oct., 1996) and provisional

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) In order to ensure remunerative price to the growers of the spices the Government has brought spices under the Market Intervention Scheme. Under the Scheme, market operations are undertaken, when prices fall to uneconomic levels, on the specific request from the State Government for a Specific commodity, for a certain period and for a specific quantity at a fixed price. The Central nodal agency i.e., National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation and state designated agencies make purchases generally in equal proportion and also share losses, if any, in the same proportion.

Expenditure on Ministers

3115. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any ceilings has been fixed in respect of the expenditure incurred by the Ministers on telephone calls in their offices and residences as well as on fittings and furnishings of their offices and residences;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken in the cases where these ceilings are crossed?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Having regard to the functional and operational considerations, no limit has been prescribed on the number of telephone calls made from the office and residential telephones of Ministers.

In respect of furnishing of office and office portion of the residence of a Minister, a ceiling of Rs. 45,000/- has been prescribed. Further, in terms of the Ministers Residences' Rules, 1962, the value of furniture and electrical appliances provided free of rent at the residence of a Minister shall not exceed Rs. 38,500 in

case of a Minister and Rs. 22,500/- in case of a Deputy Minister. The Minister concerned is charged the prescribed rent for the furniture supplied over and above the prescribed ceiling.

(d) Appropriate action is required to be taken by the administrative Ministry concerned in terms of the existing instructions.

Telecom Sector

3116. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether United State has once again stepped up pressure on India over trade issue by urging the Dispute Settlement Body of the World Trade Organisations to set up a panel to look into non-fulfilment of commitments on the patents front even while adopting the bilateral route to seek further liberalisation of the Telecom sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the US has urged India to give an assurance that the liberalisation carried out so far would not be reversed in the case of telecom; and

(d) if so, what are the other commitments on regulatory issues apart from improving its NGBT offer in terms of opening up for foreign equity participation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). In pursuance of the provisions of Article 4 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and Article 64 of the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, on 2 July 1996, the Government of the United States of America had sought consultations with India regarding the alleged absence in India of either patent protection for pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical products or formal systems that permit the filing of patent applications for such products and that permit the grant of exclusive marketing rights in such products. The consultations were held on 27 July 1996.

The DSU provides that the complaining party may request the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) of the WTO to establish a panel to examine the allegation if the consultations fail to settle the dispute within sixty days after the date of receipt of the request for consultations. In accordance with these provisions, on 7 November 1996 the USA requested the establishment of a panel to examine this dispute. The DSB, at its meeting held on 20 November 1996 considered this request and decided to establish a panel.

(c) The US has asked a number of countries including India to improve its NGBT offer in the negotiations which are stated to be completed by 15 February 1997 in the WTO in Geneva.

(d) India has not made any commitments on regulatory issues in NGBT.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Urea in India-Nepal Border

3117. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale smuggling of urea taking place on Indo-Nepal Border;

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

(c) the steps taken to check the same; and

(d) the action taken against the officers involved and responsible for the same?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Seizure statistics and intelligence reports do not indicate large scale smuggling of Urea on the Indo-Nepal border. However field formations are alert to prevent smuggling including smuggling of Urea on Indo-Nepal Border. No officer has been found involved in the smuggling of urea.

Top Importer Countries

3118. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of top 10 importer countries of Indian goods recorded during 1995-96;

(b) the position of those countries in the list of exporters of goods to India during 1995-96; and

(c) the special efforts made by the Government for increasing export to those countries which have a favourable balance of trade with India during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). The position is indicated in the statement enclosed.

(c) During the current year, emphasis is laid on promotion of traditional as well as non traditional and value added exports to all countries including those which have favourable trade balance with India. Steps taken by the Government include improving bilateral trade relations through consultations and promotion of bilateral commercial alliances, special emphasis on quality improvements of exports, simplification of policies & procedures as required, involvement of States in export promotion efforts and launching of India Brand Equity to improve brand image for exports. Export promotion is a continuous activity and efforts being made in consultation with trade, industry and other export promotional organisations.

STATEMENT

Top Ten Importer Countries of Indian goods during 1995-96	Position of these Countries in the list of exporters of goods to India in 1995-96.
No.	No.
USA	1
Japan	2
U.K.	3
Germany	5
Hong Kong	2
UAE	19
Belgium	7
Russia	6
Bangladesh	13
Italy	29
	9

Revise of Electoral Rolls

3119. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

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

(a) whether Election Commission propose to revise the electoral rolls for the entire country except Punjab and Assam;

(b) if so, whether the Chief Election Commissioner has been convened a meeting with the Chief Electoral Officers of the States/Union Territories;

(c) if so, the details thereof and main points discussed in the meeting; and

(d) the reasons for not ordering the revision electoral rolls in Punjab, Assam and Kashmir and the time by which the process is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (d). The Election Commission has already ordered revision of electoral rolls with reference to 1.1.1997 as the qualifying date in respect of Punjab and Assam. The Commission has not yet decided on revision of electoral rolls or otherwise in respect of other States/Union Territories.

(b) and (c). The commission had convened a meeting on 3rd December, 1996 of the Chief Electoral officers of all states/Union Territories. The issue of revision of electoral rolls in the States/Union Territories other than Punjab and Assam was one of the issues scheduled for discussion in the meeting. The meeting had, however, been postponed and no fresh date has yet been fixed.

Policy for Export by SSI

3120. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the Small Scale Industry's share in export as compared to the organised sector at present;

(b) the extent of its contribution to the employment generation and creation of wealth in the country; and

(c) the long terms strategy formulated for the development and growth of the Small Scale Industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Sir, Trade data compiled by DGCI&S does not indicate exports by Small Scale Sector Separately. However, the Office of Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries has indicated that out of total exports of Rs.82674.11 crores in 1994-95, the share of SSI sector was Rs.29068.15 crores which is about 35.15%.

(b) As per information available with the Office of Development commissioner, Small Scale Industries, there were 27.24 lakh SSI units in 1995-96 employing 152.61 lakh persons. No information is available regarding creation of wealth in the country by these units.

(c) The office of the Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries is the nodal agency for formulation of long term strategy for the development and growth of small scale industries. The strategy includes continuation of existing measures such as priority sector lending to SSI, fiscal concessions, reservation of items for exclusive manufacture (currently numbering 836) and price and purchase preference to products manufactured by the Sector as well as new measures such as provision of adequate credit and improving quality of its delivery, providing infrastructural support through Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme, enhanced technology support for modernisation and quality upgradation, enhancement to entrepreneurship development institutes as well as involving voluntary agencies, strengthening special employment generation programmes by way of self & employment through PMRY schemes and enhancing information and data base of SSI sector.

[Translation]

Export of Tea to Pakistan

3121. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to export tea to Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total quantity of tea likely to be exported during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Indian tea is already being exported to Pakistan. In 1996-97, 90 MT of tea is estimated to have been exported to Pakistan in the six months ending September, 1996. All attempts are being made to increase indian tea exports to that country.

[English]

Task Force on Tea Production

3122. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Task Force or working group on tea production upto 2010 has been set up or proposed to be set up to ensure sufficient tea production for domestic supply and export; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Policy for Foreign Direct Investment

3123. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have framed any policy regarding an annual Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India's study is openly sceptical of FDI inflows, talking of the irrelevance of further liberalisation;

(d) whether his Ministry has at any stage considered the results of the impact study of FDI on two major dynamic aspects of development, technological capability and export promotion; and

(e) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Government's policy towards foreign direct investment (FDI) is to encourage a larger flow of FDI especially in critical sectors such as infrastructure and export potential industries. The Common Minimum Programme has shown a target of an annual inflow of 10 billion to be achieved in future.

(c) The RBI's study while commending the current policy on foreign investment and foreign technology (foreign collaboration) has observed that liberalisation policy is not the sole determinant of FDI inflows and that the policy environment while being important is not the only factor; it has to be supplemented by broader economic environment in the location of FDI. The study refers to the relevance of liberalisation measures in the same context.

(d) and (e). The RBI's study mentions that within the limitations of the sample period, the results of its impact study of FDI on two major dynamic aspects of development, viz. technological capability and export promotion do not present an unequivocal support to such a view point. The study also indicates that technology transfer is only one element of the technological capability and by itself is not adequate to ensure the dynamics of technological progress. Technological capability building of a developing nation in the contemporary world is a combined process of technology-import from external sources, domestic technology efforts and the relationship between the two. Technology import may stimulate or substitute domestic technology-efforts. The technological developments of Indian industry would be influenced by cost advantages and unrestricted freedom for technology import. The study notes that significant positive impact on exports by foreign collaboration firms is not visible presumably because of the attractiveness of the large and growing Indian market.

Indian Tobacco Company

3124. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI :
SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to instruct Financial institutions to block any move of UK based BAT to take-over ITC Ltd.; and

(b) if so, the facts and details in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). India shareholders (Including Financial Institutions) hold majority of the shares in ITC Ltd. Any decision regarding future of the company will necessarily have to be taken by the shareholders. Indian and foreign, in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act.

Accommodation in Public Sector Undertakings

3125. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Public Enterprises has framed/issued any guidelines in respect of sharing of Government accommodation by employees of Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which these guidelines are likely to be issued?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Department of Public Enterprises has not received any representation to this effect and thus there is no such proposal to issue any guideline in this regard.

Soil Notes

3126. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the people are facing difficulties to exchange soil notes;

(b) whether a large number of soil notes are in circulation in the country;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to withdraw these notes from the market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) As per standing instructions issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), all the branches of public sector banks have been authorised to afford free facilities not only to their own customers but also to others, for exchanging soiled currency notes including certain categories of mutilated notes. As and when complaints are received by the RBI, the same is looked into.

(b) to (d). Due to capacity constraints, the note printing presses in the country are not able to fully meet the ever increasing requirement of fresh notes by RBI. The gap is met by recycling the notes in circulation again and again and, as a result, the quality of notes in circulation has deteriorated. Such notes are withdrawn in phased manner by the Issue offices of RBI through more than 4000 currency chests maintained at public sector banks, as well as Govt. Departments and public. On an average, every year 4000 million pieces of soiled notes are withdrawn from circulation.

[Translation]

I.T. Exemption to Legislature

3127. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has requested the Union Government to give income-tax exemptions to legislatures of the State during 1995-96 and 1996-97; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. Two requests have been received from the Madhya Pradesh Government, the details of which are given in the reply to part (b) below.

(b) The first request of the Madhya Pradesh Government was to exempt the telephone allowance received by members of the Madhya Pradesh State Legislature, under sub-clause (iii) of clause (17) of

section 10 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 to the extent of Rs.600 per month in aggregate. This request has been accepted by the Central Government and notification to the effect that telephone allowance will be exempt under sub-clause (iii) of clause (17) of Section 10 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 to the extent of Rs. 600 per month in the aggregate has been issued and sent for publication in the Gazette of India.

The Second request of the Madhya Pradesh Government was to fully exempt the constituency allowance received by the Members of the Madhya Pradesh State Legislature by incorporating a suitable amendment in Sub-clause (ii) of clause (17) of Section 10 of the Income-tax Act, 1961. At regards this request it is stated that various policy measures and amendments of law are considered by the Government as a part of budgetary exercise every year and the Government decisions are reflected in the budget documents. At this stage it will not be possible to make any comment.

[English]

Trade Agreement with Bangladesh

3128. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made an agreement to start trade with Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the items of trading?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). The Current Trade Agreement between India and Bangladesh was signed on 4th October, 1980 for expansion and promotion of trade between the two countries. The agreement was initially for a period of three years and this has been extended for successive periods of three years since 4.10.83. The agreement was last extended for a further period of three years w.e.f. 4th October, 1995. The agreement governs the trade relations between the two countries and provides for cooperation between India and Bangladesh in all the areas relating to bilateral trade. The Main features of the Agreement are :-

- (i) the bilateral trade shall be effected in freely convertible currencies,
- (ii) both countries shall accord Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to each other; and
- (iii) both Governments shall allow usage of their waterways, railways and road for bilateral trade and for passage of goods between two places in one country through the territory of the other.

The two countries trade in a variety of commodities, details of which are given in DGCI&S monthly publication titled "Foreign Trade Statistics of India", which is available in Parliament Library.

Lending to Agriculture Sector

3129. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items appearing in the 'Business Standard' dated November 14, 1996 under the caption 'Increase lending to Farm Sector, Banks Told';

(b) if so, the facts reported therein;

(c) whether the percentage of lending by the public sector banks to agriculture sector during the previous years was quite low in comparison to the target fixed for it;

(d) if so, the details of the target fixed and details of lending to agriculture sector during the last three years and in the current year so far; and

(e) the quantum of funds proposed to be made available to agriculture sector during 1996-97 and the estimated requirement assessed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Public Sector Banks (PSBs) are required to lend 18 percent of their net bank credit to agriculture. However, as per information made available by Reserve Bank of India (RBI)/National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), during previous three years, the achievements against the target were as follows:

Year	Percentage of Agricultural advances to net bank credit (Target 18 %)
1993-94	15.05
1994-95	13.91
1995-96	14.29

(e) As per the estimates made by the Working Group of the Planning Commission on VIII Five Year Plan, the estimated requirements of credit during 1996-97 is Rs.34,890 crores. The likely disbursements during the current year have been estimated by NABARD to be around Rs.28,800 crores.

Bee Keeping

3130. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are considering the proposal of the Khadi and Village Industry Board in Kerala to implement the scheme for Bee Keeping, Production of Bee colonies, Training, promotion and the related works; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the funds sanctioned for Beekeeping industry under the purview of KVIC to Kerala State KVI Board for the year 1996-97 are as under:

(i) Margin Money	Rs. 20.12 lakhs
(ii) Capital Expenditure loan	Rs. 34.20 lakhs
(iii) Working Capital loan	Rs. 27.08 lakhs
(iv) Equity Amounts from promoters	Rs. 9.03 lakhs

Devaluation of Indian Currency

3131. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether investment in India is discouraged as a result of devaluation of Indian rupee; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). In March 1993, India moved to a single, market determined exchange rate system. The day to day fluctuations in the exchange rate are now determined by market forces; such fluctuations reflect both economic fundamentals and short-term speculation.

In 1991-92, however, the rupee did undergo devaluation. After the devaluation in 1991-92, there has been a phenomenal increase in the flow of foreign investment into India. Furthermore, the Government to India has relaxed norms of equity participation, dividend repatriation, Euro equities and FII investment.

Net foreign Investment (NFI) has gone up from US \$60 million during 1990-91 (P) to US \$ 4077 million during 1995-96 (Q.E.). In the year of the devaluation, i.e. 1991-92, the NFI was of the order of US \$ 154 million.

(P) = Preliminary actual

(Q.E.) = Quick Estimates

Bye laws of W&WEPC

3132. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bye-laws of the Wool and Woollen Export Promotion Council are at variance with those of similar Export Promotion Council under his Ministry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action being taken to bring the Bye-Law of the W&WEPC in tune with those of other council under his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c). The by-laws of the Export promotion councils vary from each other in many important respects. The bye-laws of the Wool & Woollen Export Promotion Council have been framed independent of the bye-laws of other export Promotion Councils, keeping in view the nature of its activities.

The Council may, with the Approval of the Governments, amend the bye-laws, at any time if so desired by its members.

Fictitious Accounts

3133. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 152 dated July 19, 1996 regarding bank scam in payment for imports and state:

(a) the details of the persons/firms/banks involved in siphoning of Indian Foreign Exchange through fictitious accounts in foreign banks; and

(b) the action contemplated by the Government against the persons, firms and Indian banks in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Investigations into the case of suspected siphoning of funds against forged import documents channelised through certain Banks in Bombay, are continuing. Appropriate action warranted under the law will be taken against all those involved, including Individuals, firms, Banks etc.

Textile City

3134. SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set any Textile City in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds proposed to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Vacant Posts for OBCs in Banks

3135. SHRI O.P. JINDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued guidelines to all the nationalised banks in the country to fill up vacancies reserved for OBCs;

(b) if so, the number of OBCs got employment in the nationalised banks as on December 1, 1996; and

(c) the time by which the quota fixed for OBCs is likely to be filled up in the nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The reservation for other Backward classes in direct recruitment have been introduced in the public sector banks from 8th September, 1993. As per latest available information 1466 persons belonging to Other Backward Classes were recruited in different cadres in the public sector banks including 19 nationalised banks till 31.12.1995. Public sector banks have been instructed to maintain revised rosters for recruitment which includes, inter alia, specified roster points to be filled by Other Backward Classes for all vacancies filled up after 8th September, 1993.

Foreign Equity Limit in Joint Ventures

3136. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to relax higher limit of foreign equity in joint ventures; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). The foreign Investment Policy as enumerated is constantly reviewed to make it more dynamic with the objective of increasing foreign direct investment into the country particularly in priority/core sectors, including infrastructure.

Export of Textiles

3137. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the liberalisation process has not yet touched the textile sector of the country which still suffers from various controls;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to remove all the restrictions affecting the export of textiles; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir. The textile sector has benefited considerably from the liberalisation process.

(b) and (c). Except for cotton yarn, Government do not put any restrictions on the export of textiles. In the case of cotton yarn, a quantitative ceiling for exports is fixed every year based on the relevant factors such as the production and domestic demand in respect of raw cotton, the production and prices of cotton yarn, the requirement of yarn for the decentralised handloom sector etc.

However, under the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing of the W.T.O., the U.S.A., the E.U., Norway and Canada maintain quantitative restrictions (quotas) on the exports of some textile and clothing items from a large number of countries, including India.

[Translation]

Pilferage of Coal from Coal Depots

3138. PROF. RITA VERMA :

SHRI AMARPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge quantity of coal is being pilfered from railway sidings and coal depots in the B.C.C.L.;

(b) if so, the cases of pilferage lodged in the police stations during each of the last three years;

(c) the extent of loss suffered by the B.C.C.L. due to pilferage of coal during each of the last three years;

(d) whether the pilferage of coal takes place with the connivance of the officers of the B.C.C.L. and jawans of the C.I.S.F.;

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government against such officers and jawans during the last three years; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to stop such pilferage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) There have been instances of pilferage of coal from railway sidings and coal depots in BCCL.

(b) the particulars regarding the number of cases of pilferage lodged with the police are given below :-

Year	No. of Cases of Pilferage Lodged with the Police
1993-94	94
1994-95	49
1995-96	107

(c) The actual quantity of coal pilfered and so the extent of loss suffered by BCCL on this account cannot be assessed as pilferage is clandestine. However, based on the number of cases apprehended. The value of coal recovered during each of the last three years is given below :-

Year	Value of Coal Recovered (Rs. in lakhs)
1993-94	34.98
1994-95	6.52
1995-96	11.66

(d) There is nothing on record to indicate the connivance of Central Industrial Security Force jawans and BCCL officers in these cases of pilferage of coal.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Steps taken to check theft/pilferage of coal are as under :-

1. construction/erection of fencing well around the Coal stocks;
2. Installation of check posts on the main roads leading to collieries;
3. Installation of watch towers and providing lighting arrangements around the coal stacking area;
4. Collection of intelligence.
5. Surprise checks alongwith local police and colliery security personnel.
6. Round the clock patrolling by colliery security personnel;
7. Meeting with district authorities for drawing out plan to eliminate the menace;
8. Lodging of FIRs with local police.

[English]

Irregularities in Vysya Bank Ltd.

3139. SHRI I.D. SWAMY :

SHRI RAM SAGAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question 405 dated July 12, 1996 regarding irregularities in Vysya Bank Ltd., New Delhi, and state :

(a) whether Supreme Court in one of its latest decisions has held that any deviation of the laid down rules and norms shall attract punitive action in banking sector; and

(b) if so, the action taken against the officers who issued cheque books on Xeroxed/take copies of requisition slips etc., and who passed/cleared the cheques without verifying the signature/forged signatures?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Supreme Court of India in a recent judgement held that it would be improper for any Official to exercise powers in excess of those delegated to him.

(b) The cases in the Connaught Place, Karol Bagh and Chandni Chowk branches of Vysya Bank Ltd., are cases involving an element of fraud or negligence and are not cases of exercise of powers in excess of delegated authority. Three Officers involved in the Connaught Place branch transactions have been awarded the punishment of withholding one increment each with cumulative effect for passing cheques negligently. Officials involved in the Karol Bagh transactions have been served show cause notices for passing 17 - cheques negligently and for contravention of procedures and also for issuing cheque book

negligently. Internal investigation has been completed and departmental action is being initiated by the bank in case of Chandni Chowk branch.

Bank Loans to Farmers by NABARD

3140. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR :

SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted for the sanction of loans to farmers under Special Loan Account being operated by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development; and

(b) the number of farmers granted loans under this scheme in the country, State-wise, with special reference to Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) In order to enable the Command Area Development Authority (CADA)/Land Development Corporations (LDCs) to take up on-farm development works on the holdings in the command areas of farmers ineligible to get institutional loans, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) constitutes a Special Loan Account (SLA). Funds to the extent of the estimated expenditure in respect of such ineligible farmers are earmarked for the SLA are contributed to the extent of 37.5% each by the concerned State Governments and Central Government as special deposits and the balance 25% by NABARD out of its own resources.

The SLA is used to provide medium and long term loans by way of refinance assistance to financing institutions for providing loans to CADA/LDC to meet the expenditure on on-farm development work on the holdings of farmers ineligible to get loan from institutional sources. The present rate of interest on loans from SLA is 9% p.a. Further the concerned State Governments are required to give irrevocable guarantee to the financing banks as to the repayment of loans given by the bank to the CADA/LDC.

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

Interest Rates of NABARD

3141. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the NABARD has increased the rate of interest on the finance provided to State-level Co-operative Banks for short term loan after the Budget of 1996-97;

(b) the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the estimated burden of such increase likely to fall of State Co-operative Banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The rate of interest on short term (seasonal agricultural operations) (ST-SAO) credit limits to co-operative banks from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) used to range from 3% per annum to 6.5% per annum depending upon the percentage of State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) borrowings from NABARD to ST(SAO) loans outstanding against Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACs). These rates have been revised with effect from 1st July, 1996 as below :

Percentage of SCB's borrowing from NABARD (ST/SAO) loans outstanding against PACs	Rate of interest (% p.a.)
Less than 35	5.0
35 and above but less than 40	5.5
40 and above but less than 45	6.0
45 and above but less than 50	6.5
50 and above but less than 55	7.0
55 and above	7.5

However, the interest rate on refinance for limits under ST SAO-Development to Tribal Population) would be 5% p.a. irrespective of the level of borrowings. Similarly, ST (SAO) refinance in all cooperative banks in North-Eastern region will be at 5% p.a.

(c) The refinance support from NABARD forms only a part of the total resources of the cooperatives. Due to the increase in refinance rates as aforesaid there may be some increase in the cost of funds and therefore, in the viable lending rates.

However, the banks may not be adversely affected as the deregulation of interest rates that may be charged to ultimate borrowers by Cooperative credit institutions affords them opportunities to a recompense suitably.

Export of Livestock Products

3142. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a vast scope to promote the export of livestock products;

(b) if so, the efforts made in this direction;

(c) the performance of export of livestock products during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the projections made for the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, some of the steps taken to promote exports for various livestock products include :

(i) Identification of new markets;

(ii) Inviting delegations from overseas to inspect and evaluate processing facilities;

- (iii) Persuading EU to include India in the list of countries for import of egg product.
- (iv) Notifying standards for export of raw meat (chilled/frozen) and processed meat products under the Export (Quality Control & Inspection) Act, 1963.
- (v) Periodic inspection of meat processing facilities to ensure that such facilities comply with the quality standard as laid down under Export (Quality Control & Inspection) Act, 1963.
- (vi) Providing financial assistance for market development, brand publicity, quality control, packaging development, upgradation of meat processing facilities in the public sector, modernisation of abattoirs, etc.
- (vii) Arranging promotional campaigns and buyer seller meets and participation in international trade fairs/exhibitions.

(c) and (d). The export of livestock products during each year of the 8th Five Year Plan period were as under :-

Val: Rs./Crores				
1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (Apr-Sept'96)
368.89	464.14	539.936	779.88	379.56

(Source : DGCIS, Calcutta)

No target have yet been fixed for the export of livestock products for the 9th Five Year Plan.

Investment in Industrial Gases Industry

3143 SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been considerable investment in the industrial gases industry during the last three year;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith names of the Indian and Foreign Companies who made investment therein;

(c) since when these investments were made and the amount invested in terms of dollar and rupees by each company in industrial gases industry;

(d) the production capacity of all these domestic and foreign industrial gas units; and

(e) the net foreign exchange earned by these companies?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e). Industrial Gases Industry covers Oxygen, Carbon dioxide, dissolved acetylene, Nitrous Oxide, Nitrogen and Argon. This industry is exempted from compulsory licensing. The units are to file Industrial

Entrepreneurs memoanda indicating the capacity, investment proposed, etc. The investments made in this sector during the last three years are given below :-

Year	Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda filed			
	No. of Units	Capacity for of Gases others than Carbon-Dioxide (lakh cu.m.)	Carbon-Dioxide (tonnes)	Investment (Rs.crores)
1994	33	1943	10940	381
1995	41	1253	10500	191
1996 (Upto August)	17	8609	40000	282

The details of some of these proposals viz. names of the company, name and country of the foreign collaborator and equity participation in dollar and rupee terms are published by the Indian Investment Centre as a supplement to the Monthly Newsletter and copies of these are regularly supplied to the Parliament Library.

The production of Industrial Gases in the country is mainly for the domestic market. The foreign exchange earnings of these companies are monitored by the Reserve Bank of India.

Illegal Collection of Tax

3144. SHRI RAM SAGAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Illegal tax collection is nothing short of a scandal: Chelliah" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated November 16, 1996.

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

(c) the details of the action taken against the officials involved; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve tax administration?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Taxes are collected under the provisions of Taxing statutes. In case the views of the tax collecting agencies are not upheld, that does not make the collection illegal in itself warranting action against the officials.

(d) Improvement and modernisation of tax administration is an on going process. It is taken up on top priority basis.

Losses to Cooperative Banks in Gujarat

3145. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether several cooperative banks in Gujarat particularly in the tribal areas, are running at loss;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent of losses suffered by each of those banks during each of the last three years and in 1996 till date alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the administrative expenditure incurred by these banks during the above period; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken to check these losses?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and, the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Shortage of Staff in Banks in U.P.

3146. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of staff in the various branches of nationalised banks located in Uttar Pradesh, especially in Khurja region causing a great inconvenience to the customers;

(b) if so, the details of such banks branches where the strength of employees is not adequate;

(c) the date from which these posts are lying vacant; and

(d) the remedial action being taken by the Government in regard thereto?

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

Value of Smuggled Goods Seized

3147. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the value of the smuggled goods seized at Mumbai and Delhi airports during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether action has been taken by the Government against the guilty employees of Air India and Indian Airlines involved in these cases; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Voters Identity Cards

3148. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN PAPPU YADAV :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that voter Identity Cards meant for the Election purpose are also being used for other purposes; and

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has asked the State Governments through Election Commission that they should issue Identity Cards to voters before March 31, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

Financing of Self Employment Scheme

3149. SHRI RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the performance of the public sector banks in the matter of financing the self employment schemes during the last three financial years and the first six months of the current financial year;

(b) whether those banks achieved the targets in this regard during the above period; and

(c) if not, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to channelise finance for self employment of rural and urban poor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The performance of the public sector banks in the matter of financing under major self-employment schemes i.e. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME) and Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during the last three financial years and during the current financial year (latest available) are set upto in the statement enclosed.

(c) The steps taken for increasing credit flow under self-employment schemes, inter-alia, include the following:

- (i) Instructions have been issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to banks to ensure that applications recommended by sponsoring authorities like District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), district Industries Centre (DIC) and District Urban Development Agency (DUDA)/Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) are disposed of expeditiously and also that banks alongwith the sponsoring agencies should

extend assistance in completing pre-sanction and pre-disbursement formalities.

- (ii) The progress of implementation of these self-employment schemes is reviewed in the meetings of the State Level Bankers' Committees (SLBCs) and District Consultative Committees (DCCs) at the State and Districts level in each State.
- (iii) A Monitoring Cell has also been constituted in RBI under the overall charge of a Deputy Governor, monitor the progress of implementation of PMRY and IRDP; and
- (iv) High Powered Committees have also been constituted at the Central level by the administrative Ministries implementing the various Government sponsored self-employment schemes for monitoring the progress of implementation and suggesting remedial measures wherever necessary.

STATEMENT

Statement indicating the performance of public sector banks under various Self-employment Schemes viz. integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Schemes of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME) and Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojna (PMRY) during the last three financial years i.e. 1993-94 1994-95 and 1995-96 and the current financial year (latest available).

(Number in Lakhs)

	Year	Physical*	
		Target	Achievement
Integrated	1993-94	25.69	25.30
Rural	1994-95	21.15	21.72
Development	1995-96	N.A.	15.82
Programme (IRDP)	1996-97 (upto 30th September, 1996)	N.A.	3.09

	Year	Target	Sanct- ioned	Disbur- sement
	1	2	3	4
Scheme of	1993-94	1.23	1.83	1.49
Urban Micro	1994-95	1.20	1.44	1.18
Enterprises	1995-96	1.17	1.18	0.93
(SUME)	1996-97 (Upto 30th Septemeber, 1996)	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

	1	2	3	4
Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojna	1993-94 (October, 1993 to March 1994)	0.42	0.32	0.21
	1994-95	2.20	1.94	1.11
	1995-96	3.21	2.94	1.63
	1996-97 (Upto 30th October, 1996)	2.93	0.62	0.25

N.A. - Not Available

* under IRDP the Number mentioned under physical targets and achievement denote the number of families.

Child Labour

3150. SHRI L. RAMANA :

SHRI AYYANNA PATHRUDU :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to object to American Law regarding stationing of child labour inspectors to ensure non-involvement of child labour in industries whose goods are exported to U.S.A.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). While Government of India has no specific information about the proposed US law, it will be oppsoed to any extra territorial laws which may authorise stationing in India of child labour inspectors to ensure non-involvement of child babour.

[Translation]

Foreign Investors

3151. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news item appearing in the *Navbharat Times* dated November 10, 1996 under the caption 'Halat Yahi Rahe To Videshi Niveshak Vapas Chale Jayenge';

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to review its policy to increase foreign investors;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The Government is taking appropriate measures to create a favourable investor-friendly climate for foreign investment particularly if that foreign investment will also bring modern technology and management practices and create new markets for products manufactured in the country.

Foreign Direct Investment amounting to Rs.17026.77 crores has been approved during the period July, 1996 to October, 1996 which is 3.1/2 times more than Rs 4689.34 crores approved during the same period last year. Actual inflow during the same period in 1996 has increased to Rs.2402.05 crores as against Rs.2189.18 crores during the corresponding period last year.

From the above it is evident that the foreign investors confidence has increased substantially and they now see India as a destination for their investment. Hence the question of their going back does not arise.

[English]

Export of Poor Quality of Goods to Africa

3152. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item published in 'The Times of India' dated Nov.19, 1996 under the caption 'Indians send worst goods to Africa';

(b) whether a delegation of the Ugandan business community has visited India and criticised the inferior quality of Indian goods exported to Uganda by the Indian traders;

(c) if so, whether the Government have enquired into the allegations levelled in the meeting held in New Delhi;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any steps have been taken to improve the quality of goods to Africa; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (f). The Govt. have noted the news-item nomenclatured 'Indians send worst goods to Africa', which appeared in 'The Times of India' dated 19th Nov., 1996. While the confederation of Indian Industry, New Delhi have invited a business delegation from Uganda, no specific complaint from ugandan importers against Indian exporters for export of sub-standard quality goods has come to the notice.

However, the following steps have been initiated to ensure export of quality goods by Indian exporters to overseas countries :-

- Prescription of quality standards for commodities notified under The Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963;
- Recognition of certain privation inspection agencies to supplement the work of quality certification;
- organisation of seminars and workshops to educate the manufacturers and exporters on the methods of maintaining quality including packaging;
- organisation of exhibitions abroad to show quality goods from the Indian industry;
- provision of assistance by Total Quality Management Division already set up in C II to its members on establishing quality related system in the manufacturing process registered under ISO 9000 series.

V.R.S. for Employees of R.B.I.

3153. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has recently worked out a voluntary retirement scheme for its officers/employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the RBI officers/employees thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Reserve bank of India has reported that the terms of sub-regulations, 1948, an employees who has attained the age of 50 years may voluntarily retire after giving to the competent authority three months' notice in writing. Further, without prejudice to the Sub-regulation (3) above, an employees governed by Reserve Bank of India Pension Regulations, 1990 may voluntarily retire at any time after he has completed 20 years of qualifying service after giving to the competent authority three months' notice in writing.

(c) The information is being collected and to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

Purchasing through HEC

3154. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the equipments purchased from H.E.C. for Coal Companies during the last three years and the prices thereof, separately;

(b) whether equipments which are manufactured in H.E.C. are purchased from the Private Sector parties instead of procuring them from H.E.C.; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the Coal companies should purchase the equipments manufactured by H.E.C.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) During the last three years, Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries placed orders on HEC for shovels and spares. The value of order placed on HEC are as under :-

(Rs. in lakhs)			
Company	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
CIL	3831.85	4912.24	2554.45

(b) and (c). Equipment manufactured by HEC are also manufactured by other companies both in public and private sector. Orders are placed on the basis of open tenders.

New Coal Reserve

3155. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had conducted any survey for new areas of "Coal-Reserve" in West Bengal, particularly in Birbhum;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to find out more new coal reserves in West Bengal in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). As per information received from Geological Survey of India (GSI), the regional exploration for coal carried out by them has led to the identification of new coal deposits in Dewanganj-Harinsingha-Pachami-Dholkatha-Garia areas of Birbhum coalfield, Birbhum district and Domra area of Raniganj coalfield, Burdwan district of West Bengal. The coal reserves in these areas of Birbhum and Raniganj coalfields have been assessed as 3180.23 million tonnes and 917.77 million tonnes respectively, as on 1-1-1996.

(c) GSI has been conducting regional exploration for coal in Bistupur-Dandeswar sector, Burdwan District and trans-Damodar area and Banspetali-Majid Sector, Bankura district of Raniganj coalfield of West Bengal. GSI has a programme to carry out regional exploration/scout drilling in Churulia, Barul-Bagdiha sectors of Burdwan district, Raniganj coalfield and Balurgaht-Hilli area, south Dinajpur district, West Bengal.

Trade Fair

3156. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the pavillions of the States are

allowed to display and sell their items at the Trade Fair organised by India International Trade Fair in New Delhi;

(b) whether the Maharashtra pavillion is exempted from this facility;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to allow the state Governments for displaying and selling their items;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e). Display and sales of items are already allowed in the State Govt.'s pavillions in the Indian International Trade Fair during the fair period. ITPO has not laid down any restriction. The sales effected in the pavillions are however subject to rules and regulations of the Govt. of N.C.T. Delhi.

(f) does not arise.

[Translation]

Export by BHEL

3157. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of exports made by the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. during each of the last three years and first half of the current financial year;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned and profits made by the BHEL during the above period; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the performance of the BHEL?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The export performance of BHEL during the last three years and the first half of the current year is as follows:-

(Rs. in crores)				
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (Upto Sept. *
Deemed	605	668	727	270
Physical	240	141	115	27
Total	845	809	842	297

*Unaudited (Provisional)

(b) The amount of foreign exchange earned and the profits made by BHEL during the above period are as follows:-

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	(Rs. in crores) 1996-97 (Upto Sept.')
Foreign Exchange earnings (excluding deemed exports)	254.56	151.21	123.54	30.00
Profit before Tax	317.30	365.10	582.30	120.56
Unaudited (Provisional)				

(c) BHEL is making profits since 1971-72 and paying dividend to Government since 1976-77 without any break. It has demonstrated its competitiveness

and has shown resilience in the changing business environment by improving its overall performance.

Major performance indicators of BHEL are as under:

	1994-95 (Rs. Cr.)	1995-96 (Rs. Cr.)	Increase over 1994-95	1996-97 (Upto Sept. 96 (Rs. Cr.)	Increase over 1995-96 (upto Sept. 96*
Turnover	4094	4833.5	18.1%	2041.00	15.0%
Profit Before Tax	356	582.3	59.5%	120.56	49.0%
Profit After Tax	141	350.2	148.5%	68.72	41.0%

*Unaudited (provisional)

Besides, continuing to focus on its core business area of Power, BHEL is actively pursuing business possibilities in many of the emerging market segments and is adopting suitable measures to get more business both in Power as well as Non-Power Sectors.

Electronic Data Interchange Project

3158. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry proposes to introduce Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Project for importers and exporters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the introduction of Electronic Documents Processing is likely to cut transaction costs besides leading to reduction in time taken to execute the deals;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government had hosted three key events for the implementation of Electronic Transactions;

(f) if so, the details of those three events and when and where these were hosted; and

(g) the details of the benefit achieved and the amount spent on each of the event?

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

(b) The Ministry of Commerce, which is the nodal agency for EDI implementation in India, is coordinating this project (though not implementing at its own) in all Government regulatory and facilitatory agencies namely customs, Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Banks, Port Trusts, Airport Authority of India, etc. The Ministry of Commerce is providing necessary guidelines to all these agencies in consultation with the UN/Asia EDIFACT Board, the regional arm of UN for promoting EDI in Asia Region. Further this Ministry has taken various steps to promote EDI. Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) has been given the responsibility to organise workshops and seminars for Importers and Exporters to create EDI awareness. This Ministry has constituted EDI council of India, which is the Apex body consisting of heads of all the key Government Department and Trade and Industry and is responsible for formulating policy guidelines for EDI. Other working level committees are functional for operationalisation of the project.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The introduction of Electronic Documents processing which is the electronic transfer of commercial or administrative transaction from computer to computer using widely agreed standard is actually paperless

trading. It reduces administrative overheads, reduces paper and postage bills. The redundant and/or duplicate processes are eliminated which reduces manual processing cost and further it reduces money tied up in stock. The transaction time is reduced because of faster information flow and instant availability. EDI when implemented in all regulations and facilitory agencies would be beneficial for Importers/Exporters as they would be able to transact documents electronically with all these agencies sitting in their office through computers, which will reduce transaction time considerably.

(e) Yes Sir.

(f) This Ministry had hosted three major international EDI events in New Delhi from 27th Oct.'96 2nd Nov. 1996. These events are :

- (i) 13th Asia EDIFACT Board meeting
- (ii) 4th UN/ESCAP Network on Trade Facilitation.
- (iii) EDICOM '96 (Asia Pacific Conference and Exhibition on EDI).

(g) The advantage of hosting these events were as follows :

- India was exposed to the world wide developments in EDI.
- It created awareness in the Potential EDI functionaries/users.
- During these meetings Indian Organisations got the opportunity to discuss their projects with the EDI experts invited from all around the world.
- Since around 200 foreign participants attended these meetings a considerable amount of Foreign Exchange was earned through their stay.

The expenditure statement is being consolidated.

Charter of Demands by Officers of RRBs

3159. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All India Rural Bank Officers Organisations has submitted its charter of demands to the Government in the recent past; and

(b) if so, the main points put forth therein and the action taken or being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). All India Gramin Bank Workers' Organisation and All India Gramin Bank Officers Organisation have submitted a representation which, inter-alia, seek the formation of National Rural Bank of India (NRBI), withdrawal of guidelines permitting setting up of Local Area Banks and extension of various settlements and agreements between employees/officers

of commercial banks and Indian Banks Association (IBA) since 1993 to the employees of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).

As regards the formation of NRBI by merging all RRBs, various alternatives including merger were considered by Government in the past and it has been decided to revamp the RRBs on a 'stand alone' basis.

With regard to the setting up of private local area banks, it may be stated that these are expected to strengthen the institutional structure for credit delivery in rural and semi-urban areas.

In so far as extension of Sixth Bipartite Settlement Agreement between employees/officers of commercial banks and IBA to the RRBs, the matter was taken by some of the RRB employees to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court, however, did not grant any relief and instead observed that they may seek reliefs available to them under the Industrial Disputes Act. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have recently appointed a three member committee to examine and suggest the changes in the salary and allowances of the employees of RRBs, which may be considered and feasible.

Functions of STC

3160. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether State Trading Corporation competes with the private sector in terms of trade in the international market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is prudent for a public sector company to enter areas where the private sector is capable to serve the national interests in view of the liberalised economic policy;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to revise the existing policy;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (f). Consequent upon de-canalisation of import and export of a number of items earlier canalised through STC, the Government have been reviewing the need to re-orient it in a manner consistent with the liberalised economy and a competitive environment. As a process of re-orienting its trading activities in prevalent liberalised environment in a bid to expand its turnover and profitability, STC has already initiated its re-structuring process which includes formation of a Joint ventures with Indian partners to get continuous access to the market strength of its partners as well as to build ensured supply base on committed basis.

Production of Cardamom

3161. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a substantial increase in the production of cardamom;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total production of cardmomo produced in the country particularly in Karnataka and Kerala during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of cardamom in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The details of production of small cardamom during last 3 (three) years are given below :

Production (MTs)

Year	Total (All India)	Karnataka	Kerala
1993-94	6600	1510	4430
1994-95	7000	1580	4720
1995-96 (P)	7900	1745	5380

(c) Government/Spices Board is implementing a number of development programmes for improving production/productivity of cardamom. They are :

- Production and Supply of Quality Planting material;
- Providing assistance for replantation of old, diseased plantations;
- Providing assistance for Irrigation/Land development programme; and
- Research activities for developing high yielding varieties of cardamom.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts in the High Courts and Supreme Court

3162. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH :

SHRI VIJAY PATEL :

SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS :

SHRI RAM NAIK :

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

(a) number of sanctioned posts of Judges in the Supreme Court and the various High Courts as on April 1, 1996;

(b) the number of vacancies still unfilled in the above courts as on April 1, 1996, court-wise;

(c) the number of additional posts sanctioned during April-September, 1996, court-wise;

(d) the number of appointments made during the above period, court-wise;

(e) the number of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other Backward Classes and other religious minorities Judges among the existing strength of Judges in the above courts; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to fill up the vacant posts of judges in various courts, court-wise;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (d). A Statement showing the sanctioned posts and the number of vacancies as on April 1, 1996, the number of additional posts sanctioned and number of appointments made during April-September, 1996 in the Supreme Court and various High Courts is enclosed.

(e) There being no reservations in the matter of appointment of Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts on the basis of caste or class of persons, information is not maintained separately for caste or class etc.

(f) The process of consultation among the concerned Constitutional authorities for filling up the existing vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and various High Courts is on.

STATEMENT

S.No.	High Court	Sanct- ioned stre- ngh (As on 1.4.1996)	Vaca- ncies	Addl. posts sanc- tioned dur- ing April- Sept- ember	Fresh appo- intm- ents made dur- ing April- Sept- 1996
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Allahabad	71	2	-	-
2.	Andhra Pradesh	36	2	2	4
3.	Bombay	54	11	5	9
4.	Calcutta	48	7	-	-
5.	Delhi	31	2	-	2
6.	Gauhati	18	1	-	-
7.	Gujarat	32	4	-	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	8	-	-	-
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	11	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6
10. Karnataka		34	1	-	-
11. Kerala		26	3	2	2
12. Madhya Pradesh		34	6	-	-
13. Madras		29	4	-	-
14. Orissa		15	2	-	-
15. Patna		37	8	-	5
16. Punjab & Haryana		37	3	-	2
17. Rajasthan		26	2	6	8
18. Sikkim		3	1	-	-
Total		550	59	15	32
II. Supreme Court		26	1	-	-

Profit Earned by CIL

3163. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether all coal producing industrial units including Coal India Limited have been earning profit;

(b) if so, the amount of profit earned by each subsidiary of CIL during the each of the last three years;

(c) whether CIL is also likely to earn profit during the current year;

(d) if so, the estimated amount of profit likely to accrue, subsidiary-wise;

(e) the total Capital investment made in coal industry as on March, 1996; and

(f) the total amount of Capital investment made at the time of the nationalisation of coal industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). The position of profits earned/losses (-) incurred by the subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited (CIL), the North Eastern Coalfields under the direct control of CIL and the Singareni Collieries (SCCL) during the last three years are as under :

(After CPRA)

	1993-94	1994-95	Rs. in crores 1995-96 (After MOU)
	1	2	3
ECL	-70.40	-108.47	154.67
BCCL	21.56	-154.63	102.26
CCL	62.06	-118.96	- 1.43
NCL	225.23	-190.00	179.47
WCL	31.59	71.57	98.59

	1	2	3
SECL	139.84	91.78	76.96
MCL	21.27	68.01	24.75
CMPDIL	2.64	2.77	3.37
NEC	33.47	-13.14	-27.20
Total CIL	400.32	29.73	611.44
SCCL	16.26	24.99	-190.80

(c) and (d). The position of profit or loss of CIL and its subsidiaries for the current financial year of 1996-97 will be known only after the accounts of the companies are audited and then adopted at the next Annual General Meeting of CIL likely to be held in the last week of September, 1997.

(e) The total capital investment made in the coal industry as on 31.3.96 is Rs. 19400.47 crores.

(f) The total capital investment made by the Government in the coal industry at the time of nationalisation was Rs. 252.06 crores till March, 1973.

Licence for Liquor

3164. SHRI MANHARAN LAL PANDEY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details and the number of licences issued for IMFL (India Made Foreign Liquor) till date with their capacity;

(b) whether the various licenced units have produced liquor more than the licensed capacity;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government are considering any proposal to penalise the units producing liquor beyond their licensed capacity?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No letters of intent for creation of fresh capacity of potable alcohol including IMFL have been issued since September, 1994. Letters of intent are initially valid for three years, during which they are required to be converted into industrial licences on fulfilment of the conditions mentioned in the letters of intent. A statement on the industrial licences granted under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 since 1991 till date is enclosed. All these industrial licences have been issued on conversion of the letters of intent which were granted before September 1994.

(b) to (d). The Industries (Development and Regulations) Act provides for penalties for violation of the Act and cognizance of offences. The Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals as the Administrative Ministry for manufacture of Indian Made Foreign Liquor through molasses route, and the Ministry of Food

Processing Industries as the Administrative Ministry for manufacture of Indian Made Foreign Liquor through non-molasses route monitor all aspects of these

industries. This is in addition to the monitoring and control by the State Governments under their own enactments with respect to potable alcohol.

STATEMENT

Details of Industrial Licenses granted for taking up the manufacture of IMFL (Indian Made Foreign Liquor) during 1991-1996 (upto November).

S.No.	Name of the Understanding	Location	Capacity	LOI No. Dt.	CIL No. and dt.
1.	Jagajit Industries Ltd.	Kapurthala Punjab	20000 K. Ltr. (Aft. Expn.)	347/89 25.5.89	79/92 28.8.92
2.	Superstar Distilleries and Foods Limited	Trichur Kerala	7500000 Ltr.	344/89 25.5.89	22/94 24.2.94
3.	South Seas Distilleries Breweries Pvt. Ltd.	Thane Maharashtra	10000 K.Ltr.	4/92 6.1.92	47/94 18.5.94
4.	The Rampur Distillery Chemical Company Ltd.	Rampur Uttar Pradesh	460 K.Ltr.	346/89 25.5.89	40/94 10.5.94
5.	Jagajit Industries Limited	Bulandshahar Uttar Pradesh	5000 K.Ltr.	873/89 10.11.89	77/94 15.7.94
6.	Seagram Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd.	Meerut Uttar Pradesh	5000 K.Ltr.	350/93 7.10.93	124/94 15.12.94
7.	Grover Vineyards Pvt. Ltd.	Bangalore Karnataka	750 K.Ltr.	434/92 8.9.92	12/95 23.1.95
8.	Amar Alcoholi Pvt. Ltd.	Bhandara Maharashtra	5000 K.Ltr.	63/92 28.1.92	28/56 15.4.96
9.	Oceanic Distilleries Pvt. Ltd.	Nasik Maharashtra	5000 K.Ltr.	284/92 5.6.92	39/96 5.6.96
10.	Clan Morgan and Co. Ltd.	Behror Rajasthan	5000 K.Ltr.	501/92 29.10.92	81/96 13.11.96

Khadi and Village Industries Commission

3165. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loans given by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission to each State/Union Territory Khadi and Village Industries Boards during each of the last three years and the current year (upto 31st October, 1996) State/Union Territory-wise; and

(b) the criteria adopted alongwith the terms and conditions for advancing these loans?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Liquidation of PSUs by BIFR

3166. SHRI PRAMOTES MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any action has since been taken on the report of BIFR in respect of certain PSUs which were proposed to be liquidated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received several requests from employees of the organisations and public for safeguarding the interest of these employees; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that winding up has been recommended by it to the concerned High Court in respect of 8 Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) and 15 State Public Sector Undertakings upto 30.11.1996. As per the provisions of Section 20 (2) of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 the High Court shall, on the basis of the opinion of the BIFR, order winding up of the sick industrial company and say proceed and cause to proceed with the winding up of the sick industrial company in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956.

(c) and (d). The action in regard to such requests as and when received is to be taken by the respective CPSU in consultation with the administrative Ministry concerned.

Cultivation of Vanilla

3167. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage the development of vanilla cultivation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether farmers are given any assistance or incentive for production, processing and marketing of vanilla;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total production of vanilla produced in the country during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) Some of the programmes being implemented by the Spices Board for improving production/productivity, processing and marketing of vanilla are :

- (1) Providing financial assistance @ Rs. 5000/- per ha. for making up new planting in the growers' field by meeting 50% of the cost of cultivation.
- (2) Production and supply of Tissue Culture Plantlets of vanilla at subsidised rate of Rs. 1/- per plantlet.
- (3) Providing financial assistance and technical knowhow for establishing and maintaining demonstration plots of vanilla in cardamom growing areas.
- (4) Implementation of two projects with the financial assistance of Department of Science and Technology and Department of Biotechnology under Ministry of Science and Technology by the Indian Cardamom Research Institute (ICRI) of the Spices Board. These projects are :
 - (i) Vanilla Development using Tissue Culture Plantlet through unemployed youth.
 - (ii) Tissue Culture Vanilla Product Plan-under this project the possibility of using vanilla tissue culture plantlets vis-a-vis stem cuttings will be demonstrated.
- (5) Development and perfection of a curing method for vanilla beans suited to local condition by ICRI.
- (6) Development of a Protocol for Invitro Multiplication of Vanilla by ICRI. This technology has been transferred to Commercial laboratories.

(e) The areas planted under the Spices Board's programme and those under the initiative of the elite growers are yet to commence commercial production. The current yield is from few growers who had started

cultivation a while ago. The estimated production during 1995-96 was around one tonne.

Japanese Investment

3168. PROF P.J. KURIEN :

DR. C. SILVERA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Japanese investment in India has remained stagnant or declined during the Eighth Plan period;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any efforts are being made to attract more Japanese investment in India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d). No, Sir. The details of foreign direct investment approved from Japan during the Eighth Plan period are as under :

Year	Amount (Rs. in Crores)
1992	610.23
1993	257.43
1994	400.90
1995	1514.26
1996	803.50
(Upto Sept.)	

Government constantly reviews the investment policy so as to make it increasingly competitive and investors friendly. In addition, the Central Government has recently revamped the Foreign Investment Promotion Board to make the approval process quicker and more transparent. In addition, with a view to attract greater inflows of foreign direct investment, the Government has constituted a Foreign Investment Promotion Council.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission

3169. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of industrial units sponsored/directed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission in Gujarat;

(b) the details of work done by these units during each of last three years; and

(c) the number of cooperative and individual units to whom assistance has been provided by the State Khadi and Village Industry Board during the aforesaid period?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). Details of number of units assisted by KVIC and KVIB and the details of production by them

during the last three years are given below :

	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	Directly Assisted	Assisted Through State Board	Directly Assisted	Assisted Through State Board	Directly Assisted	Assisted Through State Board
Institutions	2	479	19	481	21	478
Cooperatives	-	69	-	68	-	65
Individuals	-	5045	-	5071	-	5071

	Production (In Rs. Crores)			Employment (Lakh Person)		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Khadi	32.19	35.74	49.75	0.57	0.52	0.53
V.I.	89.39	96.74	107.85	0.44	0.42	0.47
Total	121.58	132.48	157.60	1.01	0.94	1.00

Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund

3170. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry had asked different State Governments in May 1995 to submit suitable project proposals for getting Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) loan assistance from Government of Japan;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals received from different States so far, State-wise;

(c) whether the projects are mainly included Environment, Water-Supply, roads and health sector; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the project proposals of various States received from Central Ministries/Departments/State Governments are listed in the Statement-I enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir. Besides these sectors viz Environment, Water Supply, Roads and Health, Project proposals were also for Power, Textiles, Irrigation, etc.

(d) This Ministry had posed 28 State Projects to the Government of Japan which are given in the Statement II enclosed. Government of Japan pledged the assistance under 1996-97 OECF loan package for the State projects are listed in the Statement-III enclosed.

STATEMENT - I

State-wise list of State proposals received from various Central Ministries/State Govts. for OECF 1996-97 loan package

Andhra Pradesh

1. Vamsadhara Project (Stage-II)

2. Assistance to the Mentally Retarded of National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad.

Assam

3. Health and Family Welfare Project.
4. Four Laning of NH-31-C, NH-31 and NH-37 from Srirampur to Jagir Road.
5. Double Laning alongwith construction of permanent bridges of Kamargaon, Golaghat, Titabor, Moriani, Simaluguri, Joyupur Tinsukhia Road (Dhodar Ali) (State Highway)
6. Double Laning alongwith construction of permanent bridges of Guwahati, Amingaon, Hajo, Barpeta, North Salmara Road (State Highway)
7. Double Laning alongwith construction of R.C.C. Bridges of Guwahati Chandrapur, Morigaon, Nagaon Road (State Highway)

Bihar

8. Widening and Strengthening of Dehri-on-Sone-Akbarpur-Rohtas Pipedih Yadunathpur-Jardag Road
9. Widening and Strengthening of Bhita - Aurangabad-Daltonganj Road
10. Widening and Strengthening of Ranchi, Chaghra-Netraghat road
11. Widening and Strengthening of Ara Sasaram Road
12. Widening and Strengthening of Siwan-Mairwa-Gukthi Road
13. Widening and Strengthening of Dumka-Bhagalpur Road

14. Widening and Strengthening of Muzaffarpur-Darbhanga-Madhubani-Jainagar Road
15. Widening and Strengthening of Koderma-Giridih-Dumri Road
16. Widening and Strengthening of Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi Road
17. Integrated Project for Water Supply, Sewerage and solid waste management for Gaya town
18. Integrated Project for Water Supply, Sewerage and Solid Waste Management for Ranchi town
19. Integrated Project for Water Supply, Sewerage and Solid Waste Management for Patna town

Delhi

20. Assistance for economic, educational and social development of target population (SC/ST/BC/Minorities), Delhi Institute of Technology

Haryana

21. Western Yamuna Canal HE Project (Stage II)

Himachal Pradesh

22. Health and Family Welfare Project.
23. Ground Water Development Project

Jammu and Kashmir

24. Construction of Nimo-Padam Road to connect Buddhist areas of Zaskar with Leh District

Karnataka

25. Karnataka Forestry Project
26. Environmental Improvement Plan for Cauvery River Basin
27. Sarpadi HEP (90 MW)
28. Raichur Thermal Power Station Units 5 and 6
29. Varahi Underground Power House Stage-II Units 3 and 4

Kerala

30. Kerala Water Supply Project
31. Modernisation of Indian Coir Industry, Kerala
32. Integrated Industrial Infrastructure Development Project

Madhya Pradesh

33. Mahi Irrigation Project (Major)
34. Sindh Project (Phase-II)
35. Rajghat Canal Major Irrigation Project
36. Mahan Irrigation Project (Gulab Sagar)
37. Women's Development Programme - SOIL to SILK approach

Maharashtra

38. Modernisation of 36 Textile Mills
39. Assistance to the Hearing Handicapped of Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Bombay

Manipur

40. Development of Sericulture Industries

Meghalaya

41. R and M of Umiam Stage I and II

Mizoram

42. Tuirial HE Project
43. Tuivai Hydroelectric Project 210 MW
44. Integrated Project for Water Supply Sewerage Solid Waste Management, Water Quality Monitoring and Public Health Education

Orissa

45. Development of Chilka Lake
46. Orissa Transmission Sub-schemes
47. Strengthening and Widening of Panikoile and Rajamunda road
48. Strengthening and Widening of Kherada-Rayagada Road
49. Strengthening and Widening of Khurda-Nayagarh Daspala Road
50. Strengthening and Widening of Cuttack Chandoali road
51. Construction of Road from Gopalpur Port to Port Digha
52. Strengthening and Widening of Puri Bhubaneswar road
53. Regional Water Supply Scheme in Talchar, Meramundali, Angul, Dhenkanal and Bhuban Urban Conglomerate
54. Rengali Irrigation Project (Part) - Left Main Canal (30 KM to 142 KM)
55. Assistance for Jeypore Main Canal beyond RD 42 Kms;
56. Tribal development in the district of Malkangiri
57. Tribal development in the Sundargarh district
58. Assistance to the Orthopaedically Handicapped of National Institute for Rehabilitation, Training and Research, Olatpur, Cuttack

Punjab

59. Punjab Forestry Project
60. Associated transmission schemes of GNDTP St. III

Rajasthan

61. Connecting all uneconnected Panchayat Headquarters (PHOs) with BT Road and upgradation of existing gravel road to PHQs into BT roads
62. Connecting all villages above 1000 population (1981 census) with BT roads
63. Chauli Medium Irrigation Project
64. Bethli Medium Irrigation Project Rajasthan
65. Development of Tourism Infrastructure in Desert Triangle of Rajasthan

Tamil Nadu

66. Tamil Nadu Forestry Project
67. Project on Pollution Abatement in the Coastal Stretches of Madras
68. Hogenakkal Water Supply Project
69. Minor Irrigation Rehabilitation Tanks Development
70. Buddhist Centre at the Govt. Museum at Madras
71. Establishing/strengthening Science and Technology Centres

Uttar Pradesh

72. Transmission and Transformation Works
73. Anpara 'C' Thermal Power Project
74. Lakwar Vyasi Multi Purpose Project
75. Maneri Bhali HE Project
76. Rishiganga Small HE Scheme, Chamoli
77. Asiganga Mini HE Scheme Phase I and II, Uttarkashi
78. Basuli Mini HE Scheme, Uttarkashi
79. Nausera Small HE Scheme, Saharanpur
80. Consolidation of Phase-I and Initiation of Phase-II for upgradation of the standards of Medical Health Care in Northern India, SGPGI
81. Assistance for Bus Terminal Authority
82. Assistance for State Transport Research and Planning Institute, Luncknow
83. Construction of By-pass to Haldwani
84. Agra Slum improvement project
85. Varanasi Integrated Slum Development Project
86. Electric City at NOIDA
87. Augmenting the Water Supply and Sanitation facilities in Agra, Bareilly, Gorakhpur and Meerut
88. Artificial Recharge and Water Resources Development (Mirzapur and Son-Badra)

89. Assistance to the Visually Handicapped of National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun

West Bengal

90. Strengthening of West Bengal Transmission System
91. Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences and Research at Kalyani
92. Comprehensive Mental Health Coverage in the State
93. Transport Infrastructure Development Project in Calcutta City
94. Coastal Area Development Project
95. Assistance to the Orthopaedically Handicapped of National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta

STATEMENT-II

List of State proposals posed to the Govt. of Japan for assistance under OECF 1996-97 loan package

1. Associated Transmission Schemes of Guru Nanak Dev Thermal Plant, Stage III, Punjab
2. Renovation and Modernisation Plan for Umiam Stage I and II Power Station, Meghalaya
3. Tuirial HE Project (60 MW), Mizoram
4. Strengthening of Transmission System of West Bengal
5. Transmission and Transformation Works (132 KV and above) in U.P.
6. Transmission Sub-Schemes of Orissa
7. Sarpadi Barrage Hydro Electric Project, Karnataka
8. Anpara 'C' Thermal Power Project (2x500MW)
9. Forestry and Environment Project for Eastern Plains of Karnataka
10. Comprehensive Forestry Project for Tamil Nadu
11. Punjab Social Forestry Project
12. Widening and strengthening of Panikoili-Keonjhar-Joda-Rajmunda Road in Orissa
13. Four-laning of Bhubaneswar-Puri Road, Orissa
14. Construction of Nimmo-Padam Road to connect Buddhist Areas of Zaskar with Leh District
15. Integrated Project from Water Supply, Sewerage and Solid Waste Management for Patna Town

16. Integrated Project from Water Supply, Sewerage and Solid Waste Management for Ranchi Town
17. Kerala Water Supply Project
18. Installation of a Regional Water Supply System in Talcher, Meramundali, Angul, Dhenkanal and Bhuban Urban Conglomerate in Orissa.
19. Transport Infrastructure Development Project, Calcutta
20. Rangali Irrigation Project, Orissa
21. Rajghat Canal Major Irrigation Project, MP
22. Ground Water Development Project, HP
23. Vansadhara Project Stage II, AP
24. Consolidation of Phase-I and Initiation of Phase-II for Upgradation of the Standards of Medical Health Care in Northern India, SGPGI
25. Women's Development Programme - 'Soil to Silk' Approach, MP
26. Development of Sericulture Industry in Manipur
27. Integrated Industrial Infrastructure Development, Kerala
28. Development of Tourism Infrastructure in Desert Triangle of Rajasthan.

STATEMENT-III

List of State projects pledged by the Govt. of Japan for assistance under OECF 1996-97 loan package

	Project Name	Loan Amount (in million yen)
1.	West Bengal Transmission System Project	8497
2.	Uiam Hydro Power Station Renovation Project	1700
3.	Tuirial Hydro-Electric Power Station Project	11695
4.	Calcutta Transport Infrastructure Development Project	10679
5.	Eastern Karnataka Afforestation Project	15968
6.	Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project	13324
7.	Kerala Water Supply Project	11997
8.	Rajghat Canal Irrigation Project	13222

Age Limit for Senior Citizens

3171. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the retirement age in most of the Govt. offices is 58 years

while the age to be considered as senior citizen for taxation purposes is 60 years;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to lower the age requirement for senior citizenship to 58 years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Resident individuals of sixty-five years and above, whose gross total income does not exceed one hundred thousand rupees are entitled to a rebate of income-tax under Section 88B of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

(b) and (c). The Government does not propose to lower the age limit for the purpose of Section 88B.

Funds for Textiles Industry

3172. SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any demand from the representatives of Garment and Textile Industry for Rs. 2000 crores to upgrade its technology and improve competitiveness in the global market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) Government have not received any specific demand from the representatives of Garments and Textile industry for a fund of Rs. 2000 crores to upgrade its technology and improved competitiveness in the global market.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Committee on Bad Debts of Banks

3173. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the RBI proposes to investigate the bad debts of banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Committee has been set up to investigate into the bad debts;

(d) if so, the composition thereof; and

(e) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Banks are subject to Annual Financial Inspections by the Department of Supervision of the RBI. At the time of these inspections the Inspecting Officers also look into the reasons for advance turning into Non-Performing Assets and steps taken by banks to reduce the level of NPAs as also staff accountability in the matter.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

Change in Administrative Control on R.R.Bs

3174. SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the regional rural banks are proposed to be placed under the administrative control of NABARD;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being proposed to protect the interests of the employees of these banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are statutory organisations working under the directions of their own Board of Directors, subject to various policy guidelines of Government, Reserve Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). There is no proposal to place them under the administrative control of NABARD. NABARD, however, provides refinance to RRBs and also carries out statutory inspections.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Extension in Service to Officials of State Bank of Indore

3175. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of officers of the State Bank of Indore given extension in service after superannuation since 1994 till date;

(b) whether in more than 50% of these cases, the officers were investigated by the C.B.I on charge of frauds;

(c) whether vigilance clearance was obtained in these cases before granting extension in service;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial measures the Government propose to take in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

Compensation to Land Lossers

3176. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any complaint has been received about non-payment of compensation amount and not providing jobs to the persons whose lands were acquired for mining by the Western Coalfield Unit of Coal India Ltd;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the policy of Coal India Ltd. in this regard;

(c) the number of such cases pending with the Western Coalfield unit; and

(d) the time by which the compensation amount and jobs are likely to be provided to the affected persons?

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

Voluntary Disclosure Scheme

3177. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the basic objective of the Volunteer Disclosure Scheme (VDS);

(b) the extent to which the scheme has been successful in achieving the objectives;

(c) the amount of black money disclosed under the scheme since its inception;

(d) whether the Government propose to review the VDS; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Government had been announcing - from time to time - various voluntary/Amnesty schemes with the intention of channelising unaccounted money-both Indian and foreign-into the main stream of the economy. These schemes have met with varying degrees of success and apart from their productive use have led to collection of additional taxes in the process.

(d) and (e). There if no such proposal at present.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission

3178. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has formulated a scheme for generating employment for two million people in 1996-97 with financial back up by Bank consortium to the extent of Rs. 1,000 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith salient features of the scheme;

(c) the funds likely to be allotted, State-wise;

(d) the details of performance review of schemes sponsored through KVIC in various States during the last three years by standard norms against target set; and

(e) the details of new schemes proposed to be launched by the KVIC during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASO MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the scheme, programmes namely (1) District Special Employment Programme; (2) 125 Block Development Programme; (3) National Programme on Leather, Handmade Paper, Beekeeping and pottery; and (4) Special Projects have been included. While backward districts have been selected for the District Special Employment Programme, Revamped Public District System (RPDS) blocks have been selected for the Block Development Programme. These programmes will generate 10,000 and 1,000 employment per district/block respectively. For special project, thrust will be given on village industries on broad categories, namely: (1) Mineral Based Industry (2) Forest Based Industry (3) Agro based food industry (4) Polymer and Chemical based industry (5) Engineering and Non-conventional energy; and (6) Textile Industry.

(c) The quantum of Statewise funds requirement under various schemes depends upon the number and size of the projects implemented in each State and so the funds allotment will vary from State to State.

(d) The performance of the KVI schemes in different States is reviewed by the KVIC at the time of Annual Budget discussions with the State KVI Boards and the implementing agencies

(e) KVIC is implementing schemes included in the programme for generation of rural employment through khadi and village industry activities as per recommendations of the High Power Committee. Every year, additional persons are being covered by these schemes as part of the programme for generation of 2 million employment in rural areas.

Cement Plants

3179. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of large, medium and small cement plants in the country till date, State-wise;

(b) the quantity of cement produced in each of these plants during the last 3 years and the current year till date separately; and

(c) the total number of employees engaged in these plants, unitwise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) There are 124 large cement plants and about 300 mini cement plants in the country. The State-wise distribution of large cement plants is given in Statement-I. The State-wise break-up of mini cement plants is not being maintained centrally.

(b) The quantity of cement produced by large plants during the last 3 years and the period April-October in the current year is indicated in the Statement-II enclosed. Although, plantwise details of mini cement plants are not centrally maintained, the target of estimated production by these plants in the current year is over 6 million tonnes.

(c) The data regarding unitwise employees engaged by cement plants is not maintained centrally.

STATEMENT-I

Statewise Number of Cement Plants

State	No. of Cement Plants
Delhi	1
Haryana	2
Punjab	1
Himachal Pradesh	4
Jammu and Kashmir	1
Rajasthan	15
Uttar Pradesh	5
Bihar	7
Orissa	3
West Bengal	2
Assam	1
Meghalaya	1
Tamil Nadu	8
Andhra Pradesh	19
Karnataka	9
Kerala	1
Maharashtra	8
Gujarat	13
Madhya Pradesh	23
Total	124

STATEMENT-II

State/Plant	Cement Production (in lakh tonnes)			
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (Apr.-Oct.)
1	2	3	4	5
Northern Region				
Punjab				
1. Guj. Ambuja-Un. Ropar (G)	0.00	0.00	5.43	6.79
Total of Punjab	0.00	0.00	5.43	6.79

	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Delhi</i>					
1. Delhi (G)		3.54	1.92	1.86	0.71
Total of Delhi		3.54	1.92	1.86	0.71
<i>Haryana</i>					
1. Bhupendra		4.19	4.89	4.77	2.63
2. Charkhi-Dadri		1.15	0.87	0.75	0.32
Total of Haryana		5.34	5.76	5.52	2.96
<i>Himachal Pradesh</i>					
1. Gagal-1		8.60	8.76	6.75	3.49
2. Gagal-2		0.00	2.56	8.09	6.10
3. Rajban		1.68	1.75	1.68	0.86
4. Gunj. Ambuja-Un. H.P.		0.00	0.00	1.64	2.42
Total of H.P.		10.28	13.03	18.76	12.88
<i>Jammu and Kashmir</i>					
1. J and K Ltd.		0.58	0.78	0.70	0.27
Total of J and K		0.58	0.78	0.70	0.27
<i>Rajasthan</i>					
1. Lakheri		3.42	3.56	3.48	1.96
2. Birla Cement		5.00	5.26	6.14	3.18
3. Chittor Cement		8.21	8.61	9.43	5.04
4. Mangalam Cement		3.86	3.68	4.04	2.23
5. Neer Shree Cement		0.58	5.66	5.79	4.44
6. Aditya Cement		0.00	0.00	4.15	4.94
7. Nimbahere-J.K. Cmt.		6.42	7.50	6.54	3.91
8. J.K. New Unit		9.87	10.09	10.59	5.95
9. J.K. Mangrol		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.40
10. Lakshmi Cmt. Unit-I		5.57	5.62	5.75	2.69
11. Lakshmi Cmt. Unit-II		3.03	0.00	2.78	3.06
12. J.K. Udaipur Udyog Ltd.		0.00	7.57	7.81	4.08
13. Shree Cement		8.76	9.27	8.62	5.18
14. Jaipur Udyog Ltd.		Not in prodn.			
15. Shriram Cements		2.52	2.66	2.61	1.49
Total of Rajasthan		57.24	69.49	77.74	48.55
<i>Uttar Pradesh</i>					
1. Diamond Cmt-Jhansi (G)		7.23	6.81	5.86	2.97
2. Churk		0.81	0.16	0.00	0.01
3. Dalla		0.92	0.65	0.44	0.03
4. Chunar (G)		8.13	5.98	5.28	1.92
5. K.C.C.		Clinkerisation Unit			
Total of Uttar Pradesh		17.09	13.59	11.59	4.93
Total-Northern Region		94.07	104.58	121.59	77.08

	1	2	3	4	5
Eastern Region					
<i>Bihar</i>					
1.	Chaibasa	5.30	5.67	5.68	2.89
2.	Sindri	2.65	2.87	3.03	1.78
3.	Khalari	0.70	0.23	0.00	0.13
4.	Kalyanpur	2.33	3.46	5.93	3.47
5.	Sone Valley	Not in prodn.			
6.	Rohtas Inds. Ltd.	Not in prodn.			
7.	Tisco (G), Bihar	0.00	3.09	7.34	5.39
	Total of Bihar	10.98	15.32	21.99	13.65
<i>Orissa</i>					
1.	OCL India Ltd.	7.00	7.12	7.42	4.02
2.	IDCOL Cement Ltd.	3.49	3.42	4.19	2.52
3.	L and T Jharsuguda (G)	1.36	3.93	5.34	2.91
	Total of Orissa	11.85	14.46	16.95	9.45
<i>West Bengal</i>					
1.	Durgapur (G)	3.79	4.61	4.71	2.46
2.	Damodar Cmt. and Slag (G)	0.64	0.58	0.35	0.02
	Total of West Bengal	4.43	5.18	5.07	2.48
<i>Assam</i>					
1.	Bokajan	1.48	1.54	1.56	0.92
	Total of Assam	1.48	1.54	1.56	0.92
<i>Meghalaya</i>					
1.	Mawmluh Cherra	1.12	1.43	1.21	0.62
	Total of Meghalaya	1.12	1.43	1.21	0.62
	Total-Eastern Region	29.86	37.94	46.77	27.12
Southern Region					
<i>Tamil Nadu</i>					
1.	Madukkarai	7.17	7.87	8.29	4.69
2.	Sankarnagar	10.28	10.60	10.60	5.69
3.	Sankaridurg	5.25	6.04	6.05	3.32
4.	Alangulam	2.69	2.72	2.42	1.41
5.	Ariyalur	4.32	3.77	4.29	2.51
6.	Ramasamyraja Nagar	6.20	7.27	8.20	4.68
7.	Chettinad Cement	7.15	8.46	9.15	5.17
8.	Dalmia Cement	7.45	8.22	8.53	4.89
	Total of Tamil Nadu	50.51	54.95	57.54	32.35
<i>Andhra Pradesh</i>					
1.	Mancherla	3.10	2.88	3.42	1.84

	1	2	3	4	5
2. Kesoram Cement		7.31	7.63	7.82	4.29
3. Orient Cmt. Unit-1 and 2		9.42	9.57	10.27	5.34
4. Zuari Cement		4.85	5.37	5.62	3.28
5. Adilabad		2.92	2.01	1.92	1.15
6. Yerraguntla		2.96	2.50	2.35	1.29
7. Tandur		6.43	4.79	4.23	2.95
8. Vijayawada (G)		Not in Prodn.			
9. Vizag (G)		0.14	0.12	1.89	1.49
10. Nadikude-Durga Cmt.		0.00	0.65	4.25	3.00
11. Chilamkur Works		7.39	7.07	9.21	5.46
12. Jayanthipuram		8.24	7.85	10.09	5.92
13. Kistna		Not in Prodn.			
14. K.C.P. Ltd.		3.75	4.33	4.75	2.54
15. Panyam Cements		4.03	4.83	5.00	2.84
16. Raasi Cmt. Ph.I		12.95	14.61	16.47	10.13
17. Raasi Cmt. Ph-II		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18. Priyadarshini		6.56	7.03	7.10	4.41
19. Sri Vishnu Cement		6.06	6.67	6.04	4.49
Total of A.P.		86.11	87.93	100.44	61.33

Karnataka

1. Wadi- Ph.I		6.15	7.54	6.62	6.39
2. Wadi- Ph.II		10.75	12.26	11.47	3.35
3. Vasavadatta		6.35	6.97	6.72	3.62
4. Rajashree Cmt. Malkhed		16.12	16.80	18.35	9.74
5. Mysore Cmt.		4.56	5.32	5.49	3.17
6. Kurkunta		1.49	1.54	1.34	0.62
7. Shahabad		4.01	3.63	3.32	1.45
8. Kanoria Inds. Ltd.		3.27	3.10	2.48	1.50
9. Visvesvaraya		Not in prodn.			
Total of Karnataka		52.70	57.16	55.79	29.82

Kerala

1. Malabar Cements		3.84	3.84	3.65	1.29
Total of Kerala		3.84	3.84	3.65	1.29
Total-Southern Region		193.16	203.87	217.43	124.79

Western Region**Maharashtra**

1. Chanda		5.75	6.14	6.03	3.47
2. Manikgarh Unit-I		11.15	10.34	8.99	3.10
3. Manikgarh Unit-II (G)		0.00	0.02	1.08	4.03
4. Rajashree-Hotgi (G)		0.00	0.00	4.05	6.90
5. Ratnagiri (G)		2.27	2.46	2.94	1.60
6. Sewree (G)		Not in prodn.			
7. L and T - Awarpur Ph.I		22.17	23.82	24.72	14.39

	1	2	3	4	5
8.	L and T - Awarpur Ph.II	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total of Maharashtra	41.34	42.78	47.79	33.49

Gujarat

1.	Jafrabad	Clinkerisation unit			
2.	Magdalla (G)	4.04	4.28	4.99	2.08
3.	Sikka	0.80	0.81	0.86	0.67
4.	Sikka New Unit	7.57	6.99	8.90	4.38
5.	Ahmedabad (G)	0.37	0.38	0.40	0.00
6.	Porbandar	1.65	1.38	1.68	0.91
7.	L and T - Gujarat	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.76
8.	Saurashtra Cement	7.02	7.98	8.06	4.69
9.	Ambuja	7.82	7.84	8.79	3.93
10.	Gajambuja Cement	7.75	11.20	12.36	5.87
11.	Gujarat Sidhee Cmt.	6.73	7.37	9.43	4.59
12.	Dwaraka	Not in prodn.			
13.	Sevalia	Not in prodn.			
	Total of Gujarat	43.75	48.24	55.48	30.89

Madhya Pradesh

1.	Jamul	11.97	11.71	11.06	7.02
2.	Kymore	8.16	7.98	10.03	7.22
3.	Kymore-Mehgaon	Clinkerisation Unit			
4.	Birla Vikas	7.92	7.09	7.65	4.87
5.	Satna Cement	7.96	7.92	7.60	4.31
6.	Century Cement	9.18	10.14	8.93	5.74
7.	Maihar Cmt. Unit-I	9.02	9.23	8.94	4.21
8.	Maihar Cmt. Unit-II	0.00	0.00	0.61	4.52
9.	Vikram Cmt. Unit-I	14.73	15.83	13.69	7.38
10.	Vikram Cmt. Unit-II	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50
11.	Vikram Super Cement	8.47	9.62	8.67	4.35
12.	Grasim Cmt.-Raipur	0.00	0.06	6.21	5.92
13.	Diamond Cmt. Unit-I	5.88	3.15	3.17	1.81
14.	Diamond Cmt. Unit-II	0.04	3.51	4.03	1.87
15.	Akaltara	2.01	1.36	0.52	0.23
16.	Mandhar	1.11	0.49	0.65	0.23
17.	Neemuch	3.32	3.11	2.71	1.44
18.	Raymond Ltd. Cmt. Div.	12.93	16.17	16.39	9.62
19.	L and T - Hirmi	0.00	1.36	8.14	7.11
20.	Jaypee Rewa	23.04	24.56	23.19	13.65
21.	Jaypee Bela Cement	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05
22.	Modi Cement	12.04	10.31	10.08	5.77
23.	Tisco (Raipur), M.P.	0.89	2.55	3.43	2.28
	Total of Madhya Pradesh	138.67	146.15	155.70	100.12
	Total-Western Region	223.76	237.16	258.97	164.51
	Grant Total	540.85	583.54	644.76	393.50

Indo-E.C. Talks

3180. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to have any talks with the European Commission (E.C.);

(b) whether E.C. has also expressed its keenness for having a dialogue with the Government; and

(c) if so, the subjects listed for inclusion in the agenda for Indo-EC talks

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). The India-EC Talks are scheduled to be held in Brussels on 16th and 17th Dec., 96 on the occasion of the next meeting of the India-EC Working Group of Trade and Economic Cooperation. Matters of bilateral trade, commercial and economic interest are to be discussed in the meeting.

[Translation]

Closure of Industries in U.P.

3181. SHRI GANGA RAM KOLI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to close down the big industrial units in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of industries proposed to be closed down by the Government;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide employment to the persons rendered unemployed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) BIFR have recommended for winding up of the Tannery and Footwear Corpn. of India Ltd. and have referred the matter to High Court, Allahabad.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

[English]

Cotton Advisory Board

3182. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand from the cotton producing States for releasing further cotton quota for export in order to ensure reasonable prices to the farmers;

(b) whether meeting of the Cotton Advisory Board was held in November, 1996 to review the supply and demand position; and

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

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

(a) Requests for release of quota for export of cotton are received from the States from time to time.

Government have already released a quota of 6.15 lakh bales for export, in the 1996-97 Cotton Year. Quota released are made after taking into account all relevant factors, including assessments of cotton production, domestic demand and availability of surplus cotton.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

KVIC

3183. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide more assistance to units of Khadi and Village Industries in Kerala;

(b) whether the KVIC propose to set up more projects in Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). More assistance will be given to Kerala and other States/U.Ts. depending on the merits of the projects. This is a continuous process.

FERA Violations by Cigarette Companies

3184. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of cigarette companies in the country who are allegedly indulging in the evasion of Excise duty, Customs duty and Income-tax etc, besides FERA violations;

(b) the action taken to expedite investigations in respect of these cigarette companies;

(c) whether these investigations have been followed with issuance of show cause notices and other follow up action; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Closure of Textile Mills

3185. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of textile mills lying closed as on date State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to take over the management of the closed textile mills; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) As on 31.10.96, no Cotton/Man-made Fibre Mill was closed under the I.D. Act. 146 Cotton/Man-made Fibre Mill were otherwise closed due to lock outs, strikes and financial difficulties, etc. and 38 Cotton/Man-made Fibre Mills were under liquidation. State-wise figures of number of mills closed are given below :

Andhra Pradesh	10
Assam	1
Bihar	2
Gujarat	57
Haryana	5
Karnataka	10
Kerala	2
Madhya Pradesh	9
Maharashtra	19
Orissa	1
Rajasthan	6
Tamilnadu	40
Uttar Pradesh	14
West Bengal	6
Manipur	1
Daman and Diu	1
Total	184

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Cheating of Bank by Imposter

3186. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the newsitem "Firm cheated of Rs.20 lakh by imposter" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated November 29, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the imposter deposited a sum of Rs.30 lakh in a fake bank account and withdrew Rs.20 lakh therefrom;

(c) if so, the modus operandi adopted therein; and

(d) the action taken against the delinquent employees of the bank?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur have reported that one Shri Sandeep Dabas, engaged as Company Secretary by M/s. SKN Industries Limited having current account with a New Delhi branch of the State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur had approached the branch with request letters seeking issuance of bankers' cheques of Rs.10 lakhs each favouring three different parties. The bank issued three bankers cheques by debiting the account of M/s. SKN Industries Limited out

of which one bankers' cheque was subsequently cancelled and the amount has been credited to the account of M/s SKN Industries Limited. The fraud came to light when the Managing Director of the Company alleged that the request letters presented by Shri Sandeep Dabas were forged. It was also alleged that Shri Dabas had opened Fraudulent accounts at South Extension branch of Canara Bank in the name of M/s. Iram Group International Private Limited by presenting forged documents and current account in the name of M/s. Marketing Syndicate at State Bank of India, Nazafgarh under proprietorship of Shri Sandeep Dabas himself from where the amounts credited through the two bankers' cheques were siphoned off.

It has been reported that an FIR has been lodged with local police and the banks has initiated action to ascertain staff lapses.

Participation of SSIs in Trade Fair

3187. DR. C. SILVERA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India Trade Promotion Organisation has organised a trade fair in Delhi recently to promote the business of Small Scale Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for the smooth growth of this sector?

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

(b). The theme of the India International Trade Fair 1996 was Small Scale Industries. The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) had put up display of the products manufactured in Small Scale Sector and the related technologies. The products covered in the display were agro and food processing item, appliances and consumer durables, automotive components, bicycle and bicycle parts, electronics, Gems and jewellery, leather, readymade garments and sports goods etc. 504 companies of Small Scale sector participated in the fair.

(c) The Govt. have provided various facilities in the form of incentives for growth of Small Scale Sector. These are :- excise concessions, priority credit by banks, facility of term loan under the refinance schemes of SIDBI through scheduled banks and financial institutions, working capital loans upto Rs.2.00 lakhs at concessional rate of interest, reservation of 836 items for exclusive manufacture in SSI Sector, technical and information support services, technology improvement support, marketing and higher purchase facilities by NSIC, single point registration schemes for SSI Sector by NSIC, price and purchase preference in Govt. purchase programmes, infrastructural support for development of training capacities, financial support to acquire ISO-9000 certification, National Equity Funds

Schemes of SIDBI for SSI sector and technology development and modernisation fund scheme of SIDBI etc.

Central Subsidy

3188. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated amount of direct central subsidy for 1996-97, item-wise?

(b) the actual subsidy given during each of the last three years, item-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to reduce these subsidies; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). A Statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d). The position will be reflected in the Budget to be presented for next year.

STATEMENT

The expenditure on direct subsidies in the three years from 1993-94 and the estimates thereof in 1996-97 is given by broad details in the table below

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96 'RE	1996-97 RE
				(Rs. crore)
Food subsidy	5537	5100	5500	5884
Subsidy on fertilisers				
Indigenous (urea) fertilisers	3800	4075	4300	4500
Imported (urea) fertilisers	762	1166	1935	1648
Sale of decontrolled fertilisers with concession to farmers	517	531	500	2224
Export promotion and Market Development	665	658	315	460
Subsidy to Railways	405	423	418	469
Subsidy on mill-made and handloom clothes	206	169	148	140
Debt relief to farmers	500	341	-	-
Interest and other subsidies	472	519	610	995
Total	12864	12982	13726	16320

Investment made by Israel

3189. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total investments made by Israel in basic, intermediate and consumer industry as well as investments made in agriculture in India so far; and

(b) the States in which such industries are located?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY OF (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Statement showing sector-wise break-up of investment by Israel from 1.8.91 to 30.9.96 including basic, intermediate and consumer industry as well as investments made in agriculture in India is attached as Statement-I.

(b) Statement showing State-wise break-up of investment by Israel from 1.8.91 to 30.9.96 is attached as Statement-II.

STATEMENT-I

Sector-wise break-up of Foreign Direct Investment and Technical Collaboration approved for Israel during the period from 01.08.91 to 30.09.96)

		(Rs. in Crores)				
S.No.	Name of Industry	Total		Fin	Account of FDI Approved	% of Total Amount Approved
		Total	Tech			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Electricals Equipment					
	Electricals Equipment	5	5	0	0.00	0.00
	Computer Software Industry	1	1	0	0.00	0.00
	Total	6	6	0	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Telecommunications					
	Telecommunications	2	2	0	0.00	0.00
	Radio paging	1	0	1	4.90	0.12
	Cellular Mobile/Basic Telephone Service	1	0	1	4100.00	98.49
	Total	4	2	2	4104.90	98.60
3.	Industrial Machinery	6	3	3	1.41	0.03
4.	Agricultural Machinery	1	1	0	0.00	0.00
5.	Miscellaneous Mechanical & Engineering	4	1	3	1.64	0.04
6.	Chemicals (Other than Fertilizers)	5	4	1	6.24	0.15
7.	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	1	1	0	0.00	0.00
8.	Textiles (Include Dyed, Printed)	1	1	0	0.00	0.00
9.	Food Processing Industries					
	Food products	11	6	5	1.82	0.04
	Total	11	6	5	1.82	0.04
10.	Glass	1	1	0	0.00	0.00
11.	Consultancy Services					
	Design & Eng. Services	2	1	1	0.07	0.00
	Total	2	1	1	0.07	0.00
12.	Service Sector					
	Non-financial Services	2	0	2	2.88	0.07
	Total	2	0	2	2.88	0.07
13.	Trading Co.	2	0	2	1.05	0.03
14.	Miscellaneous Industries					
	Horticulture	12	2	10	14.76	0.35
	Agriculture	7	5	2	1.42	0.03
	Floriculture	31	11	20	23.29	0.56
	Others (Misc Industries)	9	8	1	3.51	0.08
	Total	59	26	33	42.98	1.03
	Total	105	53	52	4162.98	

STATEMENT-II

Statewise Report for Foreign Direct Investment
Cases Approved by all Sections for the period
August 1991 to September 1996

State	Aug'91 - Sep'96	
	No.	Inves. (Rs. Crore)
1	2	3
Delhi	3	4100.12
Maharashtra	7	15.61
Karnataka	8	13.61

1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	6	10.02
Others (Located not indicated)	5	7.37
Tamil Nadu	9	7.31
Uttar Pradesh	4	2.35
Punjab	4	2.18
Rajasthan	1	2.10
Gujarat	1	1.20
Haryana	4	1.11
	52	4162.98

Cotton Textile Industry

3190. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the increasing use of cheap synthetics and filament yarn has adversely affected the cotton textile industry; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to enable the cotton textile industry to overcome this crisis?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Appreciation of Rupee in the World Currencies

3191. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether rupee has been appreciated in value against the major world currencies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). the exchange rate of the rupee has been generally stable against the U.S. dollar so far during the current financial year. While the rupee weakened against the Pound Sterling by 11.5 per cent and by 1.5 per cent against the D.M. between March 1996 and November 1996, it strengthened by 2.2 per cent against the yen over the same period. The rupee's movements vis-a-vis other major currencies reflected the dollar's movements against these currencies. The Exchanges rate of the rupee against major currencies is given in the Statement enclosed.

STATEMENT

*Exchange Rates of the Rupee-Monthly Average,
(FEDAI* Indicative Rates)*

(Rupees per Foreign Currency)

Month/Year	U.s. Dollar	Pound Sterling	Deutsche Mark	Japanese Yen@
1	2	3	4	5
1996				
March	34.3936 (6.51)	62.5512 (7.08)	23.2919 (7.29)	32.4960 (6.57)
April	24.2391 (0.45)	51.8774 (1.30)	22.7440 (2.41)	31.8897 (1.97)
May	35.0105 (-2.20)	52.9799 (-2.08)	22.8341 (0.39)	32.8993 (-3.13)
June	34.9803 (0.09)	53.9448 (-1.79)	22.9014 (-0.29)	32.1315 (2.39)
July	35.5050 (-1.48)	55.1533 (-2.19)	23.5763 (-2.86)	32.5274 (-1.22)

1	2	3	4	5
August	35.6955 (-0.53)	55.3299 (-0.32)	24.1431 (-2.35)	33.1169 (-1.78)
September	35.7284 (-0.09)	55.7217 (0.70)	23.7672 (1.50)	32.5756 (1.66)
October	35.6404 (0.25)	54.4717 (-1.33)	23.3366 (1.85)	31.74.02 (2.63)
November	35.7353 (-0.27)	59.3710 (-4.88)	23.6376 (-1.27)	31.8032 (-0.28)

* FEDAI Foreign Exchange Dealers Association of India
Figures in brackets indicate percentage app/dep (-) over the preceding month.

@ Rupees per 100 yen.

Open Cast Projects

3192. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the names and the locations of the open cast projects under the Eastern Coalfields Limited;

(b) the names and the locations of the open cast projects closed/abandoned during each of the last three year;

(c) the quantity of coal blocked in these projects;

(d) the reasons for closure of these open cast projects and whether the Government are contemplating to reopen these O.C.Ps.;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) The names and locations of the open cast projects under the Eastern Coalfields Ltd. are as under :-

S.No.	Name of the OC Project	Location
1	2	3
1.	Khottadhi	Burdwan Distt. West Bengal
2.	Shankarpur	-do-
3.	Jambad	-do-
4.	Ardhagram	Bankura Distt.. West Bengal
5.	Kenda West	Burdwan Distt.. West Bengal
6.	Chore	-do-
7.	Bansara	-do-
8.	Tarsea	-do-
9.	Sonepur Bazari	-do-
10.	Sangramgarh	-do-
11.	Golrangdih	-do-
12.	Bonjemhari	-do-
13.	Mohanpur	-do-

1	2	3
14. Nirsia		Dhanbad Distt., Bihar
15. Barmuri		-do-
16. Rajpura		-do-
17. Khoodia		-do-
18. Rajmahal		Godda Distt., Bihar
19. Simlong		-do-
20. Girija		Deoghar Distt., Bihar
21. Chitra (Ph.I)		-do-

(b) to (d). The details of the open cast projects or mines of Eastern Coalfields Ltd. closed during the last three year are given below yearwise :-

	Names of OC Project	Location
1993-94	Dhandadih	Burdawan Distt., West Bengal
	Dobor	-do-
	Gangaram Chak	Birbhum Distt., West Bengal
	Palasthali	Dumka Distt., Bihar
1994-95	Nil	Nil
1995-96	Dalmiya	Burdwan Distt., West Bengal

These coal mines have been closed mainly due to exhaustion of quarriable reserves are left in these mines.

(e) and (f). Do not arise in view of answer given to parts (b) to (d). of the question.

Export of Tea to Russia

3193. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Russia has stopped the import of Indian tea;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have made any bilateral talk in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Import of Coal

3194. SHRI O.P. JINDAL : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to import energy efficient coal from USA;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions fixed by the Government to import the coal from the USA and other foreign countries; and

(c) the price at which Government propose to import the coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c). Under the present export and import policy, coal can be freely imported. Imports, if any, are to be made by the consumers themselves considering their needs and exercising their own commercial judgement. Government do not propose to import coal to meet the need to any consumer.

Pilferage of Coal from Coal Pitheads

3195. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government/Coal India Limited conducts regular checking of quantum of coal available in each of the coal pitheads;

(b) if so, the details of the checkings conducted by Coal India Limited during the last three years on each of the coal pitheads;

(c) the quantum of shortfall reported in each of the coal pitheads; and

(d) the action contemplated by the Government against the persons involved in pilferage of coal from pitheads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). CIL conducts annual pithead stock measurement in respect of each mine of every subsidiary. The details of shortfall in ECL, BCCL, CCL, WCL and SECL where stocks are exceeding the permissible measurement error with respect to Book stock in pitheads in last three years are given in the enclosed statement. No shortfall in stock measurement has been reported in NCL, MCL and NEC during the above period.

(d) Whenever pilferage of coal from pitheads are detected, the same are reported to the respective State authority through first information report (FIR).

STATEMENT

Company	Total No. working mines	Year	No. of mines shortage reported	Quantum of shortfall (million tonnes)
1	2	3	4	5
ECL	127	1993-94	31	0.66
		1994-94	38	0.32
		1995-96	12	0.05

1	2	3	4	5
BCCL	93	1993-94	5	0.99
		1994-95	20	2.81
		1995-96	3	0.28
CCL	74	1993-94	2	0.10
		1994-95	38	6.42
		1995-96	4	0.09
WCL	38	1993-94	1	0.003
		1994-95	-	-
		1995-96	-	-
SECL	91	1993-94	1	0.08
		1994-95	-	-
		1995-96	-	-

Losses suffered by Indian Bank

3196. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :
SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI :
SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any C.B.I. enquiry has been conducted into the huge losses suffered by the Indian Bank;

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

(c) whether any arrests have been made and raids conducted by the C.B.I. in regard thereto; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and action taken against the persons found responsible and to recover the losses?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) have reported that they have registered seven cases involving a former Chairman & Managing Director of Indian Bank. Field investigation in one case has been completed and is pending for legal scrutiny. The remaining cases are under enquiry/investigation by CBI. CBI have also indicated that investigation in all these cases have been started recently and involve transactions pertaining to several years, scrutiny of voluminous documents and enquiries abroad. CBI have also reported that in one case, seven persons have been arrested. Residences/office premises of some of the accused have also been searched and certain documents/articles have also been seized. Nature of action to be initiated against the persons involved can be identified only after the investigation is completed.

Motor Vehicles Plant in Karnataka

3197. SHRI S.D.N.R. VADIYAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a

special purpose motor vehicles plants in Karnataka alongwith the location thereof;

(b) whether the proposed plant is going to be set up by the public/private sector or in the joint sector;

(c) I so, the details thereof; and

(d) the employment generation capacity of the plant?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir. However, the Automobile sector is open for private sector with Government playing the catalyst role.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Bank Loans to SCs/STs in A.P.

3198. SHRI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the schemes/programmes under which SCs/STs of rural areas may avail of the benefits of the loan facilities of Central Government and the limit of such loans fixed, if any;

(b) the number of SC/ST beneficiaries under different schemes during the last six months in Andhra Pradesh particularly in Guntur district of the State;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the delaying tactics in providing bank loans to SC/ST in Andhra Pradesh.

(d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial action taken in regard thereto; and

(e) the target fixed for providing banks loans to SCs/STs in the current financial year in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Foreign Law Companies in India

3199. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the entry of foreign law companies is banned into the country at present;

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

(c) whether a number of foreign law firms are operating in the country despite ban;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for their operations in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). The Reserve Bank of India have informed that three Foreign Law Firms viz. M/s Chadbourne & Parke Associates, M/s White & Case and M/s. Ashurst Morris Crisp have been granted permission by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under Section 29 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 to open their Liaison Offices at Bombay and New Delhi for a period of three years from the date of approval letter to act as a communication channel i.e. to correspond between their Head Offices and parties in India. They are not permitted to practice Law in India.

[Translation]

Public Sector Undertakings

3200. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Public Sector Undertaking as on March, 1996 functioning in the country and the total investment made in these units;

(b) the annual average value of export carried out by these PSUs during the last three years;

(c) the target of annual average value of export fixed for these PSUs;

(d) whether Government propose to hand over any of these PSUs to Private Sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) As on 31.3.95, upto which period only audited information is available, there were 245 Central PSUs in the country having an investment of Rs.172438 crores in them.

(b) The total foreign exchange earnings of the Central PSUs by way of export of goods and services during the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 were Rs.10338.02 crores, Rs.11872.45 crores & Rs.13345.43 crores respectively.

(c) Participation of Private Sector is considered on merits as and when appropriate after due consideration without affecting the stake-holders, including labour.

Deposits in Non-Performing Assets of Banks

3201. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of amount deposited in the Non-Performing Assets accounts of the nationalised banks during each of the last three years bank-wise;

(b) the number of NPA accounts in which recoveries were made during the above period, bank-wise and year-wise;

(c) the details of the amount not being recovered from the financial allocation made for priority sector programmes, bank-wise and year-wise;

(d) the details of legal and other actions taken to recover the amount shown in NPA; and

(e) the details of amount which could not be recovered due to interim stay order issued by various courts?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that their data base does not generate information regarding amounts deposited in the Non-performing Asset Accounts of the banks and the number of NPA Accounts in which recoveries have been made. However, details of NPAs of the nationalised banks during the last three years are given in the attached Statement-I. The details of recoveries of NPAs during the last three years are given in the attached Statement-II.

(c) The bank-wise outstanding of Public Sector banks' advances to Priority Sector during the last three years is given in the attached statement-III.

(d) Debt Recovery Tribunals have been set up at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Calcutta, Delhi, Jaipur and Chennai with an Appellate Tribunal in Mumbai for expeditious adjudication and recovery of debts due to banks and financial institutions. RBI has also requested the Indian Banks' Association to encourage its Member banks to bring an increasing number of loan recovery cases to Lok Adalats/Nyayalayas and settle the through fair compromises.

(e) RBI's data monitoring system does not generate the information called for.

STATEMENT-I

Position of Non-Performing Assets

(Rs. in Crores)

Name of the Bank	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	Amount	% to total Advance	Amount	% to total Advance	Amount	% to total Advance
	2	3	4	5	6	7
State Bank of India	11604.80	24.36	10926.15	19.90	10553.53	15.96
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	365.92	18.19	400.25	17.51	337.95	12.45

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
State Bank of Hyderabad	565.00	21.90	554.23	15.75	644.23	15.59
State Bank of Indore	232.65	21.41	199.01	15.28	218.84	14.20
State Bank of Mysore	332.47	21.46	284.48	14.44	328.93	14.54
State Bank of Patiala	305.38	13.09	330.98	11.42	399.71	11.49
State Bank of Saurashtra	231.44	18.92	197.70	12.22	206.49	10.64
State Bank of Travancore	339.29	13.57	377.88	11.10	430.22	11.74
Total for State Bank Group	13976.95	22.94	13270.68	18.50	13119.00	15.28
Allahabad Bank	1025.03	24.74	1235.11	26.88	1255.00	23.98
Andhra Bank	520.78	23.35	377.65	14.30	332.20	11.61
Bank of Baroda	2630.16	18.77	2689.68	16.58	2840.08	16.16
Bank of India	3772.00	29.96	2961.00	20.66	2434.00	14.49
Bank of Maharashtra	847.67	36.23	734.59	25.71	694.26	21.87
Canara Bank	1653.00	18.22	1523.00	12.93	1533.47	11.11
Central Bank of India	2443.00	35.29	2154.78	24.98	2036.00	20.91
Corporation Bank	259.01	16.41	260.01	11.69	251.83	9.67
Dena Bank	564.00	22.51	557.00	17.34	508.00	13.43
Indian Bank	2040.51	26.78	2102.41	24.09	3140.90	34.15
Indian Overseas Bank	2175.18	37.75	2001.41	28.85	1823.00	20.38
Oriental Bank of Commerce	210.95	8.00	221.94	6.14	271.25	5.68
Punjab & Sind Bank	637.28	31.63	619.32	22.53	725.29	22.56
Punjab National Bank	2179.03	21.41	2033.00	17.01	2518.00	18.74
Syndicate Bank	1409.60	29.40	1452.97	27.48	1311.75	20.97
UCO Bank	1961.81	34.61	1745.60	29.40	1840.00	24.54
Union Bank of India	693.49	12.87	695.05	9.41	900.63	9.93
United Bank of India	1509.00	15.95	1309.68	36.90	1503.00	38.04
Vijaya Bank	532.88	26.96	439.40	17.47	545.38	20.36
Total for Nationalised Banks:	27064.38	25.84	25114.50	19.98	26464.04	18.22
Total for Public Sector Banks:	41041.33	24.78	38385.18	19.45	39583.94	17.12

STATEMENT-II

Recovery in NPAs - Public Sector Banks

(Amount in Crores of Rupees)

Name of the Bank	1993-94 Recovery	1994-95 Recovery	1995-96 Recovery
1	2	3	4
State Bank of India	321.54	604.70	427.93
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	139.96	136.18	142.36
State Bank of Hyderabad	84.97	118.59	100.94
State Bank of Indore	13.36	12.86	17.55
State Bank of Mysore	13.18	31.73	23.25
State Bank of Patiala	13.48	25.69	16.92
State Bank of Saurashtra	26.98	23.70	36.01
State Bank of Travancore	63.60	36.95	97.90
Total for State Bank Group	677.07	990.40	861.86
Allahabad Bank	92.30	51.00	102.00
Andhra Bank	76.00	111.00	36.00
Bank of Baroda	95.01	350.73	345.96
Bank of India	301.00	325.00	354.00

1	2	3	4
Bank of Maharashtra	115.52	96.00	83.15
Canara Bank	204.00	255.00	238.00
Central Bank of India	296.00	550.00	541.00
Corporation Bank	30.63	19.41	26.98
Dena Bank	65.91	12.00	69.80
Indian Bank	205.00	283.00	283.00
Indian Overseas Bank	122.52	167.13	173.85
Oriental Bank of Commerce	56.00	51.70	69.13
Punjab & Sind Bank	41.55	101.74	56.08
Punjab National Bank	214.20	222.90	300.00
Syndicate Bank	189.35	147.65	188.37
UCO Bank	141.14	157.64	95.44
Union Bank of India	128.00	159.00	161.00
United Bank of India	74.00	142.00	102.00
Vijaya Bank	86.00	69.00	27.00
Total for Nationalised Banks	2534.13	3271.90	3258.76
Total for Public Sector Banks	3211.20	4262.30	4120.62

STATEMENT-III**Public Sector Bank's Advances to Priority Sector
(Outstanding)**

(Rs. in Crores)

Name of the Bank	March 1994 Balance	March 1995 Balance	March 1996 Balance
State Bank of India	13403.99	15643.91	17018.00
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	706.89	773.73	970.27
State Bank of Hyderabad	974.60	1283.11	1601.58
State Bank of Indore	398.80	529.29	621.92
State Bank of Mysore	548.32	679.70	804.44
State Bank of Patiala	903.00	1027.00	1204.00
State Bank of Saurashtra	481.27	584.04	752.52
State Bank of Travancore	793.15	1142.11	1194.57
Allahabad Bank	1615.90	1574.80	1596.00
Andhra Bank	787.47	856.53	961.32
Bank of Baroda	4029.42	4060.80	5257.54
Bank of India	2952.00	3433.76	3987.62
Bank of Maharashtra	891.00	1082.78	1244.53
Canara Bank	3289.54	4005.23	4802.96
Central Bank of India	2730.66	3067.74	3470.60
Corporation Bank	542.00	695.00	862.00
Dena Bank	912.00	1171.62	1389.25
Indian Bank	2239.00	2530.00	2795.00
Indian Overseas Bank	1466.30	1805.58	2191.99
Oriental Bank of Commerce	1125.32	1445.00	1821.56
Punjab National Bank	4301.00	4571.30	4869.00
Punjab & Sind Bank	835.01	1056.18	1266.10
Syndicate Bank	1385.00	1579.00	1745.00
Union Bank of India	2063.54	2682.89	3157.86
United Bank of India	1305.00	1456.00	1524.00
UCO Bank	1380.72	1396.35	1468.89
Vijaya Bank	710.42	840.98	994.85

Performance of Central Bank of India

3202. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the poor performance of the Central Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the officers of the Central Bank of India have been continuing their agitation against the Apathetic attitude of the management in improving the banks performances; and

(d) the remedial steps taken by the Government in regard thereto so far?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The operating profit of the Central Bank of India increased from Rs.49.18 crores

during 1994-95 to Rs.210.89 crores during 1995-96. The net loss of the Bank decreased from Rs.84.24 crores during 1994-95 to Rs. 73.53 crores during 1995-96. These figures show as improvement in the performance of the Central Bank of India.

(c) and (d). Central Bank of India has reported that a Section of Officer staff of one of the organisations of the Bank is presently on an agitational path raising some issues cover in the area of industrial relations and matters having financial implications. Several rounds of structured discussions as also informal dialogue with responsible officials of the organisation have been held by the bank with a view to ending the agitation.

Seizure of Gold

3203. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of contraband gold seized (both in quantity and value) during the current financial year;

(b) the number of how many persons found guilty of smuggling activity in gold; and

(c) how the seized contraband gold is disbursed by the Reserve Bank of India?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) 599 Kg. of contraband gold valued at Rs.3009.00 lakhs (approx.) has been seized in the current financial year.

(b) 229 persons have been found involved in smuggling of gold in the current financial year.

(c) The seized contraband gold is not being disbursed by the Reserve bank of India and the same is being disposed of by customs through their retail outlets at Delhi, Calcutta, Mumbai and Chennai.

[Translation]

Export from Delhi

3204. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy for increasing the export from the National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). The Central Government formulates its export policy for the country as a whole, taking into account the potentialities, specialisation in export production and infrastructural aspect of each area including the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

Setting up of Free Trade Zones

3205. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new free trade zones in the country;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The terms "Free Trade Zones" (FTZ) and "Export Processing Zones" (EPZ) in the Indian context are synonymous. keeping in view the availability of funds and the need to optimise infrastructural facilities in the existing Export Processing Zones, there is no proposal at present for the Central Govt. to set up new zones in the country. However, EPZs can now be established by State Governments or in joint/private sectors.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Outstanding Loan

3206. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the Central loan outstanding on each State during the last two years upto November 30, 1996;

(b) the amount of additional loan released by the Union Government to the State Governments during 1995-96 and the loan proposed to be released during 1996-97, State-wise; and

(c) the total amount with interest to be repaid by the State Government, to the Union Government during 1996-97, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Statewise details of loans due from States to the Ministry of Finance are given in Statement-I.

(b) and (c). Statement II is enclosed.

STATEMENT-I

(Rs. in crores)

Outstanding Loans

State	As on 31.3.1995	As on 31.3.1996	As on 30.11.1996
1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh	8225.08	9560.69	10278.05
2. Arunachal Pradesh	164.63	195.91	218.17
3. Assam	3282.71	3518.88	3661.66
4. Bihar	7732.11	8551.39	9286.43
5. Goa	717.54	756.70	797.29

1	2	3	4
6. Gujarat	7611.15	8635.85	9406.33
7. Haryana	2516.51	3228.83	3471.73
8. Himachal Pradesh	1226.76	1371.34	1634.25
9. J&K	2465.39	2541.92	2722.69
10. Karnataka	5328.13	5941.03	6535.15
11. Kerala	3666.73	4178.54	4473.33
12. Madhya Pradesh	5117.66	5664.38	6179.33
13. Maharashtra	11984.63	13413.63	15467.30
14. Manipur	166.84	178.30	193.23
15. Meghalaya	203.30	216.63	227.35
16. Mizoram	104.77	126.30	139.85
17. Nagaland	212.31	227.24	238.17
18. Orissa	3700.06	4204.75	4507.87
19. Punjab	9212.57	9610.91	10455.25
20. Rajasthan	5276.37	6101.01	6665.96
21. Sikkim	106.04	116.09	129.28
22. Tamil Nadu	6704.68	7441.11	8238.88
23. Tripura	301.51	317.61	337.21
24. Uttar Pradesh	16693.55	18831.22	20682.80
25. West Bengal	9408.61	11102.73	12536.89
Total	112129.64	126035.99	138484.45

STATEMENT-II

(Rs. in crores)

State	Loans released by Min. of Finance to State Govts. during 1995-96	Loan proposed to be released by Min. of Finance to States during 1996-97	Total amount of loans with interest to be paid by the State Govts. to Min. of Finance during 1996-97
1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh	1469.72	1652.81	1423.30
2. Arunachal Pradesh	41.53	50.54	30.87
3. Assam	407.71	484.68	691.55
4. Bihar	1156.73	1757.52	1328.23
5. Goa	60.74	73.82	86.53
6. Gujarat	1299.98	1281.10	1375.59
7. Haryana	502.86	753.52	598.04
8. Himachal Pradesh	178.98	299.72	212.54
9. J&K	245.90	389.78	412.81
10. Karnataka	799.97	1067.58	930.30
11. Kerala	651.05	767.87	649.27
12. Madhya Pradesh	800.32	981.71	887.51

1	2	3	4
13. Maharashtra	1886.01	2331.55	2143.81
14. Manipur	27.69	37.23	27.19
15. Meghalaya	23.80	40.64	34.55
16. Mizoram	26.76	32.32	19.72
17. Nagaland	25.00	31.00	35.86
18. Orissa	661.91	841.22	643.38
19. Punjab	785.61	1598.83	1587.46
20. Rajasthan	1040.56	1194.66	928.11
21. Sikkim	17.50	21.53	18.89
22. Tamil Nadu	981.17	1559.50	1174.89
23. Tripura	31.78	55.16	51.88
24. Uttar Pradesh	2786.05	3390.70	2927.49
25. West Bengal	2013.12	2663.31	1728.37
Total	17922.45	23360.30	19949.16

Import By STC

3207. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the main items imported by the State Trading Corporation during the last three years both in quantity and value alongwith its sales figures:

(b) the details of the foreign suppliers and the mode of the contracts made with them; and

(c) the profits made by the State Trading Corporation during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) A statement showing item-wise imports and import sales of STC during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 is attached.

(b) STC generally imports goods by floating limited inquiries to know suppliers and/or through global tenders. The details terms and conditions of the contract are finalised by STC keeping in view the requirements with reference to quality, delivery schedule, packing and payment terms etc. The names of the foreign suppliers with whom STC enters into contractual arrangements are treated as commercially classified.

(c) Profit after tax of STC during the last three years is given below :-

	(Rupees Crores)
1993-94	23
1994-95	22
1995-96	22

STATEMENT

STC: Import During 1993-94 to 1995-96

Item	1993-94 Actual		1994-95 Actuals		1995-96 Actuals	
	CIF Value	Sale Value	CIF Value	Sale Value	CIF Value	Sale Value
Edible Oils	151.18	168.71	188.43	328.29	493.40	482.84 (194)
Edible Oil (Care/Aid)	-	-	-	-	-	20.21 (7)
Newsprint	25.92	36.48	-	6.59	-	-
Fatty Acids	0.49	0.69	0.01	0.01	0.11	0.35
Sugar (Govt. Account)	-	-	585.51	594.34 (471)	66.00	66.42 (42)
Fertilizer (Govt. Account)	-	-	-	-	232.82	233.10 (309)
Chemicals & Drugs	2.85	9.66	0.40	0.41	0.55	0.55
General Imports	13.34	13.34	3.15	3.25	40.06	40.89
Agri. commodities	13.36	9.91	9.98	11.25 (12)	6.18	5.08
Imports for Bhakra	-	-	20.81	20.81	6.33	6.33
Others	0.65	0.23	0.02	0.39	1.77	1.42
Total Imports	207.79	239.05	808.31	965.34	847.22	857.19

Quantities have been shown wherever possible/available.

[Translation]

Loans to Farmers By R.R.Bs

3208. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of small farmers in Uttar Pradesh provided with loan by regional rural banks during 1994-95 and 1995-96 for installing tube-wells;

(b) the details of the problems faced in disbursing this loan during the said period; and

(c) the steps taken to solve such problems?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that loans for sinking tube-wells are generally availed for by farmers having large holdings, while small farmers normally avail of the loans for installing pumpsets on bores taken up under the free boring scheme.

The data in the manner sought for is however not available with NABARD.

(b) and (c). The data is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Supply of Coal

3209. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether major public sector coal companies lack the transportation facilities to supply the coal to the consumption centres because of which a huge quantity of coal is getting accumulated near the coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c). Coal companies do not transport coal to the consumption point. Coal is transported to the consumption centre by the Railways or by the consumer themselves by their captive modes of transportation (merry-go-round system, belt, rope) or by road etc. Except for railways, these systems are captive or privately owned. Coal Companies offer coal to consumers at a specific point of despatch at the colliery end. It is the responsibility of the Coal consumers to arrange to transport quantity to the consumption centre according to their own convenience and available transport system.

It is a fact that due to mis-match between production and transport capacities in some of the coal producing areas, coal companies do face difficulties to move all the coal produced. Ministry of Coal and Coal companies are however taking steps to improve despatches by rail

in coordination with the Railways. Steps are also constantly made to upgrade and improve the infrastructure for evacuation of coal production by the Coal companies.

[English]

Central Excise on Camphor

3210. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL :

SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the camphor is widely used all over the country for pooja and religious ceremonies apart from its scientific value;

(b) if so, the demand thereof, the installed production capacity of camphor and imports made during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have received representation for removal of central excise duty on camphor; and

(d) if so, the details of the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, the details regarding demand of camphor are not maintained by this Ministry. At present, the installed reduction capacity of camphor industry is of the order of 10,000 TPA and the annual production is approximately 7,000 TPA. The imports of camphor (Natural Camphor & Synthetic Camphor) during the last three years are given below:

Natural Camphor

	Qty. (MT)
1993-94	-
1994-95	41.0
1995-96	218.6

Synthetic Camphor

	Qty. (MT)
1993-94	949.9
1994-95	203.0
1995-96	620.9

(c) and (d). Government have received representations for removal of central excise duty on camphor. The representations will be examined while considering proposals for 1997-98 budget.

Export Growth

3211. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the exports growth has been declining during the last three years in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide financial assistance to the State Government for the infrastructure facilities to the exporters of their respective state in view of boosting the export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No. Sir. As per DGCI&S data the country's exports in dollar terms increased by 20% in 1993-94, 18.4% in 1994-95 and 20.9% during 1995-96.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Efforts are made to ensure the involvement of the State Governments in Export Promotion. A Centrally sponsored Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) Scheme has been introduced in 1994-95. As per the Scheme 75% of the capital expenditure towards creating of infrastructure facilities limited to Rs.10 crores, for export oriented production to State Governments as Central grant. So far 18 proposals from different States have been approved and an amount of Rs.73.26 crores released.

During the 1996-97 the Government launched the Crucial balancing Investment Scheme (CBI) which envisages balancing capital investment for relieving bottlenecks in infrastructure for export production and conveyance. Proposals identified for assistance under the scheme, including those of State Governments are to be financed by the Government out of a special fund earmarked for the purpose. A provision of Rs.25 crores has been earmarked in the 1996-97 Budget.

Election Code—Violation in J&K and UP

3212. SHRI PINAKI MISHRA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government and Election Commission have received a number of cases regarding violations of election code particularly violence, militant activities and sabotage in election during the recent elections to Legislative Assemblies in Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Election Commission has also countermanded the elections due to death of a candidate during the election in the above State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such activities in the elections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b). A Statement containing the requisite information is enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Election to 385-Sikarpur (SC) Assembly Constituency in Uttar Pradesh was countermanded due to the death of a contesting candidate.

(e) Superintendence, direction and control of elections are vested in the Election Commission of India and necessary steps are taken by it to ensure free and fair poll.

STATEMENT

Details of Cases of Model Code of Conduct violation by various Government agencies reported during the recent election to Legislative Assemblies of J&K and U.P.

S.No	Name of complainant	Brief Subject	Action taken	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5

Jammu & Kashmir

1.	Sh. Mohan Singh Chohan, State Secy. Pradesh BJP, J&K Jammu.	Allegation against on organisation of Govt. employees for issuing statements favouring Farooq Abdullah's National Conference.	The matter was referred to the State Government for factual report	Report being satisfactory, the Commission decided to drop further action in the matter
2.	Shri Sumeet Bhalla	Allegation against Government for allotting Oleo Pine Resin to J&K in back date	-do-	-do-
3.	Prof. Saif-Ud-din Soz, Spokesman J&K National Conference	Allegation against Union Minister of State Mr. Mohd. Maqbool Dar for misusing of Govt. Machinery for purposes of campaign	-do-	After receiving the report from Govt. of J&K commission has desired that the

1	2	3	4	5
				Minister of State Sh. Mohd. Maqbool Dar should return from J&K and he did.
4. Sh. Vaidya Vishnu Dutt	Allegation against PM for announcing economic package to Kashmir	Referred to Cabinet Sectt. for factual report		Report being satisfactory commission has decided to drop further action in the matter.
5. Sh. A. Rashid	Allegation against Govt. of J&K for creating a separate Directorate of Tourism for Jammu Province and sanction to the administrative arrangements and deployment/ transfer to various posts.	The Complaint was referred to Govt. of J&K for factual report		Despite two reminders report has not been received from the State Government.
Uttar Pradesh				
1. Sh. M. Venkaiah Naidu, General Secretary INC	Allegation against holding of rally by the Prime Minister and Defence Minister for election purpose by misusing of official machinery.	Referred to State Govt. for factual report.		Report being satisfactory Commission decided to close the case.
2. Sh. Harish Rawat Vice Chairman, INC	Allegation against Governor Sh. Romesh Bhandari by holding public meetings alongwith the Union Communication Minister Sh. Beni Prasad Verma for election purpose.	-do-		-do-
3. Sh. Jagdish Prasad Mathur	Allegation Against Information and Broadcasting Minister Sh. C.M. Ibrahim for making communal appeal to the votes of Uttar Pradesh.	-do-		-do-
4. Sh. J.C. Jetli BJP	Allegation against finalisation of Annual Plan for Uttar Pradesh by Planning Commission	Referred to Cabinet Secretariat for postponing the annual plan.		Compliance report received.
5. Sh. Yashwant Sinha BJP	Allegation against Prime Minister Sh. H.D. Deve Gowda on his announcement in the election meetings in Uttar Pradesh on the following points : (i) 10% reservation for economically backward in the Govt. jobs and for this, the Constitution shall be amended. (ii) allocation of Rs.9 Crore for improving the irrigation system in the country; and (iii) Setting-up of 25 new Sugar mills in U.P.	Reference to Cabinet Secretary and Doordarshan for factual report.		Report received and Commission decided not to pursue the complaints.
6. Sh. Yashwant Sinha, BJP	Allegation against Prime Minister in an election meeting in Machilisahar and Jaunpur on his announcement for reservation of 30% jobs for women;	Referred to Cabinet Secy. for factual report.		Report received and Commission decided not to pursue the complaints.

1	2	3	4	5
7. Dr. Ombir Singh	Violation to Model Code of Conduct by the Prime Minister on 26.9.1996 and direction to the District Magistrate, Meerut District, to distribute the subsidy on fertilisers and tractors. Also the Collector was directed to allocate funds to Malepur Sugar Mills.		Forwarded to Chief Secretary/ CEO for factual report.	Report received.
8. Sh. Jitendra Prasad M.P. President Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee(I)	Allegation against Sh. Kalyan Singh, former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and B.J.P. leader in public meeting at Bilsa on 26.6.96 has asked his partymen to take up arms.		Referred to Chief Secretary U.P. for factual report	Report received.
9. Sh. Ram Prasad Chaudhury, Bahujan Samaj Party	allegation agaist Governor Sh. Romesh Bhandari for inauguration of Navin Mandi		Forwarded to Chief Secretary/ CEO for factual report	Report Received.
10. Sh. Kirat Singh	Granting concession of Rs.20 crores by exempting Hides and Skins (Leather) from 2% Mandi fee.		-do-	-do-

Non-Payment by Kazakhstan to Indian Tea Exporters

3213. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kazakhstan has failed to honour its sovereign guarantees for payment of a total of \$ 7.8 million (Rs.27.30 crore) to Indian tea exporters;

(b) whether the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) has stopped extending any Cover to Indian exports to the Central Asian Republic; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure the payment without any more delay and the sovereign guarantees to tea exporters is honoured by the Kazakhstan Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Export of tea valuing US \$ 8.258 million was made by Indian tea exporters to Kazakhstan. A sum of US \$ 3.12 million has already been received and an amount of US \$ 5.138 million plus interest thereon is yet to be received by the Indian companies. The matter has been taken up with the Kazakh authorities on number of occasions. They have assured that the outstanding payment would be paid soon.

(b) Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) has been extending credit guarantee cover for Indian exports to Kazakhstan. They have not stopped their operation in the said country. As the country is placed under "Restricted Cover" the cases for guarantee coverage are considered on case to case basis.

(c) The matter pertaining to payment of dues has been taken up from time to time with the Kazakh

Government through our diplomatic channels. This was raised with Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan by the Commerce Minister during his visit to Almaty in October, 1996. Prime Minister of India also has requested the President of Kazakhstan to clear the dues during this recent visit.

[Translation]

Acquisition of Land by CIL

3214. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the areas of the land, out of the total area acquired by the ancillary units of Coal India Ltd. which have not come under actual possession of these units, subsidiary-wise;

(b) the reasons for delay in getting possession of land;

(c) whether employment and compensation have already been provided in lieu of acquisition of such land; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Subsidiary-wise details of acquired land the physical possession of which could not be obtained are as under :-

Name of the Subsidiary	Area in hectares
	Quantum of land not in physical possession
1	2
E.C.L.	NIL
B.C.C.L.	64.44

1	2
C.C.L.	29,187.260
N.C.L.	1,656.000
W.C.L.	2,870.000
S.E.C.L.	NIL
M.C.L.	12,745.939
Total CIL	46,523.639

(b) Delay in getting possession of land is due to title disputes, dispute amongst land owners, refusal of land owners to accept compensation, payment and hand over possession of the land demanding higher compensation, employment etc.

(c) No cash compensation for such lands as shown in reply to part (a) except for 64.44 hectares of land in respect of BCCL has been paid. Nor any employment in respect of such lands has so far been offered.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Exporation of Gas

3215. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Amoco Corporation was given permission for exploration of methane gas in Bihar and West Bengal;

(b) if so, when the permission was given and the terms and conditions of permission;

(c) whether the Amoco Corporation has since withdrawn the project; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). Approval of the Government was accorded to M/s. Amoco India Petroleum Company (Amoco) for exploration of Coal Bed Methane gas in two blocks located in Bihar in September, 1994. The terms of approval were inter-alia as under :-

(i) M/s. Amoco will have to enter into memorandum of Understanding with Coal India Limited (CIL), setting out terms and conditions including arbitration procedures for damages to coal mines.

(ii) Commercial arrangement to be entered into between CIL and Amoco should provide for-

- Payment of statutory levies and taxes to the Government by Amoco as per prevailing laws.
- Payment of a fixed amount of Rs.1.63 crores as "Signature Bonus" to CIL by M/s. Amoco.

payment of royalty @12.5% of the Well Head sale value of methane Gas by M/s. Amoco. Of this, 10% will be payable as royalty to the State Government and 2.5% to CIL as Production Bonus.

(iii) There will be no financial liabilities on CIL. However, at a later date CIL may show their willingness in its development as a joint venture with Indian and foreign company.

(iv) Amoco will undertake their own marketing and distribution of gas without any interference from the Ministry or CIL subject to the prevailing laws of India.

(v) Import of equipment for exploration and extraction of Coal Bed Methane will be considered as a concessional duty at the same rate applicable to oil companies coming to India.

(vi) The approval is valid for a period of two years from the date of issue.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The company has since withdrawn the project on the ground that this project has not kept pace with their other CBM projects in the world.

Salt Cess

3216. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total salt cess collected by his Ministry from various salt-producing States during each of the last three years; and

(b) the manner in which this cess is spent for the welfare of the salt workers and for providing infrastructure facilities to industry in each State during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Salt Cess collected from various salt producing States during each of the last three years is as under:

(Figures in lakh rupees)

State	93-94	94-95	95-96
Gujarat	183.46	180.13	196.37
Tamil Nadu & Andhra Pradesh	27.52	27.48	28.15
Rajasthan	7.85	13.37	14.66
Maharashtra	7.07	5.16	6.25
West Bengal & Orissa	1.10	1.35	0.91
Total	227.00	227.49	246.34

(b) A Portion of the cess collected from various salt producing States is spent for the welfare of the salt workers and for providing infrastructure facilities to

industry as per the "Code of Principle" which lay down guidelines and procedure for sanction of expenditure for schemes benefiting labour and the industry. The schemes are approved by the Regional Salt Advisory Boards of the respective States. Funds released out of cess for schemes benefiting industry and labour for salt producing States during last three years include laying of approach roads in salt works, establishment of community and primary health care centres, construction of rest sheds in salt works, provision of drinking water facilities to salt labourers, organising health care and eye camps, provision of educational facilities to the children of salt labourers, construction of brine supply channels and provision of other infrastructural facilities connected with development of salt industry etc.

CIL Projects

3217. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Coal mining projects started by Coal India Ltd. during Eighth Plan period;

(b) the total amount of investment required for those projects;

(c) whether the required funds are available with CIL;

(d) if not, the sources explored by CIL acquire funds for these projects; and

(e) the present status of those project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). 28 coal mining project each costing Rs. 20 crores and above at an investment of Rs. 1655.17 crores were started by Coal India Limited (CIL) during the Eighth Five Year Plan period.

(c) and (d). Cut of 28 projects, 4 projects have since been completed. Of the remaining 24 projects, funding for 4 projects has been tied up with Suppliers. Credit and 2 projects are tied up with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) loan which is still to be finalised. Remaining 18 projects require a capital outlay of Rs. 821.12 crores and can be financed from internal resources of CIL.

(e) Of the 24 projects under implementation, 22 are progressing as per their schedule of completion. Whereas 2 are slightly slow for the reason set out at para (c) and (d) of this answer.

Production and Export of Cardamom

3218. SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of cardamom exported and the

foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years;

(b) the reasons for decline in the export of the cardamom during the above period;

(c) whether the Government have prepared any specific plan to overcome the crisis being faced by the cardamom industry and to increase the export of cardamom;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to fix the floor price for the cardamom during the current year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Details of exports of cardamom (small) during the last 3 (three) years are as under :-

Year	Quantity (MTs)	Value (in lakhs Rs.)
1993-94	387	1454.83
1994-95	257	762.61
1995-96 (P)	500	1239.55

(Source: DGCI and S. Calcutta/ spices Board)

(b) Some of the reasons for decline in exports of cardamom are :

(i) Uncompetitive prices of Indian Cardamom in international market vis-a-vis Guatemala Cardamom;

(ii) Large production and absence of domestic market in Guatemala;

(iii) Shift in the buying pattern in the middle east markets towards low priced cardamom of Guatemala.

(c) and (d). Some of the steps taken by Government to increase production/productivity and exports of cardamom are; (i) production and supply of quality planting material; (ii) assistance for replantation of old, diseased plants; (iii) subsidy for Irrigation and land development; (iv) assistance for purchase of plant protection equipments; (v) suspension of export cess on cardamom; and (vi) efforts are made to popularise cardamom in domestic/international markets through participation in trade fairs, sending delegations abroad and inflight promotion.

(e) No Sir.

(f) The currently ruling prices does not necessitate fixation of a floor price for small cardamom.

[Translation]

Border Trade Agreement

3219. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the efforts being made by the Government to strengthen the trade ties with China, Myanmar, Pakistan and Bangladesh;

(b) the details of agreements signed and negotiations held with the concerned Governments in this regard;

(c) the details of the items imported and exported and the routes used for trading with these countries in the past; and

(d) the new areas identified for expansion of trade with these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Official trade between India and China resumed in 1978. Formal trade relations were established with the Trade Agreement signed on 15.8.84. Border Trade between India and China takes place at Shipkila Pass and the Lipulekh Pass in Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh after Agreement were signed on 7.9.93 and 13.12.91 respectively.

The Trade Agreement with Myanmar was signed on 27.5.1970 while a Border Trade Agreement was concluded on 21.1.94. The Border Trade Agreement provides for trade through Moreh in Manipur and Champai in Mizoram.

India and Bangladesh signed a Trade Agreement on 4.10.80 which stands extended till 3.10.98.

There is no Trade Agreement with Pakistan.

A large number of items are exported and imported by India to China, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Pakistan, details of which are given in the monthly publication of trade statistics by the DGCI & S titled "Foreign Trade Statistics of India", copies of which are available in the Library of Parliament.

The Govt. of India maintains cordial trade relations with China, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Pakistan. Delegations and Joint Business Councils exchange visits and enter into trade negotiations. Special requirements of these countries are met by India such as sugar by Pakistan. SAARC countries enjoy tariff concessions under SAPTA.

(d) The thrust areas for exports to China are soyameal, pharmaceutical and auto parts.

The thrust areas for exports to Myanmar are engineering goods including automobiles, construction material, agriproduce including spices.

The thrust areas for exports to Bangladesh and Pakistan are rice, spices, betel leaf and nut, sugar etc.

[English]

Allotment of Welfare Cess

3220. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the allotment of welfare cess to the different subsidiaries of Coal India Limited has been stopped by the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The welfare activities being performed by the erstwhile Coal Mines Labour Welfare Organisation are now the responsibility of the coal companies funded through their own resources.

Accumulation of Rupee Funds

3221. SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Russian Vice Prime Minister during his recent visit to India had proposed to use of the Rupee Fund accumulated in its account for reinvestment in India;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the area in which the funds is to be utilised;

(c) whether he has also invited Indian Banks and other business organisations to set up their branches in Russia; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). There is an in-principle understanding between India and Russia that a part of Rupee repayment funds owed by India to Russia can be used for Russian investment in joint ventures in India. However, a policy framework in this regard remains to be finalised. In his discussions in the Finance Ministry on October 29, 1996 the Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Oleg Davydov, express Russia's interest in early progress in this area. It was agreed that detailed discussions in this regard would be held between the two sides at the next session of the India-Russia Joint Commission.

(c) and (d). The Russian Deputy Prime Minister emphasised the importance of setting up branches of Indian Banks in Russia so as to promote bilateral economic cooperation. Some Indian Banks are understood to be examining commencement of operations in Russia.

Export of Fruits, Vegetables and Flowers

3222. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has formulated a set of schemes to achieve a growth rate of 20 to 30 per cent in the exports of fruits, vegetables and flowers during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the exports had reached new heights during the last year;

(d) if so, the total exports made during the last year and the target set for the same during the current year; and

(e) the steps taken to boost the export of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), a Commodity Board under the Ministry of Commerce is responsible for the development and export promotion of agro-based products covered by the Schedule to the APEDA Act, 1985. APEDA has formulated an Annual Action Plan for 1996-97 which stipulates a growth rate of 20 to 30 per cent during the current year over the last year in respect of export of fruits, vegetables and floriculture products (including flowers). The export targets fixed for these products for the year 1996-97 are Rs. 1294 crores as against the export performance of Rs. 1082.88 crores achieved during 1995-96. This growth rate has been fixed mainly as these are extreme focus products having large export potentials.

(c) and (d). The value of fruits, vegetables and floriculture products exported during 1994-95 and 1995-96 is as follows :

	1994-95	1995-96
	(Rs. in Crores)	
(i) Fresh Fruits	184.54	229.96
(ii) Fresh Vegetables	248.93	301.19
(iii) Processed Fruits and vegetables.	348.21	491.59
(iv) Floriculture Produce	30.83	60.14
	812.51	1082.88

The exports targets fixed for the year 1996-97 for fruits, vegetables and floriculture products are as follows:

	(Rs. in Crores)
(i) Fruits and Vegetables	650
(ii) Processed Fruits and Vegetables	569
(iii) Floriculture Products	75

(e) Some of the steps taken to promote the export of fruits, vegetables and floriculture products include :

- Providing financial assistance to exporters/growers/producers/cooperative organisations for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre-cooling/cold storage facilities;
- Providing soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment;
- Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control;
- Establishment of walk-in-type cold storages for export consignments awaiting clearance;
- Setting up of integrated cargo handling facilities for perishable products at New Delhi Airport;
- Arranging promotional campaigns, buyer-seller meets and participation in international fairs/exhibitions;
- Implementation of UNDP Project on Floriculture for improving productivity and production;
- Grant of air freight subsidy for selected floricultural, horticultural products and fresh vegetables.

Shortage of Deposit Receipts in SBI, Kanpur

3223. SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is a acute shortage of deposit receipts of daily Income Scheme of State Bank of India in U.P. particularly in Kanpur;

(b) if so, whether the depositors have to part with the money without the receipts;

(c) if so, the date since when these receipts are not available there;

(d) the estimated loss incurred by the Bank on account of lack of these deposit receipts; and

(e) the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) State Bank of India have reported that the deposit receipts in respect of Janata Deposit Scheme are available in sufficient quantity at their branches in U.P. particularly in Kanpur. Availability of such receipts in future has also been ensured.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

Banks Loans in Orissa

3224. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of loan disbursed in rural areas of Orissa by the various banks located in the State during each of the last three years and in the current year so far; and

(b) the percentage of such loans in comparison to the total deposits in the banks during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The outstanding credit as at end March of the last three years of branches of scheduled commercial banks located in rural areas in Orissa and the percentage of such credit to corresponding deposits, as available from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is given below :

As on the last Friday of	Outstanding Bank Credit of rural branches (Rs. crore)	Percentage of Outstanding bank credit of rural branches to corresponding deposits.
March 1994	889.89	73.31
March 1995	1018.71	63.96
March 1996	1135.10	59.93

Banking Licence to Bennet Coleman and Co.

3225. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued a banking licence to Bennet Coleman and Company to set up Times Bank;

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

(c) whether decision of giving banking licence is in tune with the rules and regulations of banking system; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The Reserve Bank of India, which is the competent authority for granting licences for setting up Banks in the private sector, has issued a licence to Bennet Coleman and Company to set up a bank. The licence has been issued after examining the application received from the Company in the light of the guidelines relating to the grant of licences to private sector banks.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of Coffee etc.

3226. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of countries to which coffee, cardamom, chilly and tobacco was exported during the last three years;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom yearwise;

(c) the percentage share of India in the world exports of the above commodities;

(d) the main producing States in the country for the above items; and

(e) the steps taken to explore the new markets in the world to boost the exports of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). The country-wise details of export of various commodities are available in the printed monthly publication "Foreign Trade Statistics of India" issued by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta and copies of the same are available in the Parliament House in the Library. However, the total export of these commodities in the last three years and foreign exchanges earned are as follows :

(Qty: Mts; Value: Rs Crs.)

Item	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Coffee	136690	586.99	137395	1096.33	170581	1524.00
Cardamom (small)	387	14.55	257	7.63	500	12.40
Cardmom (large)	1797	12.57	1293	8.13	1784	12.35
Chilli	30776	72.14	20096	57.12	56073	194.14
Tobacco	104676	461.19	53732	254.75	71430	365.81

(c) The percentage share of India in the world export approx. are as follows :

Coffee	-	4.00% (1995-96)
Chilli	-	93.46%
Cardamom small	-	3.33%
Cardamom large	-	59.76%
Tobacco	-	3.3% (As per World Trade Export figure of 1994)

(d) The main producing States in the country for the various items are as follows :

Coffee	-	Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu
Tobacco (VFC)	-	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka
Cardamom (small)	-	Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala
Cardamom (large)	-	Sikkim, West Bengal
Chillies	-	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

(e) The steps taken to explore the new market in the world to boost the export of coffee, cardmom chilli and tobacco are as under :

Coffee :

- (i) Regular participation in selected food fares/exhibition abroad with the active association of exporters.
- (ii) Release of advertisements on the unique features of Indian coffee in selected overseas trade journals like world coffee and tea, coffee and cocoa International, F.O. Light etc.
- (iii) Circulation of especially prepared multi-coloured folders and other literature on Indian coffee
- (iv) Preparation and supply of gift packets of Indian coffee.

Cardamom and Chilli :

Sending delegations to the overseas countries, organising buyer-seller meets, organising world Spice Congress, participation in international fairs etc.

Tobacco :

- (i) Tobacco Board plans FCV tobacco crop size in Andhra Pradesh after obtaining export requirements of trade and industry.
- (ii) Tobacco exports from Andhra Pradesh are allowed to Russia under 'Debt Repayment

Route'. Efforts are being made to enhance tobacco exports to Russia at the rate of 30,000 tonne per year against 'Debt Repayment.

- (iii) Tobacco Board sponsors trade delegations to various countries for promoting tobacco exports from Andhra Pradesh.
- (iv) Participation in the international exhibitions.
- (v) Advertising in the international magazines.

Annual Conference of I.T.

3227. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Annual conference of Income Tax Chief Commissioners and Director General was organised at New Delhi in recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some objectives for holding such meeting have been achieved;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. An All India Conference of Chief Commissioners and Directors General of Income-tax was held in New Delhi on November 13-14, 1996.

(c) to (e). The objectives for holding the Conference are to review the performance of the Department in the preceding months of the financial year and to deliberate on the strategy to be adopted not only to achieve but also to exceed the action plan targets. The Conference also serves as an experience sharing forum for the top tax administrators of the country.

The following specific subjects were discussed in the Conference :

- (i) Review of collection;
- (ii) Review of computerisation work with particular emphasis on allotment of Permanent Account Number and processing of challans;
- (iii) Augmentation of infrastructure;
- (iv) Widening of tax base;
- (v) Suggestions for legislative amendments;
- (vi) Review of limited scrutiny scheme; and
- (vii) Long term training needs.

The aforesaid objectives of holding the Conference were achieved. Administrative decisions were taken and suggestions made in the Conference were noted for future action.

Decline in Export of Diamonds

3228. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in the export of diamonds;

(b) whether the diamond industry has been facing crisis;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken to identify the problem in this regard; and

(e) the possibility explored to increase the export of diamonds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). There has been substantial growth in export of diamonds over the last three years. Recently, there has been a marginal decline in value realisation in Dollar terms in spite of higher exports in quantity during April-October 1996 compared to the corresponding period in 1995 due to low prices offered in the international markets. The export of diamonds in value and quantity terms is as follows :

(Value in US\$/Million) (Quantity in Lakh Carats)

Item	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Diamonds	3574.50	3937.00	4577.54
	139.90	158.07	192.24
	Apr-Oct'96	Apr-Oct'95	
	(Provisional)		
	2547.10	2633.05	
	109.76	106.91	

Source : DGCI & S : Exports for 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96.

GJEPC : Exports for Apr-Oct'96 and Caratwise Exports since 1993-94.

(d) and (e). Exporters of Gem and Jewellery had brought to the notice of the Govt. that the interest rates on post-shipment credit and routing of import documents through banks had added to their costs and consequently had affected their competitiveness in the world market. Keeping in view the present sluggish demand and low price in the world market, RBI has recently lowered the interest rates on post shipment credits and has allowed authorised dealers to receive import documents upto US\$ 25,000 by value, or its equivalent direct from the overseas seller subject of fulfilment of certain requirements.

Production of Cotton yarn

3229. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of cotton yarn has been progressively increased; and

(b) if so, the production of cotton yarn during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b). The figures of production of cotton yarn during the last three years are given below :

Year	Cotton Yarn (in million kgs.)
1993-94	1622
1994-95	1586
1995-96 (Provisional)	1738

MMTC Projects in UP

3230. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd., (MMTC) has made any plan to launch some projects in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated cost and the employment generation potentiality of those projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Coffee Board

3231. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coffee Board has introduced Voluntary Retirement Scheme in view of scraping of coffee pooling;

(b) if so, the total number of employees opted for the said scheme during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to convert the Coffee Board into a research institution to take up research and conduct course for the development of coffee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Voluntary Retirement Scheme was introduced in Coffee Board during 1994. Requirement of pooling has been completely done away with from September, 1996.

(b) A total number 1494 have opted under the existing scheme and 1322 employees have been relieved.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of Readymade Garments

3232. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN :

SHRI MAHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of export of ready-made garments made during the current financial year and how does it compare with the last three year;

(b) whether the export of readymade garments has declined recently;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to boost to the export of readymade garments?

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

(a) The total value of export of readymade garments made during the current financial year upto October 1996 and that made during the corresponding periods of the last three years have been as follows :

Period (April-October)	Value In million US Dollars
1993-94	1813.68
1994-95	2264.28
1995-96	2243.51
1996-97	2553.73

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In order to boost the exports of garments, Governments have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets; fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw material for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973

3233. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to modify Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Major changes in FERA were carried out vide Foreign Exchange Regulation (Amendment) Act, 1993 (29 of 1993). A review of FERA was initiated in 1992 by setting up a Task Force. Further changes, if any may also be considered in due course.

Double Taxation on Dividend

3234. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to scrap double taxation on dividend; and

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Various policy measures are considered by the Government as apart of the budgetary exercise every year and the new decisions are reflected in the budget documents.

Liberalisation of Restrictions in Indo-Bangladesh Trade

3235. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bangladesh have agreed to liberalise trade restrictions;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the main items and areas on which trade restrictions have been liberalised;

(c) whether this removal of restrictions have been proved helpful to both countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and to what extent it is likely to be helpful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d). Both India and Bangladesh are members of SAARC

Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA). Under the first round of SAPTA, tariff concessions have been exchanged between India and Bangladesh on items of their export interest. India has given concessions on 106 tariff lines to the SAARC member countries including Bangladesh and these have become operational with effect from 7.12.1995. With a view to enhance the trade, further tariff concessions are being exchanged under the second round of SAPTA.

Boost to Economy

3236. SHRI PINAKI MISHRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared a two Pronged Action Plan

(i) to ensure price stability and;

(ii) to make available easy credit facilities, with a view to give a boost to economy and improve the growth rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the success achieved so far in achieving the said two objectives?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The stance of monetary policy as announced by the Reserve Bank of India is to strive for money supply growth (M3) of 15.5-16.0% in 1996-97 in order to meet the twin objectives of price stability and adequate credit availability for the growth of the economy. With this in view the RBI have taken a number of measures including step-wise reduction of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and setting a higher target (12% of net bank credit) for export finance by scheduled commercial banks.

As a result of these measures monetary growth is broadly on target, inflation is at 6.7% (as of November 23, 1996) and interest rates have come down to some extent.

Voters on Electoral Rolls

3237. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of voters on the electoral rolls for Lok Sabha Elections in 1991 and 1996, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the details of the States in which revision of the electoral roll has been done during the period 1991-96

(c) whether there has been any abnormal increase or decrease in the number of elections in any State/ Union-Territory during the above period.

(d) the details of States in which it is proposed to have intensive revision of electoral roll with effect from 1st January, 1997 as the date of reference.

(e) the reasons for such intensive revision;

(f) whether the revision of electoral rolls is likely to cover all the States of the country; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (c). Statement I containing the requisite information is attached. The percentage of increase/decrease in the number of electors in respect of each State/Union territory is also indicated therein.

(b) The requisite information is contained in the attached statement-II.

(d), (f) to (g). The Commission has already ordered intensive revision of electoral rolls in Assam and summary revision in Punjab with reference to 1.1.1997 as the qualifying date. No decision has yet been taken by the Commission for revision or otherwise of electoral rolls in respect of other States/Union territories with reference to 1.1.1997 as the qualifying date.

(e) An intensive revision is taken to keep the electoral rolls up-to-date.

STATEMENT-I

Name of State/ Union Territory	Year of Revision	Men	Electorate Women	Total	Percentage of Increase/ Decrease
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	1991	21387877	21230096	42617973	16.15%
	1996	24735268	24766006	49501274	
Arunachal Pradesh	1991	279371	239944	519315	4.84%
	1996	288673	255767	544440	
Assam	1991	6472042	5401910	11873952	6.01%
	1996	6670161	5917498	12587659	
Bihar	1991	26944010	23509637	50453647	15.83%
	1996	31012536	27425781	58438317	

1	2	3	4	5	6
Goa	1991	381949	372370	754319	15.22%
	1996	437202	431891	869093	
Gujarat	1991	12809607	12072901	24882508	14.66%
	1996	14666698	13862396	28529094	
Haryana	1991	5242284	4483613	9725897	14.67%
	1996	6005913	5146943	11152856	
Himachal Pradesh	1991	1556827	1519355	3076182	14.96%
	1996	1776034	1760483	3536517	
Jammu & Kashmir	1991*	2255565	1961932	4217497	5.65%
	1996	2378717	2076992	4455709	
Karnataka	1991	14728176	14111120	2883926	10.30%
	1996	16147681	15662388	31810069	
Kerala	1991	9715824	9942152	19657976	5.17%
	1996	10042379	10631488	20673867	
Madhya Pradesh	1991	19453952	18254769	37708721	16.49%
	1996	22711323	21215929	43927252	
Maharashtra	1991	25408904	23222289	48631193	13.62%
	1996	28669222	26585192	55254414	
Manipur	1991	615430	616719	1232149	4.78%
	1996	641232	649758	1290990	
Meghalaya	1991	472892	469621	942513	15.94%
	1996	550148	542605	1092753	
Mizoram	1991	208996	205416	414412	(-) 1.52%
	1996	203746	204348	408094	
Nagaland	1991	449625	365211	814836	7.32%
	1996	457901	416617	874518	
Orissa	1991	10610277	9194287	19804564	13.20%
	1996	11764783	10654335	22419118	
Punjab	1991	7130111	6039686	13169797	10.02%
	1996	7634481	6855344	14489825	
Rajasthan	1991	14054039	12459463	26513502	14.61%
	1996	16036429	14351928	30388357	
Sikkim	1991	105028	96676	201704	13.61%
	1996	119757	109403	229160	
Tamil Nadu	1991	20213453	19704324	39917777	6.44%
	1996	21397687	21090335	42488022	
Tripura	1991	798904	762181	1561085	5.56%
	1996	844205	803703	1647908	
Uttar Pradesh	1991	43693013	35761868	79454881	26.90%
	1996	55226430	45599875	100826305	
West Bengal	1991	22196700	19195760	41392460	10.12%
	1996	23998543	21584511	45583054	
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1991	99104	70106	169120	24.90%
	1996	120578	90648	211226	
Chandigarh	1991	212702	60090	372792	20.87%
	1996		255580	195019	450599
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1991	38117	36892	75009	26.53%
	1996	49806	45103	94909	
Daman and Diu	1991	29257	28635	57892	21.26%
	1996	36527	33675	70202	

1	2	3	4	5	6
Delhi	1991 1996	3330933 4597944	2742223 3460997	6073156 8058941	32.70%
Lakshadweep	1991 1996	16676 17690	14989 16421	31665 34111	7.72%
Pondicherry	1991 1996	306620 320502	286685 313133	593305 633635	6.80%

STATEMENT-II

The period from 1991-1996

Name of State/ Union Territory	Revision of electoral rolls with reference to					
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Andhra Pradesh	Summary revision	Summary revision	Intensive revision	Summary revision 2. Special revision	Intensive revision	Summary revision
2. Arunachal Pradesh	Summary	Summary	Intensive	Summary	Intensive	Summary
3. Assam	No revision	Summary	Intensive	No revision	No revision	Summary
4. Bihar	Summary	Summary	Intensive	Summary	Intensive	Summary
5. Goa	Summary	Summary	Intensive	1. Summary 2. Special revision	Intensive	Summary
6. Gujarat	Summary	Summary	Intensive	Summary	Intensive	Summary
7. Haryana	Summary	Summary	Intensive	Summary	Intensive	Summary
8. Himachal Pradesh	Summary	Summary	Intensive	Summary	Intensive	Summary
9. Jammu and Kashmir	Summary	Summary	No revision	No revision	Summary	Summary
10. Karnataka	Summary	Summary	Intensive	1. Summary 2. Special revision	Intensive	Summary
11. Kerala	Summary	Summary	Intensive	Summary	Intensive	Summary
12. Madhya Pradesh	Summary	Summary	Intensive	Summary	Intensive	Summary
13. Maharashtra	Summary	Summary	Intensive	Summary	Intensive	Summary
14. Manipur	Summary	Summary	Intensive	Summary	Intensive	Summary
15. Meghalaya	Summary	Summary	Intensive	Summary	Intensive	Summary
16. Mizoram	Summary	Summary	Intensive	Summary	Intensive	Summary
17. Nagaland	Summary	Summary	Intensive	Summary	Intensive	Summary
18. Orissa	Summary	Summary	Intensive	Summary	Intensive	Summary
19. Punjab	Summary	Summary	Intensive	Summary	Intensive	Summary
20. Rajasthan	Summary	Summary	Intensive	Summary	Intensive	Summary
21. Sikkim	Summary	Summary	Intensive	1. Summary 2. Special revision	Intensive	Summary
22. Tamil Nadu	Summary	Summary	Intensive	Summary	Intensive	Summary
23. Tripura	Summary	Summary	Intensive	Intensive	Summary	Summary
24. Uttar Pradesh	Summary	Summary	Intensive	Summary	Intensive	Summary
25. West Bengal	Summary	Summary	Intensive	Summary	Intensive	Summary

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
26. Andaman & Nicobar Islands		Summary	Summary	Intensive	Summary	Intensive	Summary
27. Chandigarh		Summary	Summary	Intensive	Summary	Intensive	Summary
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli		Summary	Summary	Intensive	Summary	Intensive	Summary
29. Daman and Diu		Summary	Summary	Intensive	Summary	Intensive	Summary
30. National Capital Territory of Delhi		Summary	Summary	Intensive	Intensive	Summary	Summary
31. Lakshadweep		Summary	Summary	Intensive	Summary	Intensive	Summary
32. Pondicherry		Summary	Summary	Intensive	Summary	Intensive	Summary

Coal Mine Accidents

3238. PROF. JITENDER NATH DAS :
 PROF. RITA VERMA :
 SHRI HARADHAN ROY :
 SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of coal mine accidents occurred during the last three years till date, company-wise and subsidiary-wise;

(b) the number of persons killed/injured in those accidents;

(c) the compensation paid to the dependents of the killed workers and to the injured workers;

(d) whether the Government have set up any enquiry committee to enquire about the causes of such accidents;

(e) if so, the details of the report of that committee; and

(f) the action taken against the persons responsible for those accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). As per data furnished by Directorate General Mines Safety (DGMS), company-wise details of coal mine accidents occurred during the years 1993-1994, 1995 and 1996 (upto November, 1996) are given as under :

Company	Fatal Accidents		Serious Accidents	
	Num-ber	Kill-ed	Num-ber	serio-usly inju-red
1	2	3	4	5
Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	118	205	384	422
Central Coalfields Ltd.	70	77	138	153
Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	79	138	588	612
Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	21	22	85	91

1	2	3	4	5
Northern Coalfields Ltd.	16	18	35	36
North Eastern Coalfields	5	14	1	2
South Eastern Coalfields Limited	71	83	168	195
Western Coalfields Ltd.	56	56	571	594
Gujarat Mineral Develop-ment Corporation	5	5	4	6
Indian Iron and Steel Co.	6	6	26	28
Jammu and Kashmir Minerals	0	0	3	3
Neyveli Lignite Corporation	5	5	11	11
Singareni Collieries Company Limited	114	136	743	801
Tata Iron & Steel Co.	16	16	66	68
Total	582	783	2823	3022

(c) In case of injury, the amount of compensation is worked out as per provisions contained in the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 and is based on the degree of disability, age and monthly earnings of the worker. In case of death, in addition to the compensation amount computed as per provisions of the Act, the following amount is paid by Coal India Limited (CIL) to the dependants of a deceased worker :

(i) Funeral expenses	-	Rs. 500/-
(ii) Ex-gratia amount	-	Rs. 10000/-
(iii) Amount under Life Cover Scheme	-	Rs. 20000/-

In addition, employment to one of the dependants of the deceased is also offered. Alternatively, in lieu of employment, the widow/female dependant is paid a monthly pension of Rs. 3000/- till she attains 60 years of age/dies/remarries, whichever is earlier.

(d) to (f). Normally all the fatal and some of the serious accidents are enquired into by the officers of DGMS. In cases where a large number of fatalities is involved the Government constitutes a Court of Inquiry, under Section 24 of the Mines Act, 1952 to

ascertain the causes and circumstances attending the accident.

In the last three years, two Courts of Inquiry have been constituted in the case of the accident at New Kenda on 25.1.1994 and the inundation of Gaslitand group of mines on 26/27.9.1995. Both the Courts of Inquiry are yet to submit their reports.

[Translation]

Explosion in Hazaribagh

3239. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether an explosion took place in 35 pits of Eastparez coal mine near Hazaribagh Thana (Bihar) under BCCL on October 25, 1996;

(b) whether the several residential houses developed cracks due to that explosion as the mine security rules were not adhered to;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that no damage is done due to explosion in future to the residential houses which developed cracks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) As per information furnished by Coal India Limited (CIL), there is no coal mine named 35 pit of East Parej under Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL). However, there is an open cast mine named Parej East under Central Coalfields Limited (CCL). There has not been any explosion from this mine on 25th October, 1996.

(b) to (d). Do not arise in view of (a) above

[English]

Meeting on TRIPS and Patent Laws

3240. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Parliamentarians Scientists and other concerned experts from 17 countries met in a conference in Delhi on November 14-15, 1996 to discuss the matter relating to Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and Patent Laws, on an invitation from the Forum of Parliamentarians on Intellectual Property Right,

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed in the conventions and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The issues discussed in the international conference related to Patent System, Foreign investment and emerging issues in WTO such as Labour Standards.

The conference adopted a Declaration urging, inter-alia, the Governments of the developing countries to oppose any move to enlarge the scope of WTO through the introduction of new issues in the forth-coming Ministerial Meeting at Singapore. The Government has taken note of the deliberations in the Conference.

Cotton Corporation of India

3241. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total loss incurred by Cotton Corporation of India for support price operation during 1995-96, and

(b) the loss recovered by Cotton Corporation of India by export of cotton during the above period?

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

(a) Since no price support operations were undertaken by the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd., during the year 1995-96, no losses were incurred.

(b) Does not arise.

Decline in Export to Russia

3242. SHRI G. VENKET SWAMY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether export to Russia has declined during the first four months of the current year especially of tea;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps taken to boost the export during the current year?

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

(b) The decline in India's overall export to Russian Federation during the first four months of the current financial year i.e., April-July, 1996 has been largely caused by inadequate and delayed allocation of rupee funds under the debt re-payment track, by the human authorities lack of adequate representation of Russian importing agencies with sufficient experience in terms of allocation of rupee funds for import of goods from India to Russia and the delay in issuance of irrevocable letters of credit by the Russian banks acting as a major disincentive to the Indian exports.

Lower export of tea to Russian Federation has been on account of procedural problems resulting from rupee allocation system in Russia for importing goods from India by Russian Federation under the debt repayment mechanism. Due to the problem of rouble coverage from the Russian importers and high interest rates prevailing in Russia, the landed cost of Indian tea being exported under the debt repayment route is becoming uncompetitive.

(c) Both the Governments are interacting on regular basis towards enhancing bilateral trade and economic cooperation. Following the signing of the Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement in 1992 and creation of bilateral inter Government Commission on Trade, Economic, Science, Technological and Cultural Cooperation, a series of agreements between the two countries have been signed and number of mechanisms have been set up to promote trade and economic cooperation. Steps have also been taken to enlarge Indo-Russian trade on consignment export basis through the warehouses and also ensuring greater presence of Indian banks in Russia. Both sides are also making efforts to promote bilateral trade through participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, exchange of trade information, etc.

Paper Industry

3243. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the paper industry at present is not progressing well;

(b) whether paper industry need heavy amount to meet growing demand of paper and paper board in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which the Government is likely to provide sufficient funds to boost the paper production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir. The country is broadly self-sufficient in the Production of paper.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The per capita consumption of paper in the country is expected to go up from 32 kgs to 5 kgs by the end of the century. On the basis of letters of intent (LOIs) issued and Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandums (IEMs) filed, it is expected that an additional capacity of 19.96 lakh tonnes would be available to meet this growing demand.

(d) Under the existing policy dispensation, the paper industry is not reserved for public sector. The industry is also partially de-licenced. Investments are made by entrepreneurs based on their commercial perceptions.

Import of Coal

3244. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of import of coal made by various power houses in the country during the last one year;

(b) whether the import of coal by power houses were made without utilising the coal from indigeneous coal fields; and

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof and the action the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) As per the information made available by the Central Electricity Authority, a total of 1.831 million tonnes of imported coal was received by the power houses of Tamil Nadu in the year 1995-96. Another 1.332 million tonnes of imported coal has been received by these power stations in the year 1996-97.

(b) and (c). Under the present Export and Import Policy, coal can be freely imported into the country. Such imports of coal if any, are made by the consumers themselves considering their needs and exercising their own commercial judgement. The national coal companies are in a position to meet the entire requirements of the power stations in Tamil Nadu and adequate allocation to meet the entire requirements of these power stations are being maintained from indigenous sources.

Subsidy to Integrated Rural Development Programme

3245. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of bank credit and Government subsidy provided to each State for the implementation of Integrated Rural Development Programme since its inception;

(b) the total number of families benefited therefrom till September, 1996;

(c) whether the impact of the programme had been uneven in regard to alleviation of poverty;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the State-wise amounts of bank credit and Government subsidy under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) since its inception are not available with them. However, since the inception IRDP, bank credit of Rs. 16,797.86 crores and Government subsidy amounting to Rs. 10,550.56 crores, aggregating Rs. 27,348.42 crores had been provided to 494.98 lakh families below poverty line, till the end of September, 1996.

(c) and (d). The High Level Expert Committee on IRDP under the Chairmanship of Shri D.R. Mehta, former Deputy Government of RBI, has observed that large scale under-financing of IRDP beneficiaries in the initial years of the programme resulted in sub-optimal utilisation of assets and inadequate income generation which, in turn, had an uneven and adverse impact on the quality of lending in general and on recovery in particular.

(e) As recommended by the Mehta Committee in its interim report, banks have been advised by RBI to provide supplementary dose of assistance under IRDP upto the limit stipulated under existing subsidy ceilings to beneficiaries who have not crossed the poverty line with the initial assistance extended to them under IRDP. Further, the banks have been advised to introduce the system of back-end subsidy under IRDP, to prevent leakages present in the system of front-end subsidy.

Decline in Projection by STC

3246. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether State Trading Corporation's projections for the current year has sharply come down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to

(c). No. Sir. For the current financial year, STC has a turnover target of Rs. 1964 crores comprising Rs. 1514 crores in terms of its MOU for 1996-97 and Rs. 450 crores as canalised imports which envisages an increase of 17% over its actual performance of Rs. 1685 crores during 1995-96.

Prime Minister Rojgar Yojana

3247. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

DR. BALIRAM :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the number of SC/ST entrepreneurs out of the total entrepreneurs in the country granted loans under Prime Minister Rojgar Yojana during each of the last three years. State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : As reported by the States and Union Territories, the number of SC/ST entrepreneurs out of the total number of entrepreneurs in the country sanctioned loan under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 is given in the enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT

Statement showing State-wise number of SC/ST entrepreneurs out of the total entrepreneurs granted loans under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana during 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96.

S.No.	State/UT	1993-94	SC/ST entrepr- eneurs	1994-95	SC/ST entrepr- eneurs	1995-96	SC/ST entrepr- eneurs
		Total entr- epreneurs Sanctioned loans (Nos.)	Sanctioned loan out of total (Nos.)	Total entr- epreneurs Sanctioned loans (Nos.)	Sanctioned loan out of total (Nos.)	Total entr- epreneurs Sanctioned loans (Nos.)	Sanctioned loan out of total (Nos.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3466	395	19851	3105	32556	3426
2.	Assam	818	128	6404	1452	9852	NR
3.	Bihar	2051	211	11705	774	17744	NR
4.	Delhi	622	64	702	69	4143	NR
5.	Goa	78	1	188	1	499	2
6.	Gujarat	527	51	5707	736	10190	1312
7.	Haryana	792	39	4598	468	9333	666
8.	Himachal Pradesh	201	21	1338	276	2578	354
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	101	3	1880	95	2586	NR
10.	Karnataka	1919	233	13759	1634	17000	1858
11.	Kerala	1595	63	11123	903	14135	NR
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2992	276	21840	2963	31566	4127
13.	Maharashtra	4850	384	26551	3176	40392	4450
14.	Manipur	214	47	2214	828	1753	NR
15.	Mizoram	31	31	223	203	240	240
16.	Orissa	842	97	5474	569	8267	NR
17.	Punjab	1030	57	5357	644	15531	1702

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18. Rajasthan		1257	150	7442	1173	10248	1931
19. Tamil Nadu		2774	134	14519	751	19339	1337
20. Tripura		146	18	796	79	1238	177
21. Uttar Pradesh		3995	302	23060	2136	37324	4833
22. West Bengal		899	23	6636	384	10184	NR
23. Andaman and Nicobar		39	NR	54	3	97	18
24. Arunachal Pradesh		65	65	168	168	287	NR
25. Chandigarh		64	6	165	14	171	2
26. Dadra & Nagar Haveli		122	20	180	46	156	76
27. Daman and Diu		13	1	79	11	116	12
28. Nagaland		39	39	191	191	267	NR
29. Lakshadweep		Nil	-	19	NR	26	NR
30. Meghalaya		139	136	314	305	566	NR
31. Pondicherry		162	13	476	65	513	64
32. Sikkim		Nil	-	75	18	169	65

- Note : 1. Total cases sanctioned against which SC/ST figures were reported, are given above State/UT-wise.
 2. NR Not reported.
 3. Source: Reports received from State/UTs.

[Translation]

Khadi Gramodyog

3248. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Union Government to promote Khadi Gramodyog during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Union Government have allocated any amount to the States for the said purpose during the above period;

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

(d) the number of persons engaged in the said industry, State-wise;

(e) whether the Union Government propose to provide assistance to the persons employed in the said industry; and

(f) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (f). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Direct/Indirect Tax Collection

3249. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN :

SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH
GAEKWAD :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for collection of revenue through

direct and indirect taxes during the current financial year;

(b) whether the amount of the taxes realised so far is in accordance with the target;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to cover up the short fall?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The targets fixed for collection of revenue through major Central taxes and the amount of taxes realised during the current financial year are as under :

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of the Tax	Targets (for the year 1996-97)	Amount realised (upto Nov. 1996)
1.	Customs	44435.00	26778.00
2.	Central Excise*	46592.00	27955.00
3.	Income tax	17843.00	9329.06
4.	Corporation tax.	19600.00	7675.33

(d) and (e). It is expected that the targets will be achieved by the end of the financial year.

* Exclusive of cesses not administered by the Deptt. of Revenue.

Foreign Exchange Reserve

3250. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the comparative figures of foreign exchange reserve as on April 1, 1996 and 1st October, 1996 and on the corresponding dates in 1995; and

(b) the payments made on account of foreign loans, the amount received on account of foreign loans and for foreign investments separately during the period April-September, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) India's foreign exchange reserves, including gold and SDRs, at the begging of April and October, 1996, and on the corresponding dates in the previous year are given below :

India's Foreign Exchange Reserves (Opening Balance)

(US \$ million)

	April, 1996	October, 1996	April, 1995	October, 1995
Foreign currency Assets	17,044	18,433	20,809	19,064
Gold	4,561	4,410	4,370	4,405
SDRs	82	57	7	8
Total	21,687	22,900	25,186	23,477

(b) The details of foreign loan receipts, and repayments of principal and interest payments made during April to September, 1996 are as under :

(Rs. crores)
(Provisional)

	Govt. A/C	Non-Govt. A/C
Receipts	3110.69	335.87
Repayments of Principal	3161.28	292.72
Payment of Interest	2125.00	379.84

During the same period, inflows of foreign capital to India in the form of foreign investment (both direct and portfolio) were about US \$ 2.8 billion.

[Translation]

Setting up Cinema Complex

3251. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have granted permission to 43 companies including foreign companies for setting a Cinema Complex in India with the investment of Rs. 900 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these foreign investors are likely to cast adverse effect on the indigenous cinema companies of India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). 44 proposals involving foreign direct investment of approx. Rs. 900 crores have been approved by Government on 31st July, 1996. This includes one approval to M/s. Warner Bros. International Theatre, USA also.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. The present approval is only for establishment of a holding company. Individual complexes would have to be set up as joint ventures with prior and specific approval of Government in which the holding company cannot hold more than 51% equity. The holding company is not authorised to directly undertake any activity and would have to obtain necessary permissions under the purview of the State Governments which would include permission under the provisions of the Cinematography Act.

[English]

Production of Indica Car

3252. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to produce a 1000cc passenger car named Indica by the end of 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any collaboration with foreign company has been signed by the manufacturer of this car;

(d) the total estimated production of the said cars per year;

(e) whether the project has since been cleared by the Government; and

(f) if so, the total amount involved for launching this project?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Government has not received any proposal to produce a 1000cc passenger car named Indica

(b) to (f). Do not arise.

Houses for NTC Mill Workers

3253. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the workers on NTC mills particularly of the Model Mills in Nagpur are living in dilapidated houses;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide houses for the mill workers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The Chawls of Model Mills, Nagpur under NTC (MN) Ltd. are reported to be in a dilapidated condition. Repairs are undertaken from time depending on the availability of funds.

(b) Due to shortage of working capital, the NTC (MN) Ltd. has not formulated any scheme to provide houses for the workers of Model Mills in Nagpur.

(c) Does not arise.

Credit to Non-Banking Financial Corporations

3254. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total credit extended to the non-banking financial corporations by the banking sector and other financial institutions during 1995-96, corporation-wise;

(b) whether banking sector and financial institutions are extending credit to the non-banking financial corporations in accordance with the RBI's norms;

(c) if not, whether non-banking financial corporations are facing resources crunch as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). As per the information available with RBI, based on the data reported by 40 selected scheduled commercial banks on their advances

to NBFCs., the outstanding advances were Rs. 3382 crores as on 29th March, 1996 which increased to Rs. 3533 crores as on 30th August, 1996. The Banking Sector and financial institutions are extending credit to NBFCs. in accordance with the prescribed norms and appropriate action is taken when any violation is noticed.

(c) to (e). The aggregate deposits of NBFCs. increased from Rs. 46,411.6 crores as at the end of March, 1994 to Rs. 60,762.8 crores (provisional) as at the end of March, 1996. The substantial increase in deposits shows that the NBFCs. are not facing any financial crunch. The restriction on quantum of deposits to be collected by the NBFCs (Equipment Leasing and Hire Purchase Companies) registered with the RBI, complying with credit rating and prudential norms requirements have been removed. Similarly Registered loan and investment companies which comply with the credit rating requirement and the specified prudential norms have been allowed to accept increased deposits (including money raised through issue of non-convertible debenture bonds) upto two times of their net owned funds instead of equal to NOF. These changes are applicable from the date these companies obtain a certificate from the RBI to this effect.

Car Manufacturing

3255. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the details of terms and conditions of agreements signed for foreign collaborations by various Private/Public Sector Undertakings to manufacture Motor Car, Scooter, Motor Cycle, Trucks and other heavy duty vehicles in India during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : A statement is annexed.

STATEMENT

	Foreign equity participation	Project cost (Rs. in crores)	Annual Capacity	Lumpsum Payment	Royalty
	1	2	3	4	5
1. Overseas Concept Auto Ltd., with M/s. Concept Industrial Management Ltd., U.K.	37.47%	53.00	2200 Sports car/ Luxury coaches	U.K. £ 2 lakhs	Nil
2. Kinetic Honda Motors Ltd., with Honda Motor Company Ltd., Japan.	Nil (Technical collaboration)		6,00,000 Two wheelers	U.S.\$ 5 lakhs	5% on Domestic 8% on Exports
3. Hyundai Motor Company, Korea	100%	(i) 2450.00 (1st Phase) (ii) 1400.00 (2nd Phase)	1,00,000 Cars	Nil	Nil

	1	2	3	4	5
4. Hero Cycles Ltd., Ludhiana with BMW, Germany	51%	270.00	10,000 Cars	DM 45 Million	5%
5. Mahindra and Mahindra with Ford Motor Company of USA	50%	2500.00	1,25,000 Cars	Nil	5%
6. Maini-Amerigon Car Company Pvt. Ltd. USA with M/s. Amerigon Incorporated, USA and ASC Asian Equity Ltd., U.K.	67%	250.00	6000/- Electric powered passenger car	U.S. \$ 0.8 million	Nil

Public & Private Sector Tea Companies

3256. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Public and Private Sector tea companies in the country; and

(b) the details of the tea garden owned by those companies and tea produced and exported by them during the Eighth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) There are six tea companies in Public Sector and 554 tea companies in the private sector who own tea gardens.

(b) The Public Sector tea companies own 51 gardens and the private Sector own 35,066 gardens. A list of gardens owned by the Public Sector companies is attached as (Statement-I). The time and effort in compiling the detailed list of 35,006 garden in the Private Sector may not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

Statement-II detailing tea produced and exported yearwise in the first four years of the Eighth Five Year Plan is attached.

STATEMENT-I

A list of Gardens owned by Public Sector Companies

I. Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd.

1. Pathini Tea Estate
2. Pashok Tea Estate
3. Vah Tukvar Tea Estate
4. Looksan Tea Estate
5. Potong Tea Estate

II. West Bengal Tea Development Corporation

6. Rangaroon
7. Pandam
8. Rungmook
9. Mohua

10. Singell
12. Rungneet

Andrew Yule & Co.

13. Desam
14. Kohwang
15. Basmatia
16. Hollumgoorie
17. Murphelani
18. Rajgarh
19. Tinkang
20. Basernat
21. Choonabhutti
22. Karbatia
23. New Dooars
24. Mim

Assam Tea Corporation Ltd.

25. Cinnamara
26. Sycotta
27. Deepling
28. Naganijan
29. Rajaloarrie
30. Negheriting
31. Messamara
32. Rungamatty
33. Bholaguri
34. Amluekie
35. Dejoovalley
36. Longai
37. Isabheel
38. Vidyanagar
39. Loongsong

Tamilnadu Tea Plantation Corporation

40. Cherambadi
41. Cherangode
42. Coonoor

43. Devala
44. Kolapalli
45. Kotagiri
46. Nelliyalam
47. Oabduab
48. Nilgiris
49. Marapalam
50. Annamalais

Karnataka Forest Plantation Corporation

51. Karnataka Tea Project

STATEMENT-II

Production and Export of Tea during first four years of the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Year	Production (Mn. kgs)	Exports	
		Qty. (M.kgs)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1992-93	736.00	180.69	1058.70
1993-94	768.05	154.55	1062.04
1994-95	743.33	152.16	986.41
1995-96	762.35	163.65	1191.19

Shortage of Smaller Currency Notes

3257. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items captioned "Es Bazar main Sab Dhar Baees Passeri Hai" as appearing in the 'Nav Bharat Times' dated November 25, 1996;

(b) whether the Government are aware that there has been shortage of smaller denomination of Indian currency in Siligudy in West Bengal;

(c) whether it has led to the flow of foreign currency particularly currency of Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh which is being openly used there; and

(d) if so, the details of the preventive steps taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) following a decision of the Govt. to coinise lower demonination notes of Rs.1, Rs.2, and Rs.5, these notes are no longer being printed by the note printing presses and hence no supply of fresh notes of these demonination. However, coins of smaller denominations in adequate quantity are supplied to the North Bengal area to meet the needs of the local people.

(c) We have no information regarding flow of currency of Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh in Siligudy area.

(d) Does not arise.

Tea Plantation in Kerala

3258. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in 'The Economic Times' dated October 10, 1996 captioned "Majority of the Tea plantation in Kerala Sick", says Industry;

(b) whether the tea industry in other parts of the country are also not in a good condition;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the tea plantation in Kerala and other parts of he country?

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

(b) and (c). Tea is an agro-based crop. Like all agro-based crops, the production and price of tea varies from State to State and year to year depending upon agro-climatic condition as well as, demand supply position, quality, and type of tea production. Estimated production of tea in the first ten months of 1996 show considerable increase over the same period in 1995. There is a marginal decline, however, in South India, except Karnataka on account of adverse agro-climatic conditions in 1996. However, the price of tea at all auction centres have been higher in 1996 compared to the corresponding period in 1995.

(d) In order to improve tea plantations in all parts of the country including Kerala, Tea Board has been operating various development schemes to encourage activities such as replantation extension planting, setting up of new plantations, assistance to small growers in extension activities and research & development.

Pending Bail Applications

3259. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM :
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

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

(a) the number of cases pending in the High Court, district and Subordinate courts in Delhi as on January 1, 1994, January 1, 1995, January 1, 1996, and till date;

(b) whether Lok Adalats were held for dispensing of disputes through negotiations recently;

(c) if so, the number of cases settled in these Lok Adalats in each session during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for expedite the pending cases in the above courts and popularise Lok Adalats among the litigants to ensure inexpensive an expeditious justice through out the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) As per available information, the pendency of cases in the High Court of Delhi and District/Subordinate courts in Delhi was as follows :-

Name of the Court	No. of cases pending as on			
	1.1.94	1.1.95	1.1.96	30.9.96
High Court	1,38,482	1,46,613	1,48,878*	1,49,169
District/Sub-ordinate Courts	4,87,659	5,60,444	5,14,061	4,57,276**

(*As on 30.6.1995)

(**As on 30.6.1996)

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) On the basis of information made available from the 26 State/Union Territories where Lok Adalats are being organised, the number of cases disposed of during each of the last three years is contained in the statement enclosed.

(d) In order to consider the problem of arrears of cases in courts and find out ways and means to deal with it as expeditiously as possible, a meeting of the Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Court was held on 4th December, 1993, under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The resolutions adopted in the Conference has been commended to all the State Governments/UT Administration & High Court including Delhi High Court for necessary follow-up action. Further, the registry of Delhi High Court had informed that the Courts subordinate to Delhi High Court are making every possible effort to expedite the disposal of pending cases.

The Lok Adalat as a method of alternative dispute resolution is popularised through the press and other means of publication and through advocates to impress upon their clients of the utility, fruitfulness and expeditious disposal of the pending cases through Lok Adalats.

STATEMENT

The Number of Cases disposed of through Lok Adalats during each of the last three years viz. 1993, 1994 and 1995 State-wise

(Based on the information provided by the State Legal Aid and Advice Boards)

S No.	Name of the State Board	Number of cases disposed of during		
		1993	1994	1995
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19,525	7,767	4,753
2.	Assam	1,614	1,285	2,131
3.	Bihar	22	3,859	600

1	2	3	4	5
4.	*Goa	614 (consolidated figure)		
5.	Gujarat	13,461	15,926	19,235
6.	*Haryana	25,575	23,149	20,353
7.	Himachal Pradesh	5,426	5,628	3,193
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	-do-		
9.	Karnataka	54,289	15,019	20,447
10.	Kerala	14,922 (consolidated figure for the last 3 years)		
11.	Madhya Pradesh	59,041	79,899	1,36,389
12.	*Maharashtra	8,799	12,079	10,719
13.	Manipur	712 (consolidated figure)		
14.	*Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil
15.	Mizoram	70 (consolidated figure for the last 3 years)		
16.	Orissa	64,849	81,603	43,022
17.	*Punjab	14,279	12,447	2,188
18.	Rajasthan	79,685	70,873	56,772
19.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil
20.	Tamil Nadu	8,330	11,346	8,251
21.	Tripura	Information not furnished by the Board.		
22.	*Uttar Pradesh	3,18,285	3,10,687	3,08,495
23.	West Bengal	96	53	316
24.	Chandigarh Administration	Nil	Nil	Nil
25.	Delhi	598	949	2,898
26.	@ Pondicherry	863 (consolidated figure)		

* For the Financial Year viz. 1993-94, 1994-95 & 1995-96

@ For the Financial Years viz. 1992-93, 1993-94 & 1994-95.

Infrastructure Monitoring Cell

3260. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the infrastructure monitoring cell under the Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation is being scrapped;

(b) if so, the rationale behind the move; and

(c) the other superfluous cells to be wind up to control Government expenditure and fiscal deficit?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Department of Programme Implementation has reported that no decision has yet been taken regarding abolition of the Infrastructure Monitoring Division of that Department.

(c) The control of Government expenditure and Fiscal Deficit is a continuous exercise. Any specific

decision about the winding up of cells identified as superfluous is to be taken by the concerned Ministry/Department.

Pilcom I.T. Evasion issue

3261. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Pilcom IT evasion issue catches CAG eye, raps Central Board of Direct taxes for rescuing Co." appearing in the 'Economic Times' New Delhi dated October 13, 1996;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government in regard thereto; and

(d) the steps taken so far to verify whether tax has been deducted at source and remitted to the exchequer and payments made on various contracts entered into by Pak-India Lanka Joint Management Committee (PILCOM) and others and also to review the double taxation avoidance agreement (DTAA) as existing at present?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. In the light of the clarifications issued by Central Board of Direct Taxes, the field authorities have been advised to take appropriate steps on issues related to tax.

As regards review of the existing double Taxation Avoidance Agreements, there is no proposal under consideration for review with reference to this particular issue.

Bank Accounts of Tata Group Companies

3262. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve bank of India has decided to launch investigations into the bank accounts of TATA Sons and other top Tata group Companies following the evidence gathered by the Bank that these corporates had used huge amounts of banks' funds to shore up their cross holdings in one another in violation of the Bank's rules;

(b) the major investments made by Tata Group Companies;

(c) the *modus operandi* followed by the TATA Group and its Companies in this behalf; and

(d) the outcome of the investigations and the follow-up action being taken by the R.B.I.?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Indian Trade Missions Abroad

3263. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up separate Indian Trade Missions abroad with a view to have close trade relations with U.S.A., Germany, Japan, U.K., France, China and Russia and to play more aggressive economic diplomacy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the other measures proposed to be taken by the Government to increase exports, earn more foreign exchange to repay huge foreign loans and speed up anti-dumping investigations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). No such proposal is under consideration. Commercial Wings attached to the Indian Missions in these countries are handling economic, commercial and trade matters.

Dereservation of Ice Cream and Bakery Items from SSI

3264. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal for dereservation of ice-cream and bakery items from the small-scale sector;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to allow multinationals to enter into the field of these two items;

(c) whether the Government also propose to raise the investment limit for these items in the small-scale sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) its effect on the small-scale sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e). The Government have received proposals for de-reservation of certain food items like ice cream, bread and biscuits. No decision has been taken either to de-reserve these items or to raise the investment limit for these items in the small scale sector. As per the present policy, no medium or large scale undertaking including multinationals is permitted to manufacture reserved items except under 75% export obligation. Govt. are, however, awaiting the recommendations of the Expert Committee headed by Mr. Abid Hussain on all aspects of SSI Sector.

Decline in Production of Cement

3265. SHRI RAM SHAKAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY BE pleased to state :

(a) the details alongwith the number of factories manufacturing cement in the country Statewise;

(b) whether the production of cement has been declined; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) A statement indicating the Statewise distribution of large cement plants alongwith installed capacity in each State is enclosed. There are about 300 mini cement plants in the country having a total installed capacity of 9 million tonnes. However, Statewise detail of these mini plants are not maintained centrally.

(b) No, sir.

(c) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Statewise number of large Cement Plant

State	No. of Plants	Installed capacity (Lakh Tonnes)
Delhi	1	5.00
Haryana	2	5.78
Punjab	1	10.50
Himachal Pradesh	4	25.00
Jammu & Kashmir	1	2.00
Rajasthan	15	128.72
Uttar Pradesh	5	30.87
Bihar	7	43.53
Orissa	3	14.97
West Bengal	2	8.70
Assam	1	2.00
Meghalaya	1	2.00
Tamil Nadu	8	67.95
Andhra Pradesh	19	117.20
Karnataka	9	65.76
Kerala	1	4.20
Maharashtra	8	60.11
Gujarat	13	63.45
Madhya Pradesh	23	232.57
Total	124	890.31

Decline in Sales Growth

3266. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

DR. T. SUBBARAMA REDDY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in 'Economic Times'

dated September 23, 1996 under the caption "Corporate India to report sharp drop in sales growth";

(b) whether corporate sector have shown significant slow growth of sale and net profit in the first half to the current fiscal year; and

(c) if so, the main reasons therefor and the steps taken to improve the condition of the corporate sector?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Economic Times on 23.9.1996 had indicated that the average growth in turnover of Sensex 30 companies excluding IDBI, ICICI and SBI will be between 9-10% compared to 24% last year. However, later results reported on the 9th of November and the 25th of November in respect of 66 and 232 companies respectively, indicate a moderate slowdown in sales growth rates. Profit of the corporate sector has also recorded slower growth rates in first half of 1996-97.

(c) The Government does not monitor the performance of individual companies. However, sector-specific strategies are adopted for accelerating industrial growth in general is under performing sectors. Adequate credit with softened interest rates assured to industries through the recently announced busy season credit policy is expected to provide further impetus to growth.

Uniform Central-State Investment Law

3267. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to news-item appeared in the 'Economic Times' dated September 18, 1996 under the caption "UK Seeks uniform Centre-State investment laws";

(b) whether there is a need to set up various task forces to look into the areas where investment can be solicited;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay;

(d) the main features of the approach prepared two years ago;

(e) the number of Ministries involved in this approach; and

(f) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f). Foreign investments into India are regulated in accordance with the national Industrial Policy under which all foreign investments in 35 high priority industries having up to 51% foreign equity are approved under an automatic route by the RBI under powers delegated to it. Foreign investments in high priority industries with foreign equity in excess of 51% or in areas outside the 35 high priority industries are

considered and approved by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board/Government of India. State Government clearances may however, be necessary for various utilities such as land, power, water etc. related to the projects/investments. A number of State Governments have set up single window system for such clearances and for investor facilitation and assistance.

Printing Press, Dewas

3268. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of various types of printing machines alongwith their number purchased from different sources by the 'Bhartiya Bank Note Press', Dewas during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) the details of types of the said printing machines alongwith their number installed till October 19, 1996;

(c) the reasons for not commissioning the said installed machines till date; and

(d) the time by which the said machines are proposed to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The details of various types of printing machines received by the Bank Note Press, Dewas during the last three years are as under :-

Year	Type of Machine	Total number	Sources of purchase
1993-94	Nil	Nil	Nil
1994-95	Super Simultan 212 machine	2	M/s. De La Rue Giori, Switzerland.
	Super Orlof Intaglio Machine	2	M/s. Dela Rue Giori, Switzerland.
	Super Numerota 212 Machine	2	M/s. Dela Rue Giori, Switzerland.
	Cutpack-II India Unversal	1	M/s. De la Rue Giori, Switzerland.
1995-96	Nil	Nil	Nil

(b) The above machines, 2 number of Super Simultan 212 machines, 2 numbers of Super Orlof Intaglio machines and 2 numbers of Super Numerota 212 Machine have already been installed as on 19-10-96.

(c) During shipment, some parts of the Cutpack-II India Universal Machine were received in damaged condition due to which the erection work in respect of this machine was delayed.

(d) As per action plan, the above machines will start production by the end of February, 1997.

Loss of Marine Products due to Cyclone

3269. SHRI DHARMA BIKSHAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the extent which the loss is expected during 1996-97 in 'AQUA Culline' export due to heavy cyclones in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the measures taken to increase the export of marine products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Presuming that the question relate to aquaculture exports, Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) have estimated as of now a loss of Rs.22.6 crores worth of aquaculture production, due to heavy cyclone in the country and particularly in Andhra Pradesh. Besides this, 5671 hectare of area has been affected on account of structural damages etc. accounting for a loss of around Rs. 59.26 crores.

(b) MPEDA have been implementing a number of schemes to increase the export of marine products which include inter-alia rendering technical assistance, subsidy assistance and training to entrepreneurs and farmers directed at boosting the aquaculture production and consequently the exports as a whole.

[Translation]

Official Language in Election Commission

3270. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the provisions of official language policy and Official Language Act are adhered to in the functioning of Election Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether official language committee is functioning like other Ministries/Departments;

(d) if so, whether any programme has been prepared for the next year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b). The provisions of official language policy and official Language Act are being adhered to in the Election Commission.

(c) Official Language Implementation Committee is functioning in the Commission.

(d) and (e). The annual programmes issued by the Department of Official Language are being implemented.

[English]

Alleged Corruption Charges Against Officials of GIC

3271. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been charges of corruption and other acts of maleficence levelled against the official and the lower level employees of the General Insurance Companies;

(b) if so, the nature of such complaints received during the last three years and in the current year so far;

(c) whether any action has been taken to deal with these complaints and end the ongoing corruption in the insurance sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). It has been reported by the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) and its subsidiary companies that they receive from time to time complaints against officers/employees of the industry pertaining to misappropriation of premium/funds; ante-dating of insurance cover notes; payment of irregular claims; misuse of staff benefit schemes; and fabricated travel expense/tour bills. Such complaints having verifiable facts are investigated by the concerned departments of the GIC and its subsidiaries in consultation with the Vigilance Department. Based on the findings of the investigation, disciplinary action is initiated and penalties are imposed as per Conduct, Discipline & Appeals Rules of the Industry. If necessary, CBI is also involved in the investigation and the delinquent employees are placed under suspension, where serious charges of embezzlement and corruption are made. Preventive vigilance steps like surprise inspections are carried out periodically.

Problem of Narcotic

3272. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any step to seek cooperation of the neighbouring countries regarding the problem concerning Narcotics; and

(b) if so, the details thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A co-operative machinery between India and other SAARC countries exists in the form of SAARC Drug Offences Monitoring Desk. Direct operational contact is established whenever situation demands.

India has entered into a bilateral meeting arrangement with the Govt. of Pakistan under which regular meetings at policy level and operational level are being held to chalk out strategies and exchange intelligence regarding drug trafficking.

India and Myanmar have a bilateral agreement under which regular meetings are taking place both at the policy and field level for mutual cooperation in drug related matters.

Close ties are also maintained at the operational level between Government of India and Nepal.

Joint Venture with Taiwan

3273. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) number of proposals of Joint Venture between India and Taiwan approved during the last two years; and

(b) the details of the approved proposals alongwith the total investment made therein?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). 29 proposals involving foreign direct investment of Rs.11.25 crores have been approved during the period from 1.1.95 to 30.9.96 between India and Taiwan.

Details of such proposals viz. Name and country of foreign collaborator, equity investment involved, item of manufacture/activity are published by the Indian Investment Centre as a supplement to the Monthly Newsletter and copies of these are regularly supplied to the Parliament Library.

Trade Fair in Delhi

3274. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ITPO has organized a trade fair in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, whether entry fee for the said fair had been doubled;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the number of visitors to the fair came down as a result thereof;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to bring down the entry fee in future; and

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

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

(b) Yes, Sir. The entry fee into Pragati Maidan was Rs.5.00 for adults and Rs.3.00 for children earlier. It

was raised to Rs.10.00 for adult and Rs.5.00 for children during the recently held India International Trade Fair' 96.

(c) ITPO is required to undertake its trade promotional activities in India and abroad as well as maintenance of its infrastructural facilities on self financing basis. Hence, it was felt necessary to raise the entry fee.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

World Bank Assistance to Andhra Pradesh for Rural Areas Supply

3275. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has provided any loan for water supply and environmental sanitation projects especially for the tribal and rural areas of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) if so, details of the project sanctioned and the amount expected to be allocated project-wise out of the funds received from the World Bank.

(c) the details of implementing agencies of these project;

(d) whether the Government have approved any project for rural area of Guntur district of A.P. for providing drinking water out of the World Bank help; and

(e) if so, the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

Loans to Agricultural and Industrial Sectors

3276. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loans provided by the Public Sector Banks to Industry and Agriculture sectors separately during the last three years in Punjab; and

(b) the estimated requirement of loans of agriculture in Punjab and the steps taken by the Government to allocate sufficient funds therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Outstanding advances of public sector banks to agriculture and industry during the last three years in Punjab, as furnished by Punjab National Bank, the convenor bank for

State Level Bankers' Committee of Punjab, were as under :

(Rs. crore)			
Category of Outstanding Advances	March 1994	March 1995	March 1996
1. Agriculture	1464	1622	1855
2. Small Scale Industries & Cottage Industries	1288	1515	1882
3. Other (including medium & large scale industries)	3642	4640	4986
Total	6394	7777	8733

Punjab National Bank has further reported that the estimated requirement of loans for agriculture in Punjab is Rs.1809 crore as projected in Annual Credit Plan 1996-97, which is expected to be met by participating banks.

Regulation for Foreign Exchange

3277. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of the special regulation of RBI and Ministry of Finance relating to foreign exchange allowances and expenditure on private and official visit of the Union Minister, Minister of State Governments, Governors, Chief Ministers, MP's and IAS/IPS/IFS officials?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Government officials (including Minister; and Members of Government delegations going abroad are released foreign exchange on the basis of per diem rates stipulated by the Government (i.e. the Ministry of External Affairs) which vary from country to country. They are also entitled for release of foreign exchange towards personal incidentals @ US \$ 50 - per day, Subjects to being minimum US \$ 500/- and a maximum of US \$ 1,500/-.

VIPs State legislators, officials of Central or any State Government who travel at the invitation from abroad on full hospitality i.e. where no State funding is involved for either the journey or stay abroad are entitled for release of foreign exchange towards incidental express @ US \$ 50/- per day for the duration of the stay abroad, subject to a maximum of 30 days.

While going on private visits abroad they are entitled to draw foreign exchange under basic Travel Quota which is US \$ 2,000/- per annum.

Incentives offered to NRIs

3278. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the incentives offered to NRIs for foreign

direct investment in India are comparable with incentives offered by other Asian countries to their people settled in foreign countries;

(b) whether the contribution of NRIs to the total direct investment has been very poor as compared with investment made in other countries by their non-residents;

(c) if so, the reasons for poor response by NRIs; and

(d) the steps being taken to encourage investment by NRIs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d). Government constantly review the policy relating to NRI investments to make it competitive and to provide adequate incentives and facilities to NRIs. With this end in view, Government have taken a number of steps to boost NRI investment. In certain selected sectors, 100% NRI equity is permissible with full repatriation benefits. As a result of all these efforts, NRI investment is steadily increasing ever since the announcement of New Industrial Policy in July, 1991 and till 30.9.96, investment proposals worth Rs.24171.62 crores approximately have been approved.

Review of Projects funded by World Bank

3279. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World bank has decided to undertake a review of the projects funded by it;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of these projects; and

(c) the reasons for the above decision?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Project monitoring is an on-going exercise conducted throughout the year so as to identify the bottlenecks in the implementation of the projects and to take immediate corrective steps. This exercise is carried out by the Department of Economic Affairs, line Ministries and State Governments. The World Bank also sends its missions essentially to review and monitor the projects jointly with the implementing agencies, the State Governments and Government of India. Besides, there is also a mechanism to jointly review the performance of the World Bank aided projects and portfolio, annually, in order to identify problem relating to poorly performing projects. Wherever the performances of a project is found unsatisfactory, decisions about the cancellations of loan/credits, partially or fully, are taken in consultation among the concerned project implementing authorities, Government of India and the World Bank.

As a follow-up to the meeting between Finance Minister and the President, World Bank, Central Ministries and State Governments, with a large number

of World Bank aided projects, have been asked to set up a single point Project Monitoring Authority for intensive supervision of the projects. This will be combined with joint semi-annual reviews by Ministry of Finance and World Bank to ensure that aid-utilisation improves.

IMF and World Bank

3280. DR. ASIM BALA :

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the India is on the verge of losing its seats in the Board of IMF and World Bank;

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

(c) the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Trade with Thailand

3281. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India-Thailand seek to boost bilateral trade to over \$ 2 billion by the end of 1997;

(b) if so, the measures being taken or proposed to taken to achieve the target;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to establish a business centre in Bangkok to promote the export; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) During the Second meeting of India-Thailand Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation held in New Delhi on 4-5 November, 1993 both sides had agreed that it would be appropriate to have a two-way trade target of US \$2 billion to be achieved preferably by 1997.

(b) Various measures have been taken to promote bilateral trade between India and Thailand which include holding of regular meeting of the Joint Trade Committee between the two countries exchange of business delegations, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions in each other's countries and continuous interaction at official levels to sort out various operational problems in free flow of trade.

(c) and (d). Indian Mission in Thailand had proposed for establishment of a business centre in Bangkok. However, due to financial constraints the proposal could not be agree to.

Performance of HMT

3282. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the performance in terms of turnover and profit/loss earned by Hindustan Machines Tools during the last three years and first six months of current financial year;

(b) whether the performance of these units is as per the targets fixed; and

(c) if not, the corrective measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). A statement is attached.

(c) The following measures have been adopted to improve the performance of HMT:-

- Production only against firm order.
- Market oriented manufacture.
- ISO 9000 certification leading to total quality management.
- Running of critical machines in three shifts.
- Out-sourcing of low value items.
- Modification of machines for watch components.
- Giving improved services to customers.
- Periodically introducing new series of watches.
- Reduction of manpower through Voluntary Retirement Scheme.
- Formation of Joint Ventures.
- Reduction of inventory and sundry debtors.

STATEMENT

(Rs. in crores)

	Turnover		Profit/(Loss)	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
1993-94	957.00	613.73	5.30	(120.24)
1994-95	950.00	728.73	(28.10)	(79.20)
1995-96	965.00	832.60	0.35	(55.89)
1996-97 (upto Sept.96)	460.72	383.01*	(29.10)	(46.63)

* Provisional.

Rural Financial Institutions

3283. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a need to reinstitute the Rural

Financial Institutions functioning in different States and Union Territories;

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Under the multi-agency approach, credit in rural areas is dispensed through a net work of rural branches of commercial banks, Regional Rural Banks and Co-operative Credit Institutions. Further, with a view to further strengthening the institutional mechanism for promoting rural savings as well as for the provision of credit for viable economic activities in the local areas, it has been decided to allow the establishment of new local area banks in the private sector. This institutional infrastructure is considered adequate to meet the effective demand of credit in rural areas.

Task Force on Decline in Exports

3284. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high level meeting of the Task Force comprising the Revenue and Commerce Secretaries was held on October 18, 1996 to look into the reasons for downslide in exports;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any concrete measures in this regard have been worked out; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d). No Sir. Neither any such meeting has taken place between Revenue and Commerce Secretaries on October 18, 1996, nor any Task Force comprising the Revenue and Commerce Secretaries has been constituted as per available information. However, Revenue Secretary and Commerce Secretary are closely monitoring exports and taking the necessary steps to boost export performance.

11.15 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till fourteen of the clock.

14.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at One minute past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Papers be laid on the Table first. Afterwards we will take it up. Now Papers to be laid.

14.01½ hrs.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

Review on the Working of and Annual Report of Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited, Durgapur, for 1995-96 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) On behalf of Shri Murasoli Maran, I beg to say on the Table -

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited, Durgapur, of the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual report of the Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited, Durgapur, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 892/96]

(b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Engineering Project (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the Engineering Projects (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 893/96]

(c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Cables Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Cables Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 894/96]

(d) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Yatra Nigam Limited and its subsidiaries for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Yatra Nigam Limited and its subsidiaries for the year

1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 895/96]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coir Board, Kochin for the year 1995-96 under section 19 of the Coir Industry Act, 1953.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 896/96]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Small Industry Extension Training, Hyderabad, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Account.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Small Industry Extension Training Hyderabad, for the year 1995-96

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 897/96]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) the Indo German Tool Room, Ahmedabad, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Account.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Indo German Tool Room, Ahmedabad, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 898/96]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) the Indo German Tool Room, Indore, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Indo-German Tool Room, Indore, for the year, 1995-96

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 899/96]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Central Tool Room, Ludhiana, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Central Tool Room Ludhiana, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 900/96]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Tool Room and Training Centre, Jamshedpur, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Central Tool Room and Training Centre, Jamshedpur for the year 1995-96.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 901/96]
- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Tool Design, Hyderabad, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Account.
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Tool Design, Hyderabad, for the year 1995-96
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 902/96]

Coinage (Standard Weight and Remedy of Commemorative Coins of Five Rupees, containing Copper Seventy-five percent and Nickel Twenty-five percent) coined with the them 'Towards Ever Green Revolution' Rules, 1996 etc.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of the coinage (Standard Weight and Remedy of Commemorative Coins of five Rupees, containing Copper seventy-five percent and Nickel Twenty-five percent) coined with the them "Towards Ever Green Revolution" Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 519 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th November, 1996 under sub-section (3) of section 21 of the Coinage Act, 1906.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 903/96]
- (2) A copy each of the following notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:-
- (i) The Customs and Central Excise Duties Drawback (Second Amendment) Rules, 1996 published in notification No. G.S.R. 486 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd October, 1996, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ii) G.S.R. No. 399 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd September, 1996, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the notification No. 126/94 Cus. dated the 3rd June, 1994.

- (iii) G.S.R. No. 490 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd October, 1996, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the notification No. 104/94 Cus. Dated the 30th May, 1995.
- (iv) G.S.R. 527(E) Published in Gazette of India dated the 19th November, 1996 together with explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the notification No. 177/94-Cus. Dated the 21st October, 1994.
- (v) S.O. No.160(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 1996, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purposes of assessment of imports.
- (vi) S.O. 161(E), published in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purposes of the assessment of exports.
- (vii) S.O. 189(E), published in Gazette of India dated the 14th March, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purposes of assessment of imports, together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No.S.O.241 (E) dated the 22nd March, 1996.
- (viii) S.O. 190(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th March, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purposes of assessment of exports, together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No.S.O.242(E) dated the 22nd March, 1996.
- (ix) S.O.221(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th March, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purposes of assessment of imports.
- (x) S.O.222(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th March, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding

revised rates of exchange of conversions of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purposes of assessment of exports.

- (xi) S.O.246(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th March, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purposes of assessment of imports.
- (xii) S.O.247(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th March, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purposes of assessment of exports.
- (xiii) S.O.314(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purposes of assessment of imports.
- (xiv) S.O.315 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purposes of assessment of exports.
- (xv) S.O.377(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th May, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of imports.
- (xvi) S.O.378(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th May, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of imports.
- (xvii) S.O.456(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th June, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of imports.
- (xviii) S.O.457(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th June, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding

revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of imports.

- (xix) S.O.538(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of imports.
- (xx) S.O.539(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th July, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of imports.
- (xxi) S.O.591(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th August, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of imports.
- (xxii) S.O.592(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th August, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of imports.
- (xxiii) S.O.653(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of imports.
- (xxiv) S.O.654(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of imports.
- (xxv) S.O.746(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th October, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of imports.
- (xvi) S.O.747(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th October, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum

regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of imports.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 904/96]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994:-

- (i) The Service Tax (Second Amendment) Rules, 1996 published in Notification No. G.S.R.541(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th November, 1996, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ii) G.S.R.542(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th November, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 5/96 service Tax dated the 3rd April, 1996.
- (iii) G.S.R. 543(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th November, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt the taxable service provided by any insurer carrying a general insurance business, for non-life insurance premium, to Diplomatic Missions of specified 73 countries from the whole of the Service Tax leviable thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 905/96]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income Tax Act, 1961:-

- (i) The Income-Tax (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 1996 published in Notification No. S.O. 808(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st November, 1996.
- (ii) The Income-Tax (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 1996 published in Notification No. S.O. 810(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd November, 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 906/96]

- (5) A copy of the companies (Issue of Share Certificates) Amendment Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) Published in Notification No. G.S.R.476(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th October, 1996 under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the companies Act, 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 907/96]

- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944:-

- (i) The Central Excise (Ninth Amendment)

Rules, 1996 published in Notification No.G.S.R.531(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th November, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 908/96]

- (ii) The Adhoc Exemption Order No.52/17/96 CX dated the 22nd November, 1996 seeking to exempt from the payment of whole of the excise duty leviable on X-Ray plant to be installed in the Charitable dispensary of Ramakrishna Mission Vidyapith, Bihar.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 909/96]

- (7) A copy of the Consolidated Report (Hindi and English versions) on the working of the Public Sector Banks for the year ended the 31st March, 1995.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 910/96]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Industrial Development Bank of India, Bombay, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts, under sub-section (5) of section 18 and sub-section (5) of section 23 of the Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Industrial Development Bank of India, Bombay, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 911/96]

- (9) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) on the working and Administration of the Companies Act, 1956 for the year ended the 31st March, 1996, under section 368 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 912/96]

- (10) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of section 48 of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981:-

- (i) Annual Report of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Bombay, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Review by the Government of the working of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Bombay, for the year 1995-96.
- (iii) Statistical Statements on the Annual Report of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Bombay, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 913/96]

(11) A copy each of the following Annual Report and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Rural Banks for the year ended on the 31st March, 1995, together with Auditors' Report thereon:-

(i) Shri Visakha Grameena Bank, Srikakulam.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 914/96]

(ii) Kisan Gramin Bank, Budaun.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 915/96]

(12) A copy each of the following Annual Report and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Rural Banks for the year ended on the 31st March, 1996, together with Auditor's Report thereon:-

(i) Mithila Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Darbhanga.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 916/96]

(ii) Varada Grameena Bank, Kumta.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 917/96]

(iii) Krishana Grameena Bank, Gulbarga.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 918/96]

(iv) Himachal Gramin Bank, Mandi.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 919/96]

(v) Chambal Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Murena.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 920/96]

(vi) Malwa Gramin Bank, Sangrur.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 921/96]

(vii) Parvatiya Gramin Bank, Chamba.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 922/96]

(viii) Siwan Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Siwan.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 923/96]

(ix) Tulsi Gramin Bank, Banda.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 924/96]

(x) Kutch Garmin Bank, Bhuj.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 925/96]

(xi) Rajgarh-Sehore Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Sehore.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 926/96]

(xii) Marathwada Gramin Bank, Nanded.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 927/96]

(xiii) Fatehpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Fatehpur.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 928/96]

(xiv) Devi Patan Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Gonda.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 929/96]

(xv) Pinakini Grameena Bank, Nellore.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-930/96]

(xvi) Bundelkhand Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Tikamgarh.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 931/96]

(xvii) Begusarai Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Begusarai.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 932/96]

(xviii) Gomti Gramin Bank, Jaunpur.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 933/96]

(xix) North Malabar Gramin Bank, Kannur.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 934/96]

(xx) Sravasthi Gramin Bank, Bahraich.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 935/96]

(xxi) Alaknanda Gramin Bank, Pauri (Garhwal)
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 936/96]

(xxii) Junagadh-Amreli Gramin Bank, Junagadh.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 937/96]

(xxiii) Kashi Gramin Bank, Varanasi.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 938/96]

(xxiv) Cauvery Grameena Bank, Mysore.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 939/96]

(xxv) Muzaffanagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Muzaffarnagar.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 940/96]

(xxvi) Ratlam-Mandsaur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Mandsaur.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 941/96]

(xxvii) Saryu Gramin Bank, Lakhimpur Kheri.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 942/96]

(xxviii) Saran Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Chapra.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 943/96]

(xxix) Ratnagiri Sindhudurg Gramin Bank, Ratnagiri.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 944/96]

(xxx) Shivalik Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hoshiarpur.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 945/96]

(xxxi) Thane Gramin Bank, Thane.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 946/96]

(xxxii) Shri Venkateswara Grameena Bank, Chittoor.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 947/96]

- (xxxiii) Jamuna Gramin Bank, Agra.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 948/96]
- (xxxiv) Alwar Bharatpur Anchalik Gramin Bank, Bharatpur.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 949/96]
- (xxxv) Marwar Gramin Bank, Pali.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 950/96]
- (xxxvi) Malaprabha Grameena Bank, Dharwar.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 951/96]
- (xxxvii) Hindon Gramin Bank, Ghaziabad.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 952/96]
- (xxxviii) Akola Gramin Bank, Akola.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 953/96]
- (xxxix) Farukhabad Gramin Bank, Farrukhabad.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 954/96]
- (xl) Ambala-Kurukshetra Gramin Bank, Ambala.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 955/96]
- (xli) Sri Ganganagar Kshetriya Gramin Banks, Sriganganagar.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 956/96]
- (xlii) Bhilwara-Ajmer Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bhilwara.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 957/96]
- (xliii) Chhatrasal Gramin Bank, Orai (Distt. Jalaun).
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 958/96]
- (xliv) Koraput Panchabati Gramya Bank, Jeypore.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 959/96]
- (xlv) Ganga Yamuna Gramin Bank, Dehradun.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 960/96]
- (xlvi) Kshetria Kisan Gramin Bank, Mainpuri.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 961/96]
- (xlvii) Chhindwara-Seoni Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Chhindwara.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 962/96]
- (xlviii) Sahdol Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Sahdol.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 963/96]
- (xlix) Nainital-Almora Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Nainital.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 964/96]
- (l) Jamnagar Rajkot Gramin Bank, Jamnagar.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 965/96]
- (li) Surat-Bharuch Gramin Bank, Bharuch.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 966/96]
- (lii) Aravali Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Sawai Madhopur.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 967/96]
- (liii) Gorakhpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Gorakhpur.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 968/96]
- (liv) Sri Saraswathi Grameena Bank, Adilabad.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 969/96]
- (lv) Vallalar Grama Bank, Cuddalore.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 970/96]
- (lvi) Sahyadri Gramin Bank, Shimoga.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 971/96]
- (lvii) Bhandara Gramin Bank, Bhandara.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 972/96]
- (lviii) Vaishali Kshetria Gramin Bank, Muzaffarpur.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-973/96]
- (lix) Hazaribag Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hazaribagh.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-974/96]
- (lx) Thar Aanchalik Gramin Bank, Jodhpur.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-975/96]
- (lxi) Mewar Aanchalik Gramin Bank, Udaipur.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-976/96]
- (lxii) Bhojpur-Rohtas Gramin Bank, Arrah.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-977/96]
- (lxiii) Visveshvaraya Grameena Bank, Mandya.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-978/96]
- (lxiv) Manjira Grameena Bank, Sangareddy.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-979/96]
- (lxv) Ranchi Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ranchi.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-980/96]
- (lxvi) Kalpatharu Grameena Bank, Tumkur.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-981/96]
- (lxvii) Magadh Gramin Bank, Gaya.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-982/96]
- (lxviii) Nagaland Rural Bank, Kohima.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-983/96]
- (lxix) Gopalganj Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Gopalganj.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-984/96]

- (lxx) Vidisha-Bhopal Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Vidisha.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-985/96]
- (lxxi) Shivpuri-Guna Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Shivpuri.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-986/96]
- (lxxii) Yavatmal Gramin Bank, Yavatmal.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-987/96]
- (lxxiii) Kanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Kanpur.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-988/96]
- (lxxiv) Basti Gramin Bank, Basti.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-989/96]
- (lxxv) Rani Laxmibai Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Jhansi.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-990/96]
- (lxxvi) Chitradurga Gramin Bank, Chitradurga.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-991/96]
- (lxxvii) Buldana Gramin Bank, Buldana.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-992/96]
- (lxxviii) Golconda Grameena Bank, Hyderabad.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-993/96]
- (lxxix) Dhenkanal Gramya Bank, Dhenkanal.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-994/96]
- (lxxx) Kalahandi Anchalika Gramya Bank, Bhawanipatna.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-995/96]
- (lxxxi) Sree Anantha Grameena Bank, Anantapur.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-996/96]
- (lxxxii) Bikaner Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bikaner.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-997/96]
- (lxxxiii) Samastipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Samastipur.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-998/96]
- (lxxxiv) Madhubani Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Madhubani.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-999/96]
- (lxxxv) Samyut Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Azamgarh.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1000/96]

Review of the Working and Annual Report of the Cotton Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for 1995-96 etc.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and

English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Cotton Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1995-96.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Cotton Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1001/96]
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, 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 Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi for the year 1995-96.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1002/96]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Silk and Art Silk Mills' Research Association Mumbai, 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 Silk and Art Silk Mills' Research Associations, Mumbai, for the year 1995-96.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1003/96]

Notification Under Section 19 of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : On behalf of Shri Bolla Bulli Ramaiah, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 655 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th September, 1996 making certain amendments in the Foreign Trade (Exemption from Application of Rules in certain cases) Order, 1993, under sub-section (3) of section 19 of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1004/96]
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Plastics and Linoleums Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, 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 Plastics and Linoleums Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1005/96]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Engineering Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Engineering Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1994-95.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1006/96]

Review of the Working of the Annual Report of Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Kothagudem for 1995-96 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-sections (1) of section 619A of the Companies, Act, 1956 :

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Kothagudem, for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Kothagudem, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1007/96]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Coal India Limited, Calcutta, and its subsidiary Companies, for the year 1995-96 (Volumes I and II).

- (ii) Annual Report of the Coal India Limited, Calcutta, and its subsidiary Companies for the year 1995-96 (Volumes I and II) for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1008/96]

Statement showing action taken by the Government on various assurances etc. given during various sessions of Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Lok Sabha.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Lok Sabha :

- (i) Statement No. XXI First Session, 1989

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1009/96] Ninth Lok Sabha

- (ii) Statement No. XXXV Third Session, 1990

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1010/96]

- (iii) Statement No. XXXV First Session, 1991

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1011/96]

- (iv) Statement No. XXIX Second Session, 1991

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1012/96]

- (v) Statement No. XXXI Third Session, 1992

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1013/96] Tenth Lok Sabha

- (vi) Statement No. XXVIII Fourth Session, 1992

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1014/96]

- (vii) Statement No. XXV Sixth Session, 1993

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1015/96]

- (viii) Statement No. XXI Seventh Session, 1993

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1016/96]

- (ix) Statement No. XX Eighth Session, 1993

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1017/96] Tenth Lok Sabha

- (x) Statement No. XVIII Ninth Session, 1994

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1018/96]

- (xi) Statement No. IX Tenth Session, 1994

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1019/96]

- (xii) Statement No. XIII Eleventh Session, 1994

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1020/96]

- (xiii) Statement No. XI Twelfth Session, 1994

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1021/96]

- (xiv) Statement No. IX Thirteenth Session, 1995

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1022/96]

- (xv) Statement No. VI Fourteenth Session, 1995

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1023/96]

- (xvi) Statement No. IV Fifteenth Session, 1995

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1024/96]

- (xvii) Statement No. III Sixteenth Session, 1996

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1025/96]

- (xviii) Statement No. I Second Session, 1996 (Vol. I and II)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1025A/96]

Tenth
Lok
Sabha

Eleventh
Lok
Sabha

- (7) 175th Report (8th Lok Sabha) on Working of a Film Circle

- (8) 28th Report (9th Lok Sabha) on Outstanding Audit Objections

- (9) 13th Report (10th Lok Sabha) on Assessment Procedure - Summary and Scrutiny Assessment

- (10) 7th Report (10th Lok Sabha) on Interest Tax Assessment

- (11) 41st Report (10th Lok Sabha) on Income Escaping Assessment.

14.03 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Bill, 1996 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 12th December, 1996."

- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 12th December, 1996 agreed without any amendment to the Delhi Development (Amendment) Bill, 1996 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th December, 1996."

14.03½ hrs.

PROVISIONS OF THE PANCHAYATS (EXTENSION TO THE SCHEDULED AREAS) BILL, 1996

- As passed by Rajya Sabha.

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I lay on the Table the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Bill, 1996, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 12th December, 1996.

14.02½ hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Statements

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : I beg to lay on the Table (Hindi and English versions) of the Statements showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final replies in respect of Chapter-V of the following Reports:

- (1) 181st Report (7th Lok Sabha) on Wealth Tax
- (2) 194 Report (7th Lok Sabha) on Irregular Allowance on Relief in respect of newly established Undertakings
- (3) 220th Report (7th Lok Sabha) Revenue Demands written-off by the Department.
- (4) 36th Report (8th Lok Sabha) on Incorrect Valuation of Unquoted Equity Shares
- (5) 69th Report (8th Lok Sabha) on Mistakes in the Allowance of contributions to Provident Funds
- (6) 152nd Report (8th Lok Sabha) on Disposal of Immovable Properties Attached Towards Tax Recovery

14.04 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 16th December, 1996 will consist of :

1. Discussion and Voting on Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1996-97.
2. General discussion on Uttar Pradesh Budget for 1996-97.
3. Discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants (Uttar Pradesh) for 1996-97.
4. Consideration and passing of the Provisions of Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Bill, 1996, as passed by Rajya Sabha.
5. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
6. Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by Rajya Sabha :
 - (a) The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1996.
 - (b) The Indian Contract (Amendment) Bill, 1996.
 - (c) The Apprentices (Amendment) Bill, 1996.
7. Consideration and passing of the Constitution (Eighty-first Amendment) Bill, 1996 as reported by Joint Committee.

[Translation]

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI (Raigarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda-

1. Need to open a branch of State Bank of India immediately in Patthal Gaon in order to remove the banking difficulties being faced in important Commercial centre-Patthal Gaon in Raigarh district of Madhya Pradesh.
2. Need to set up a Medical Institute like All India Institute of Medical Sciences at Jaspur in Madhya Pradesh which is the Central of Scheduled Tribes area of India in order to protect these Scheduled Tribes people from Malaria, Gastroenteritis and other diseases since there is no hospital.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the item regarding need to restart Samastipur Sugar Mill in the interest of Sugarcane farmers and workers of the Mill after reconsidering the Government's decision to close down the mill may be included in the next week's agenda.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

1. Inordinate delay in submitting the Fifth Pay Commission Report causing resentment among the Central Government employees - immediate steps should be taken to publish the report during this month.
2. Extension of Sixth Bipartite Wage Settlement for Regional Rural Bank employees.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

1. The migration of people from hundreds of villages of and starvation death in Chhatisgarh region comprising one third area of Madhya Pradesh, due to severe drought, lack of potable water and loss of cattle.
2. Difficulties being faced by common people and traders and heavy loss of revenue to Railways due to slow speed of gauge-conversion work on Neemach-Ratlam rail route on Ratlam-Ajmer section of Western Railway.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

1. Telephones installed in most of villages of Rajasthan after spending crores of rupees are lying dead and could not be made operational even after much efforts. These telephones should be made operational by launching a rapid movement.
2. The department of Central Post and Telegraph has stopped opening of new post offices in villages. One post Office covers an area of about 20 miles and it is very difficult to open new post offices under new policy and new recruitment has also been banned. Priority should be accorded to the opening of new post offices.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda-

1. Need to implement prohibition strictly in order to eradicate criminal tendency prevalent in

the entire country and improve the economic condition.

2. Need to make telecom system more effective, efficient, rapid and modern by setting up exchange equipped with new electronic system having more capacity in place of old and traditional crossbar system at Ajmer Telephone Exchange.

[English]

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Regarding the dismal working conditions, the old and worn out machines together with very low standard of programmes and distortion of Ladakhi language and culture being broadcast over the Leh station of A.I.R. needs to be discussed.
2. The non-commissioning of the new A.I.R. station at Kargil which is ready for commissioning for the last year calls for a discussion in this august House.

14.09 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

WTO Ministerial Conference at Singapore

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, with your permission, I wish to share some information received from our delegation in Singapore, on the Ministerial Conference which took place recently.

Firstly, the Conference has categorically stated that the ILO is the competent body to deal with core labour standards. The Conference has rejected the use of restrictive trade measures to enforce labour standards. It has emphasised that the comparative advantage of developing countries should not be put in question in any way.

Moreover, the Conference has promised its continued support to the Labour Ministers who are carrying on this work in the ILO. Thus, India's position is completely reflected in the declaration and in our view WTO will do nothing more in the matter.

On the Multilateral Agreement on Investment, the initial proposal of developed countries, particularly the US, was that we should begin an educative process and establish a working group as a prelude to negotiate an agreement, a multilateral agreement. Fortunately, our opposition and the opposition of some other

countries have prevailed and that proposal has not been accepted by the Conference.

Instead, as a result of many other developing countries being persuaded, the Conference has, referring to the existing TRIMS agreement, said that by virtue of article 9 of the existing TRIMS agreement, two working groups may be established to study the matters relating to investment and competition. India opposed this position. However, other developing countries were inclined to agree to establish the working groups. Barring India, no other country was willing to oppose it totally. Even while opposing the idea of working groups, India insisted on two main riders.

The first rider is that the Conference should make it clear that the work that will be done by the working groups shall not pre-judge the question whether negotiations will be initiated at all. The second rider is - it will be clearly understood - that any decision on future negotiations will take place only after an explicit consensus decision among the WTO members. These two riders have been accepted by the Conference.

The Ministers have also welcomed the work underway in UNCTAD and have expressly stated that they encourage cooperation between UNCTAD and WTO. From India's point of view while India has been able to persuade the member countries to reject any reference to Multilateral Agreement on Investment, India is unhappy even with the revised formulation. India's unhappiness has been expressed by the Minister of Commerce while addressing a Press conference immediately after the Declaration.

On information technology, an agreement was arrived at. Some countries have signed it. India has declined to sign the agreement. On labour standards, trade and investment, there are no agreements. There are only references in the Declaration.

The Minister of Commerce is expected to come back to India tomorrow. On behalf of the Government, I would like to say that he will make a full statement on Monday. I have shared the information that I have. I think barring some unhappiness about the reference to two working groups on trade and investment, our brief has been faithfully adhered to by our delegation. They have done their best to persuade the member countries to accept India's position.

On other minor issues, India's position is reflected in the declaration, is my information... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I think the position is clear.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : My request is let us have a debate on Monday.. (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : All right, we can have a debate on Monday. But there are two things ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) Sir, we would like to have a copy of the declaration
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I think the position taken by India is very clear.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : It is different from what the Press reports say
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, it is different from what the Press reports say.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I must say that the Press reports are very varied. I went back this afternoon. I did not have much time. I think the *Time of India* report is more or less accurate. Although the headline is a little alarming, the *Times of India* report is reasonably accurate, in my view. But I do not want to assert anything. Let us wait till Monday when the Minister of Commerce will be available...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, the versions coming in different sections of the Press may be varied. But two things are clear. Even yesterday, our delegation has taken a particular stand and made some pronouncements. I can quote also.

MR. SPEAKER : No. I do not think you need quote the Press. We have to go by what the hon. Minister said.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I am not quoting. I am just referring to it.

Even if other developing countries have been changing and shifting their positions, the Government of India may stick to its original position because all these things are well-known. This reference to the WTO is an extraneous thing. The Government of India have been very categorical. These are not things to be discussed; these are all new issues. The WTO is not at all concerned with all these things. So, no reference to it shall be permitted.

Now there is capitulation to the US and to the pressures from the rich nations. We are not convinced with what the hon. Minister has said. We can wait for the full version to come. Let us wait for the Minister to come back. But this is a very disturbing feature; and the whole nation is concerned about it.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is clear from the hon. Minister's speech that such a document has been signed for which they did not get mandate. As I said in the House in the morning that when we met the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Ministers of Finance, Commerce and Industry along with other Members of Parliamentary Forum on

Intellectual Property, then it was made clear that it would not be allowed to happen. There was a reason behind saying so. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you must know it because you have been in every Government since 1983-87 that the Government of India denied to accept all the pressures of U.S. Government. Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister. She did not bow down before America because she had understood the conspiracy of America to get entry in every country's commercial as well as other fields. When Shri Rajiv Gandhi became Prime Minister, he also continued the same policy of Shrimati Indira Gandhi.

Shri V.P. Singh, was the leader of Indian Government's delegation to Punta Deli Aste in 1987. I am saying Americans because others have no importance in this regard, only Americans decide what to do and the entire world bow's down before them. When the Americans started TRIPS and TRIMS. I shall not take the valuable time of the House but I would like to clear this point in the environment created by the hon. Minister. When 'TRIPS' and 'TRIMS' were discussed there, the Prime Minister of India, Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the delegation leader Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh opposed it. Many nations joined them in opposing it and such an atmosphere was created that the Americans began to feel that the talks want progress further. Then they proposed that 'GATT' i.e. the trade matters should be discussed and Parallel track approach should be adopted in the matters of intellectual property and investment measures which implied that informal talks should be held. About that, the Minister has said here that notwithstanding, holding on to our position, all this is based on one's capability. However the forces we are confronted with and the forces that are trying to impose their own policies on others; for them, it is just a manipulation of words and nothing else. In having signed the present document, the very same terms have been endorsed as were endorsed earlier in Putan del Aste where it was state that only trade matters will be discussed under GATT and the rest of the discussions will be carried out on parallel track. The present endorsement is much more perilous. The Government has agreed to the proposal of a study group. What is this study group? The study groups is not a seminar.

[English]

The WTO is not a seminar.

[Translation]

Where one may walk in and say that a declaration is to be made and a working group should be set up. This is not a working group. This is not a study group. A special section of WTO has been made to sit together and it has stated working. Would the Finance Minister deny that the decisions taken by the study group or their functioning is not supervised by the General Council of WTO. Why would it waste its time. Officials drawing crores of rupees as salaries are sitting there. Why would

they waste their time for the study groups if they are not interested in imposing such policies on the world. It was decided that our country would not be involved in it however everything was agreed today before yesterday. The Government had decided against it. The Prime Minister had also voted against it but what happened thereafter. It is being said now that Singapore has said this and Malaysia has said that. So whether India would meekly follow Singapore and Malaysia. Has our status been lowered down to such an extent that we have to be their followers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Malaysia is a very clever country. The Prime Minister of Malaysia abuse America and its Minister in charge of Trade Affairs acts as a staunch follower of America. I would not reveal in the House the political motive behind it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think you should refer to other countries like that.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : However I feel ashamed of the fact that India having a population of 95 crores would be led by Singapore which has a population of only 32 lakhs. Singapore and Malaysia have their own problems. Mr. Speaker, Sir, International Conference of Labour Ministers was held in the Capital in 1995. The then Prime Minister of our country had inaugurated it. Please go through his speech.. you had also expressed your views in the conference and the stand you had taken was advised by the whole world that at such a time when a tremendous pressure is being applied, our country is facing the challenge. I would like to read out a line from the Declaration which was drafted with your help. I would like to tell you how it is being violated.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Fernandes, I think you can do that on Monday.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I would not take much time. No wrong impression should be created. It should not be reported in tomorrow's newspapers in Singapore and America that we have succumbed to the pressure. I have got unilateral measures. I have with me the said Declaration wherein, in Para 3, you had stated:

[English]

"We must emphasise that the application of unilateral coercive economic measures by the developed countries aimed at the third world countries with a view to obtaining

economic and political advantages is unacceptable. Similarly, if any country claims to apply its laws extraterritorially, in violation of the sovereignty of the other States, that is unacceptable."

[Translation]

Whether the Finance Minister agrees with the Times of India report filed in by Mr. Aiyar.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : After this, we are to have a full debate on Monday.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : We will have a debate.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister has made it clear that nowhere has India signed.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : He is not taking us into confidence. They are trying to create such an impression that there is nothing to worry about. I believe that you should take an initiative. This should be a matter of national consensus. It is not a party matter. I am well aware that the present Government is following the same policies as were formulated by you. As for your comments regarding TRIMS that even after reconsideration in TRIMS, all those in the Government, except two or three members had opposed it. Referring to Maracus, you are telling as that there is nothing new in this. I am unable to comprehend it. Firstly there should be a national consensus in this regard. If it has been signed this morning...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (Balia) (Bihar) : First we should be informed as to whether it has been signed or whether you have given the reply without having signed it?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : The Minister should tell us whether it has been signed or not...(Interruptions) Please reply in yes or no.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : It should be clarified as to whether it has been signed or not and if so, which document has been signed or whether he is speaking about it without having signed it. Whether had has come back without having signed it. It should be clarified in the House. It would be an injustice to keep Lok Sabha in dark about it. Our image will be tarnished...(Interruptions) It should be clarified. It is a very serious matter. Its gravity can be gauged from the fact that as the Minister of Labour you had declined to accept it. So it should be clarified as to what are those circumstances. We should have a discussion on this matter today itself. Why should it be postponed to Monday. We demand to allow us to have this discussion today...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first you should ask him whether the Government has signed it or not?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We do not have the documents. Let us have the documents.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I will conclude after making my point. These people have signed it. They may say anything here. Mr. Chidambaram is a very good lawyer. He is expert in showing the near defect into victory. I admire his capacity and capability as a lawyer. But today he has advocated a wrong case and we do not accept his arguments.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a national issue. It is a matter of sovereignty of our nation. When the House is assembled here to discuss the matter and these people pledge the country in Singapore. We cannot accept it. That is my submission.

SHRI ATAL BIHAR VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not intend to make a very lengthy speech on this subject. Unfortunately I was not present in the House in the morning.

The Government went to Singapore bound by a policy. This policy was under discussion in the House. That policy had the approval of the country. There were apprehensions that India would be under pressure there and talks would not be limited to trade matters only. Other issues such as social issues, investment and labour which are not directly related with trade matters could also figure in these talks. However we were hopeful that the way the Government took a firm stand ever the issue of C.T.B.T. because of support of the whole country, the Government would take a determined stand on this issue also. The Government should have acted in accordance with the line of action revealed in the House and announcements made. Now it seems as if the Government has been pressurised and it appears that Government has also succumbed to the pressure. These pressurising tactics continued for two-three days. The Parliament in session. If Hon'ble Minister had the will, he could have come to the House and he could have taken the House into confidence. He could have discussed that the Government are facing these difficulties and what are the directions of the House in this regard? Instead we get to read in the newspapers.

[English]

India falls in line on labour norms, WTO investments study'-

[Translation]

This headline has appeared in 'The Economic Times'. Whatever the Hon'ble Minister has stated in this

regard confirms that the Government took a firm stand regarding some issues whereas it has agreed to certain conditions and clauses. We want to have full text of the documents. We wish to have a discussion on these document and we request the Government to get the approval of the House on the policy put forth in Singapore. It is an international agreement. This agreement should not only be discussed in the House but also the Government should seek the approval of the House in this regard. The news we have got is disturbing and is a blow to our confidence.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Sir, this House was adjourned in the morning. A very strong message had gone out as to how this House feels and as to how your goodself and other Members felt about what was happening with respect to the agreement relating to WTO. This strong message cannot be missed by anybody.

However, the hon. Minister has explained to us as to what stand the Government has taken. As the matter is very important it would be useful to understand as to what has actually happened. It would be useful to have the full details about the Agreement and the manner in which the Agreement was negotiated and the signature was made. Without that information it would not be useful to discuss this matter in great detail.

Certainly India would like to protect its sovereignty. India would like to protect what is mentioned in the Constitution, the entire Constitution, the Directive Principles and the duties and India would also certainly like to protect the policies which are made by the Government in consultation with other Parties and in consultation with this House. But in the international field we shall have to move very skillfully. If we do not move very skillfully, we may find it very difficult to protect our interest and what is mentioned in the Constitution and to achieve what we want to achieve according to our policies. So, my submission is that this is a very important issue, let us discuss it fully; let us discuss it with responsibility and let us discuss it skillfully so as to achieve our objective.

MR. SPEAKER : The Finance Minister has to go to the other House also. The Members there are also waiting. So please be brief.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, there is a consensus in regard to the inclusion of the social clause and labour matters and other matters in the House as well as in the nation. A confusion in this respect has been created today when we saw reports in various newspapers saying that our delegation has agreed to certain conditions and certain clauses under pressure from the United State. We are opposed to this and we also want that the full text of the Declaration should be made available to us and there should be a full-fledged debate on this on Monday itself and not later than Monday. It is because this is a very serious

issue concerning the entire nation. As there is a consensus in regard to this, we want that there should be a full-fledged discussion on this on Monday after the copies of the Declaration are made available to us.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, the Prime Minister made a very strong statement in Harare. According to me, whatever information has so far been given is not in keeping with the statement of the Prime Minister in Harare.

Sir, without taking much of your time, I would only like to submit that a full-fledged discussion on this subject could alone give this opportunity to this House to give the views of the nation. Therefore, at the earliest a discussion should be held and an assurance may kindly be given that nothing should be done without consulting this House and taking the nation into confidence.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : Sir, when would the statement and other relevant papers be made available to us?

MR. SPEAKER : It would be available on Monday.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : When would we discuss it then?

MR. SPEAKER : On Monday itself.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, if it is distributed on Monday, then we would not get enough time to study it...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : If he is coming tomorrow, the relevant papers should be made available to us tomorrow night itself. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, it should be made available to us before Monday...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begusarai) : Sir, I would like to know whether the signatures have been put or not and if it has been put then on which paper?

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, I would like to make a submission. At the time when the discussion will take place...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, we want both, copies of the statement as well as the Agreement, the Declaration...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Normally, in international conferences, when a declaration is adopted, signatures are not taken. Countries are not required to sign it. It is just adopted by the Conference, saying 'This is a Declaration'. It has been adopted.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : When the declaration has been adopted, it means that it has been adopted with the consent of India. What else do you want to know?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you said that Declaration has been adopted, it is our good fortune that you have a good knowledge of this subject. That is why you are able to understand the hints in this regard. You have said without asking him that Declaration has been adopted. When the hon'ble Minister was giving information about Singapore his facial expressions were showing that while adopting the Declaration India has not surrendered in any way. But while sharing the information he stated that India had accepted the constitution of a working group. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you can note the point here that when anybody wants to get his demand conceded, his first exercise is constitution of a working group and India has accepted the constitution of that working group. It means that now lobbying will start and ultimately India will accept this demand in the name of consensus. The point on which Shri George Fernandes was giving stress that our opposition is on this aspect and you have also been the champion of this cause that we would not accept the constitution of a study group. As Shri Vajpayee ji demanded for a copy of the Declaration and the reason for our opposition on this point is that the hon'ble Minister said that the copy of the Declaration was not available. I would like to ask from the hon'ble Minister as to whether India has given its consent to the Declaration without going through it? If copy of the Declaration is available, then why are you hiding it? If you have not made study of it, how the Government has given its clearance? When the hon'ble Minister had left for there, he had not been briefed in this way. His brief was that he would not accept any study group and this item would not be allowed to figure in the agenda.

Even the Prime Minister of Singapore had said a day before the conference commenced, that he would not sign it but later, he backtracked. If Malaysia and Singapore are backtracked, will India also follow them? India is a country having a population of 90 crores and have its own identity. It is capable in not following Malaysia and Singapore. Therefore, I would like to ask as to how he had allowed this item to be included in the agenda? The Government has the copy of the Declaration but it does not want to present it in the House. The copy of the Declaration should be presented in the House so that we are able to know the points on which you have surrendered.

LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to add two more points to what Shrimati Sushma Swaraj has said. It has just been stated that India has not signed the agreement regarding information technology. It seems that India has done wrong by not signing this agreement. Earlier,

there was no mention about information technology and it was not figured in its agenda also. The objective of the WTO is that any new item should be put forward only with the consent of all the countries. If these 29 countries are bringing forward new agenda and getting it signed by all countries, it is a new precedence by which new things are being done. The hon'ble Minister while leaving for Singapore, had said that any new item would not be allowed to be added in the agenda. But I would like to ask as to whether constitution of a study group is not a new thing whereas it was not discussed earlier? The item regarding information technology is a new one. Instead of saying that why these new items are being allowed to be added in the agenda, the Government has said that India has not signed on it. This is happening time and again. Today, in the morning, when I come to know about the position, that created a very odd situation of order, that the same thing should be repeated in the foreign country as has been asked here. Malaysia and other small countries come with full preparations but we have such incomplete preparations that if even a single backtracks to a little extent, we also take a new stand keeping aside what we had been asked here to say in the foreign country. There is no doubt that India has given its consent to the Declaration as the hon'ble Minister is not denying it and now a detailed discussion on this issue will be held on Monday. But my new point which I would like to raise.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is going to be Three o'clock. We have to take up Private Members' Business; the Calling Attention is there and the reply of the Minister is also there.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make one point. The points raised by Sushmaji are very important ones. There must have been consultations; documents must have been there; and they ought to have been presented before us. I also want to submit that since this discussion concerns our policy towards the rest of the developed countries, I believe, the Prime Minister's presence is absolutely essential when we have a discussion on this in the Lok Sabha. He should be present in the House at the time of the discussion because he alone can represent the Government and the concern must go out from here.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a time when we have to think of even formation of a Common Asian community because we are finding things going in ways which we cannot control on our own. I think, we should seek the support of other similarly placed nations also. The message that will go out from this Parliament will be a very strong message; I congratulate you for this. I would like to submit that we must get copies of the Declaration as well as the copies of the Statement at the earliest so that a good discussion can take place.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (WB) : Sir, a Declaration once adopted in an international conference is, perhaps, binding upon the country attending that conference. If it be so, or if it be the international convention, what would be the utility of discussion in the House? This is my humble submission.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-East) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the statement made by the hon. Minister in the House one thing is not clear and that is, whether the Declaration has been signed over there or not. It is not crystal clear from the statement. Secondly, what has been discussed over there prior to the signature? Are they going to sign the Declaration only after taking the consent of the House following a discussion? That point has also not been made clear. After signing the pact, there is no use of discussing it. So, it is necessary that the copies of the agreement are be made available to this House. All Members of Parliament should go through these documents and then only there can be a discussion. After obtaining the consent of this august House only the Government should sign the Declaration. That is my submission.

MR. SPEAKER : What I understand is, as far as the Declaration is concerned, it has been adopted where it has been clearly said that labour matters, setting of labour standards, is an exclusive jurisdiction of the ILO and WTA has nothing to do with it. That part is very clear. It is very good; that is what has been our stand. Now, as far as the matter relating to information technology is concerned, India has refused to sign. Is that the correct position Mr. Minister?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : We have declined to sign it.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, we have declined to sign it. Only on matters relating to investment and competition, Working Groups have been set up. There the Government of India had initially opposed tooth and nail but finding it difficult, India had put two conditions. And the conditions that had been put by India have been accepted by the Conference. Is that the position Mr. Minister? That is what I understand from what you said.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Your understanding is correct from the information available.

MR. SPEAKER : In any case, with the consent of the House, I would like to say that copies of the Declaration be made available to the Members in the morning hours of Monday. Discussion under Rule 193 will start on this matter at four o'clock on that day.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : The Declaration should be made available along with the statement of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER : The statement will be made at four o'clock. I think that is better.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : It is the statement made by the Government in Singapore.

MR. SPEAKER : No, it is the statement that will be made here. The Minister will make an elaborate statement.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : That will depend on the time that you decide to have the debate.

MR. SPEAKER : It is at four o'clock but the copies of the Declaration should be made available to the Members at 11 o'clock.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It should not just be the copies of the Declaration. Certain resolutions have been adopted which we oppose.

All our statements on this Resolution should also be laid before the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Otherwise, it is meaningless if something is adopted. We have to either accede to it or not. Our statement concerning that should be laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The entire documents should be laid on the Table of the House.

14.46 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

CALLING ATTENTION TO URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Problems of fire and subsidence in and around Jharia and Raniganj Coalfields

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I call the attention of the Minister of State of the Ministry of Coal to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that she may make a statement thereon:

"The reported situation arising out of fire and subsidence taking place very fast in and around the areas of Jharia, Raniganj and Asansol coalfields and the steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to thank the hon'ble Members Shri Badu Deb Acharia as he has drawn the attention of this House towards this issue. Jharia, Raniganj and some other towns near Jharia and Raniganj Coalfields are located on pillar based mines where mining had taken place almost five to six decades ago. The stability of these pillar mines is doubtful as the mining had been done in an unsystematic manner. The Gugnani Committee has been constituted by the Department of

Coal for conducting a deep study about the security in the Coal mines including the issue of threat posed by the old underground mines before the towns and residential areas.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There should be order in the House, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No side talks please. Please take your seats.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : In August 1979, the committee had mentioned that there is a big and multifaceted problem of subsidence in Jharia and Raniganj Coalfields. In Jharia and Raniganj Coalfields there are many towns, villages, rivers/pond belt areas, roads and railway lines etc. which are situated on the small Coal pillars. Besides this, fire is also active in these areas which is creating danger to the structures situated on the surface. Not only the stability of the mines under these areas is difficult and dangerous but its effectiveness is also doubtful.

The fire had already broken out in the Jharia coalfields long time ago and it had been reported in the year 1916. During these years the fire spread temblously to such an extent that it has become very difficult to prevent it.

As per the survey conducted after the nationalisation of these mines, 70 incidents of fire had been reported in the radius of 17 square kilometers in Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. 22 projects involving Rs. 114.59 crore were launched to deal with these 70 fire incidents. With the joint efforts and the estimated expenditure of Rs. 73 crore fire could be extinguished only in 10 incidents out of them and in rest of the cases fire could be brought more or less under control.

To find the long term solution to the problem of fire incidents taking place in Jharia Coalfields a comprehensive study has been started under the "Jharia Mine fire control Technical Assistance project" with World Bank's financial assistance of 12 million American dollars. It has been revealed from the study that to deal with the fire incidents taking place in Jharia mines, as per the revised estimate about 22,300 families are to be shifted and rehabilitated and equipments worth 225 million American dollars will have to be installed. Discussion is going on with the expert Committee of the World Bank to implement this project.

Jharia city is situated over the area based on instable pillars and the problem of subsidence also cannot be denied. Due to uncontrolled increase in the accommodation in these areas, it has become very difficult to take effective measures to deal with the fire incidents. In the most sensitive areas, people have been warned time and again of the threat of subsidence and they have been requested to be shifted in the safer places.

On 27.10.1996 cracks have taken place in 219 houses situated in Chowthai Kulie. The construction of all the houses on the land of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. was unauthorised.

Attention of several committees has been drawn to the problem of subsidence since 1922. In the year 1990 a Apex Reviewing committee constituted by the Coal India Ltd. Had conducted a survey of 49 temporary sites of Raniganj Coalfields (Out of 11.8 square kilometer, 4.8 square kilometer is a residential area) Out of these 49 sites, 38 sites are not safe for residential purpose.

An expenditure of about rupees 4000 crore (at the 1992 level) has been anticipated for shifting and rehabilitating these people.

According to the section 7 of the Coal Mine (Nationalisation) Act 1973, for any Legal liability violation before the Nationalisation period, neither the Union Government nor the Coal India Ltd. (or its subsidiaries) are responsible for it.

In spite of these statutory provision, the problems like fire in the mines and sinking of land should not be neglected on human ground. To deal with such problems in a proper manner, the State Governments of Bihar and West Bengal were urged to take action actively because in these actions besides fire and sinking of land, the cases of rehabilitation of people are also involved. To meet this situation, sufficient fund and physical resources are needed.

To meet these objectives the Government have decided to set up a high level committee comprising of the representatives of the Union and the State Governments. The committee will start functioning, after receiving the nomination from the concerned Ministries and the State Government of Bihar and West Bengal.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the subsidence in Raniganj and Jharia Coalfields has been discussed on the floor of the House a number of times and various suggestions were also given by Members of this House, by the people's representatives of that area and more particularly, by the Government of West Bengal. The Chief Minister of West Bengal had written a number of letters to the Prime Minister drawing the attention of the Government of India towards the serious situation prevailing in Raniganj Coalfield which is the oldest coalfield of our country. Why is this subsidence taking place? Why is there fire underground? This is not a recent event. The Calling Attention Notice was given by me because of recent event that has taken place in Jharia township only on the 27th October, 1996 when cracks in more than 500 dwelling units had developed suddenly in the evening. A large area was subsided. What the hon. Minister has stated just now is not correct. A person having only one house in that area, in that house also, the crack has developed.

So, it is not correct to say that the entire area belongs to Bharat Coking Coal Company.

Sir, I personally visited that site. I went to every House and met the affected people. I have seen that people are living there for quite a long time and their forefathers had been there for the last hundred years. If the land belongs to BCCL, how can there be a petrol pump? This petrol pump has to be closed down because of subsidence. How a petrol pump was sanctioned on that land if that land belongs to the BCCL?

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Acharia, the Private Member's business is to be started at 3.00 P.M. and the hon'ble Minister has to give his reply also therefore you may ask direct question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Please give me some time. The Calling Attention Motion has been taken only at 2.45 PM.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may ask question directly.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You may extend the Private members' business upto 3.15. One more Member has to speak after me. You will have to give time to him also. A colliary is in his area.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall also request him. If the House does not agree, then it will not be possible.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please ask direct question.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I cannot finish within two-three minutes. There is another hon. Member, Shri Haradhan Roy who will also be raising some questions.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He will also be given time.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, this is not correct. The subsidences which are taking place in the area are because of coal mines from where coal was extracted prior to nationalisation. The Standing Committee on Energy very clearly and categorically, in its report, stated

"If subsidence takes place in the coal mine area because of pre-nationalisation extraction of coal in the pre-nationalisation period, the responsibility lies with the coal company."

The Standing Committee on Energy in its 21st report of Tenth Lok Sabha on Action Taken on Recommendations on Demands and Grants of Coal, Ministry of Coal noted :

"That it should be the sole responsibility of coal companies to take appropriate remedial

and preventive measures in areas which fall within the leasehold of coal companies, even though occurrence of subsidence is due to pre-nationalisation mining activities and illegal mining operation."

It had also recommended:

"That the funds available under Coal Mines Safety and Conservation Act should be fully utilised by the coal companies for this purpose."

The Committee note:

"That despite earlier recommendations of the Committee and the gravity of the problem of subsidence, no urgent action has been taken to finalise the institutional arrangement with the concerned State Governments."

The Committee emphasised the need of setting up of an institutional arrangement with the State Government at the earliest.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Therefore, you ask the question, please.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Therefore, Sir, long back, in 1989, a reference has been made in the Statement by the Minister about Bhuvnani Committee which had also recommended, that remedial measures to be undertaken by the Ministry of Coal. That was not taken and because of that the subsidences are taking place.

The hon. Minister of Coal has stated that recently the Government has set up a high level Committee. I would like to know from the hon. Minister when was this Committee set up and I would also like to know what are the terms and reference of this Committee.

15.00 hrs.

Sir, she has sanctioned only a sum of Rs. 15 lakh from the coal company, PCCL, for relief and rehabilitation of the people affected because of subsidence in Jharia township. This amount is insufficient for rehabilitation.

Sir, the formation of committee is not sufficient
... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Now it is 3 p.m. We have to take up Private Members' Business... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : Sir, we can continue this subject after 6 o'clock... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I would like to know from the Minister of State of the Ministry of Coal whether the Government proposes to rehabilitate the entire people who were affected because of subsidence in Jharia township and also in Raniganj Coalfield. If the Government proposes to rehabilitate the people affected because of subsidence, what is the amount that is sanctioned for the rehabilitation of the people affected

because of subsidence? What are the future steps of the Government to tackle this subsidence in Jharia and Raniganj Coalfields.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is three O'clock. If the House permits then the time can be extended for 10 minutes, because the Hon'ble Minister is yet to reply.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the House will give such permission only when this item will be completed in five minutes because it is going to be 3 O'clock now and it has not completed yet. It will continue. Therefore it will be O.K. if their questions and answers are completed by 3.05 PM. Otherwise the Members will take the time of other Members also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It cannot be completed within five minutes.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, Private Member's Business should not be encroached by other subjects. Other subjects are important. At the same time, Private Members' Business is the exclusive right of every Member. Every time, this is going to be encroached and this is going to be an usual practice in this House. This should be stopped... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes.

Shri Haradhan Roy, please put your questions. Please hurry up.

[Translation]

SHRI HARADHAN ROY (Asansol) : Sir, what the hon'ble Minister has stated is not correct. After nationalisation it becomes the responsibility of the Government. When we take their property then we must take their responsibility also. Secondly, perhaps the Hon'ble Minister does not know that there is a public undertaking committee. The Ministry is having a Parliamentary Consultative Committee and the Parliament is having Standing Committees and we are the Members of these committees. The Secretary, Ministry of Coal has said that the Ministry will bear all the expenses. Perhaps the Hon'ble Minister does not know that it had already been decided. Sinking of land is still going in the old mines.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Roy, please ask the question.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Sir, there are about 600 fire and 5694 sinking cases in Raniganj, West Bengal and 1732 incidents of fire and 3497 sinking cases in Jharia. The Minister had said that a committee had been constituted. I would like to say that the statement of the Chief Minister of West Bengal is stated here in a wrong way. The Chief Minister of West Bengal had repeatedly asked the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the

Minister of Coal to enact a Law in the Parliament and implement it because it is an important matter. This does not belong to a particular state or a particular area. It is the property of the entire national. Therefore this is a statutory obligation. For this, a law should be enacted by the Union Government in the Parliament as this is the matter of rehabilitation and reclamation of land and also a matter of afforestation. The Government should own this responsibility. We have repeatedly asked the Government the hon'ble Minister knows it. What are the steps taken by the Government to bring the statutory Law. It has been told that rupees four thousand crores are needed in this regard. It is about rupees seven and half thousand crores in record for the provisions of rehabilitation in the Raniganj coal belt. What provision you have made in this regard?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the hon'ble Shri Basu Deb Acharia and Shri Haradhan Roy as they have provided me this information. But I have no knowledge about the question asked by them that how the petrol pump was constructed on the B.B.C.L. land. If petrol pump has been constructed there, I will conduct an inquiry into that. The responsibility of subsidiaries rests with the Coal India Ltd., and Standing Committee on Energy has also said that it takes the responsibility of subsidiaries. You have just stated that an accident had taken place on 23rd October. We have sanctioned Rs. 15 lakh for those persons who have been affected in this accident. Though, the Government wants to resolve this problem but decision regarding constituting a committee at high level has not been taken now. The representatives of West Bengal and Bihar will also be included in this Committee. On receipt of the report the Government will take necessary action. The Secretary, Coal India Ltd. will be the Chairman of the proposed committee and the Chairman, Coal India Ltd., Dte. General of Mines Safety, Chairman-cum Managing Director, CMPDIL, Chairman-cum Managing Director, E.C. Ltd., and Chairman-cum Managing Director BBCL will be the members including the representatives of the Ministry of Labour, Planning Commission and the Government of West Bengal and Bihar. The terms of reference of the Committee inter alia are review of subsidence in the Raniganj and Jharia coalfields and five accident prone areas, to conduct a study to prevent construction of new houses in these areas and suggest measures and to make Government arrangements, suggest measures to deal with the problem of existing houses and conduct study, suggest measures to prevent subsidence in the subsidence and fire prone areas and to make funds available for the purpose, to identify those areas from where shifting of people and their rehabilitation is necessary and where subsidence cannot be prevented, and suggest measures to shift the affected people from those areas and rehabilitate them etc.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : By when this report will be presented?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : The report will be submitted as early as possible. As and when the

members of West Bengal give the report or as soon as the committee is constituted, we will submit the report immediately.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You should fix a time limit.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : We have asked those State Government to submit the report, we will present it as and when they provide it. We have directed the CMPDIL to visit the area and conduct a survey.

15.09 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (RAILWAYS) 1996-97

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Sir, I beg to present the statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the supplementary demands with regard to the Budget (Railway) for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1026/96]

15.09½ hrs.

MOTION RE: SECOND AND THIRD REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Second and Third Reports of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 4th and 11th December, 1996, respectively."

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Second and Third Reports of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 4th and 11th December, 1996, respectively."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA (Puri) : Sir, what about the Minister's reply on the rise in prices of essential commodities?

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has to reply.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : From which Ministry the reply has to come?

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA : It relates to Ministry of Food.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now it is time for the discussion on Private Members' Bill. This can be taken up any other day. We cannot take any more time allotted to the Private Members.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA : Would it not be taken up today?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It would be taken up on Monday.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : Discussion will be held in the Rajya Sabha also on Monday
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Time will be adjusted but now let the Private Members' Bill be taken up.

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA : We want only clarification as the hon'ble Minister has to give reply today after Question hour as per the business of the House
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : All of us have to speak on price rise. There is a great resentment all over the country...*(Interruptions)* The prices of wheat have gone up and flour has also become so much costlier but Shri D.P. Yadav is not aware of it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is the decision of the House. If the House agrees, the Private Members' Bill can be taken up later on but I am sorry that I cannot change the decision of this august House.

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA : Then, would it be taken up on Monday?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, we would take it up on Monday.

15.12 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: NEW AGRICULTURAL POLICY

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALLA (Kottayam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are on the threshold of the 21st Century. Increase in the production and productivity, and ensuring food security for the growing population are the main concern of today. Our population is growing at an alarming rate. But, at the same time, our agricultural production is steeply going down. Our wheat production in this year has gone down drastically and now we are importing wheat from other countries.

As we are all aware, agriculture is not a profitable profession. So, some steps should be taken to make

agriculture a profitable profession. Then, the farmers will concentrate on farming and they will take interest in this profession. Then only will we be able to make more production and we will be able to give more productivity in this field.

As far as the price is concerned, the farmers are facing a lot of problems. So, an effective price strategy has to be ensured. Otherwise the farming community will be totally dissatisfied and they will not take any interest in the farming. As a result of that, the total production of the agricultural goods will come down.

The New Policy should be enforced for land ceiling laws. As rightly pointed out by my hon. colleague, Shri Anil Basu, land reforms are implemented in two States only, that is, West Bengal and Kerala. As far as the other States are concerned, these land reforms are only on paper. They are not in reality. But because of the non-implementation of land reforms in the States and because of this law, our agricultural sector is facing a lot of difficulties. So, it is necessary that our land laws and land reforms should be enforced properly so that the farming community can be benefited.

By 2000 A.D., we need 235 to 240 million tonnes of grains. As I mentioned earlier, now the production of wheat, rice and other essential commodities is steeply going down. So, there should be a concerted effort for increasing the production and productivity.

One of the most important points which I want to mention here is that agriculture - by Entry 14 - is in the State List. But the Centre has made a lot of inroads into this, essentially the State subjects, in the name of national policies related to agricultural development.

Agriculture is a State subject. Time and again, the Central Government has intruded into this subject and very important policies and programmes were taken up by the Central Government. For example, many effective irrigation and other important programmes are now Centrally sponsored schemes. The State Governments have been concerned about the expansion of the list of Centrally sponsored schemes under agricultural development. Since Agriculture is a State subject, the Centre should refrain from introducing into this sector. It is a State subject and it should continue to be like that so that effective agricultural development can take place.

Since Independence, the agriculture sector has been receiving stepmotherly treatment. Because of the stepmotherly attitude, this sector is not at all expanding and more productivity cannot be seen. The farmers are not getting their legitimate price. The reasons are: (1) ban and the restrictions on export of commodities (2) dumping of agricultural products from abroad in the domestic market; (3) restrictions on trade and movement; (4) inadequacy in fixing the floor price and the support price. The farmers are not getting remunerative prices.

I come from the State of Kerala where we are growing spices, rubber and other agricultural products.

Our farmers are always complaining about remunerative prices. Even though the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) is, time and again, deciding the floor prices, the farmers are never getting remunerative prices. Farmers producing spices have always been complaining about the remunerative price. The cost of cultivation is increasing day by day. The wages are also going up. When the labour component is going up and when the cost of everything else in the agricultural operations is going up, keeping in view these two aspects, they should get a remunerative price also. Unfortunately, our farmers are deprived of getting a remunerative price, compared to the cost of production. The Government also is responsible for this. The CACP is not taking the actual cost of cultivation into consideration. They are not concerned about the cost of cultivation. The floor price or the support price has to be fixed by taking into consideration the wage component as well as the cost of cultivation. No realistic study is being conducted in this regard. Ultimately the farmers are the sufferers and they are not getting the remunerative price. Because of that, they are going away from cultivation and are seeking some employment. They are selling their lands or are using them for certain other purposes. This is what is happening in our country. So, the Government is also responsible for this.

In the recent Budget, our hon. Finance Minister has reduced the import duty on rubber from 25 per cent to 20 per cent. Our country is self-sufficient in natural rubber. As per the Rubber Board's statistics, we are self-sufficient in rubber. As to today, there is no gap in demand and supply of rubber. I do not understand why the import duty has been reduced from 25 per cent to 20 per cent. This is having a psychological effect on the rubber growers and they are compelled to reduce the price of rubber. What is happening in the rubber market now? I come from an area where rubber plantation is done on a large scale. Last month, the rubber growers were getting a price ranging between Rs. 60 and Rs. 65, but after this year's Budget, the price has crashed down to Rs. 35 to Rs. 40.

Ultimately the sufferers are the rubber growers. The Government has not fixed any floor price for this by calculating the cost of cultivation and because of that the farmers are suffering a lot. My request to the Government is that time and again the floor price and support price of wheat and the support price of rice should be fixed so that the farmers could get the benefit out of that.

Sir, there are one or two important points which I want to mention here. One is the investment in the agricultural sector. If we go through the statistics, one thing is very clear that the public investment in the agricultural sector is coming down and the private investment is also coming down. After liberalisation we see that there is a boom in the industrial sector. More investment is coming in the industrial sector. But this

farm sector is completely neglected. More investment should be there in the farming sector. Then only we will be able to develop the agricultural activities and we will be able to increase our production. We can see very evidently the spurt in the industrial growth. But no comparable increase is there in the investment of agricultural sector. This should be taken care of very seriously.

Regarding Research and Development, the outcome does not reach the field. Even though the Government of India, the Ministry of Agriculture is spending crores and crores of rupees, and the Research and Development is going on, the real beneficiaries who are in the villages are not getting the fruits of the Research and Development activities.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, I will take two or three minutes only.

Regarding the private investment, I have a suggestion. The role of the cooperatives cannot be neglected. A fresh review of cooperatives is very much necessary. There is an urgent need for revamping the cooperatives which can play a very critical role in the investment agencies particularly in the backward areas of our country where private investment is very low. We have to promote and streamline the activities of the cooperatives so that they can give more private investment in the backward areas of our country.

Sir, every fourth farmer in the world is an Indian. But we are always neglecting the farming community. We have to encourage them. Then only can our productivity be increased. There are some apprehensions. My hon. friend here has mentioned that after the GATT the things have changed. I do not agree with his perception. After the GATT agreement has been implemented, because of that, our Indian farmers are very much benefited by that. The apprehensions are totally incorrect. Now the world market is open for us. If we want to be able to compete with the world market, there is enough scope. We have to prepare the Indian farmers to compete in the world market and we have to make them prepare for that.

Now our Indian products are going abroad. Our Indian rice is going abroad. Our horticultural things are going abroad and they are finding a good market there. The market accessibility is there. That will be one of the very important features of GATT.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down now. I am calling the next speaker.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, I am concluding.

The total agricultural scenario is to be reviewed in the changed situation. I agree that there should be a new approach. There should be a comprehensive agricultural policy which is very necessary. I welcome this Resolution moved by my hon. friend Shri Anil Basu.

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (Karimganj) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, First of all I appreciate the Resolution moved by my hon. Friend Shri Anil Basu. At present we are having a population of 94 crore in our country. Of this, 70 per cent is directly or indirectly involved in agriculture and of this 70 per cent, sixty per cent belongs to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the O.B.Cs.

Of this 60 per cent, 40 per cent constitute landless agricultural labourers. This is the position.

Now, I come to the agricultural system. Till today, India has been following an age old system of agriculture which has been going on for the last thousand of years. Of Course, this old system must continue for another three or four decades because we do not believe, at present, in the mechanised system of agriculture. If our agriculture is mechanised, I think, crores of people would be rendered unemployed. So, this old system should continue at present.

This landlessness is the disease of the peasantry. I have already said that at least 70 per cent of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people are landless because of uneven distribution of the ceiling surplus land. So, we must have thorough land reforms. At the same time, we should review our Land Ceiling Act because even today, so far as my knowledge goes, I know that as per the Land Ceiling Act, an individual can hold more than two hectares of land. So, I should say that the land Ceiling Act should be reviewed and there should be exhaustive land reform measures.

Sir, throughout the country, deforestation is going on. I know that only 50 years ago, there was 27 per cent forest cover in India, but at present it is only 12 to 13 per cent. Whereas Assam previously had 33 per cent forest cover, at present the forest cover has come down to 17 to 18 per cent. So, in such a situation, we cannot keep our environment pollution-free. So, by deforestation you cannot have cultivable land. We must encourage what is called afforestation through social forestry and other means.

Sir, our population is rising in an alarming measure. Now, it is almost 94 crores and by 2000 A.D., I feel, it will exceed 100 crores. In such a situation, we should see that our agricultural production should go up. So far as family planning is concerned - I should not say 'family planning' rather I should say 'Family welfare' - there should be awareness among the common man regarding our family size, of course, for the sake of family welfare and also to keep the growth rate of our population less.

I feel that agriculture and industry are complementary to each other because agriculture supplies raw materials to industry and industry in turn absorbs the excess labour forces of agriculture in the industry.

In this sense, I should say that agriculture and industry are complementary to each other. At present,

we do not want nationalisation of industry. We want that industry should be labour intensive, not capital intensive so that the excess labour force in agriculture can be absorbed by industry.

Sir, we have adopted Green Revolution to increase our food production. We have got some result, no doubt. But at the same time, research and development is going on and we have got some fruits there as well. The hon. Minister has announced that Krishi Vigyan Kendras would be set up in the country in an extensive way. But my suggestion is that Krishi Vigyan Kendras should be set up districtwise, throughout the country to increase production.

15.31 hrs.

(Col. Rao Ram Singh *in the Chair*)

As far as the new agricultural policy is concerned I would say that we must adopt multiple cropping or what is called the crop rotation system and if we adopt this method, I feel that there should be a proper irrigation system. Without a proper irrigation system, we cannot have multiple cropping or crop rotation.

In Assam, We get only two harvests whereas in other advanced countries they are getting four to five harvests per annum. But in Assam we get two harvest only due to the lack of irrigation facilities. So, we must have a proper irrigation system.

At the same time, we should have a proper marketing system also. Otherwise, the products cannot be sold profitably. Of course, the Government of India announces support prices in respect of certain foodgrains. But this is not enough for rice as well as wheat. For instance, there should be basic infrastructures for the marketing cooperatives, by way of proper surface transport, rail transport and also water transport. Without this network of transport system, these marketing cooperatives cannot survive.

Sir, I have already said about the present state of agriculture. I do not believe in mechanisation of agriculture or collective farming. There must be individual land holding in India. In our vast sub-continent we do not want collective farming or what is called mechanisation of agriculture, of course, at this stage.

It is very clear that the purchasing power of the peasantry should go up. We must give them purchasing power and if we have to give them purchasing power, we should increase our production. If we have to increase our production, it is inevitable that we must adopt a new system of agriculture, a new policy of agriculture which means multiple cropping or crop rotation. For this purpose we want a thorough and proper irrigation system and proper network of marketing cooperative societies. There should be first class infrastructure for these marketing cooperative societies in the shape of road transport, rail transport, water transport and so on.

Moreover, we must have some welfare measure for the peasantry as well. By welfare measures, I mean, crop, insurance, old age pension, networking of roads in rural areas, rail transport and so on. I should say that if our agricultural production is increased, then, I am sure, the purchasing capacity of the peasantry will increase. If the purchasing capacity of the peasantry is increased, I am more than certain that agriculture will be able to supply raw materials to the industry and as a result industry will flourish. When the industry flourishes, I am more than certain that our country will develop and this way India could be developed industrially. If India is developed industrially, it will go along with other developed countries of the world. But the basic thing is that, first of all, agriculture must be developed. If we want to develop agriculture, I am more than certain that this new Agricultural Policy should be adopted.

Sir, I am now speaking about Assam because I hail from Assam. So far as irrigation is concerned, till today only five per cent of the land has been irrigated, although at least 50 per cent of the land should have been irrigated. If this is so, how could a province or a State develop agriculturally? So, first of all, I lay stress on the need for having a proper system of irrigation. Without having a proper system of irrigation, agriculture cannot flourish. Therefore, there should be a proper systems of irrigation and, at the same time, through land reform measures should be undertaken and the present Land Ceiling Act should be reviewed.

[Translation]

SHRI KALPNATH RAI (Ghosi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, here a mention has been made about Agriculture policy. Therefore, I would like to express my views in this regard.

[English]

The resolution says :

"this House urges upon the Government to formulate a new Agriculture Policy to protect the interests of Indian agriculture and agriculturists and to increase productively."

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, basically, India is predominantly an agricultural country and there exist lakhs of agriculture whereas the economies of European countries are based on urbanisation and industrialisation. Our father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi had fought for the freedom of this country with the help of lakhs of freedom fighters keeping in mind the development of villages agriculture and decentralisation of power. Today, we are moving forward keeping this in our mind. But today, it is not benefiting the farmers. In villages poor people as well as farmers live but now people are migrating to cities. The reasons behind it is that if we make the farming a profit earning

profession and formulate integrated schemes for the development of the villages of the country, then only our country can make progress in its own way. Today, people in a large number are migrating from villages towards urban areas. The only reasons of its is that our Agricultural Policy contains no such features which can attract and create interests among the people and enable the farmers to earn their livelihood by working in the fields. Today, there is an acute paucity of required infrastructural development in the villages. I would like to congratulate the Chief Ministers of Punjab and Haryana as well as the State Government for the development they have made in their States after independence. They have made so much progress that out of the total production of foodgrains in India, Haryana and Punjab alone account for 50 percent production. The reasons behind it is that the Chief Ministers of these States belonged to the villages and were born in the farmers families. That is why they, understood the needs of villages and agriculture very well and they made schemes in their states accordingly as a result of which these two states have become the biggest producers of foodgrains in India. But Uttar Pradesh had more fertile land as compared to Punjab and Haryana. Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal have the most fertile lands but the agricultural development has not taken place in these States properly. In the present time, power is the most important factor for the agriculture development. Members of Parliament from all over the country talk about power in this House. Our Government had fixed a target to generate 30,000 megawatt power during the Eighth Five Year Plan but we would not be able to generate even 17000 megawatt power till the end of this Plan period. I would like to know that in such a situation how we would be able to achieve the objective of National Growth? Today, water is available at the level of 30-40 ft. in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Tubewells can be installed there and with the help of power crops can be irrigated through these tubewells. But not even a single power project or canal project has been sanctioned in Uttar Pradesh during the last six years. In Bihar also, situation is the same. I would like to urge upon you also that the Government should do something for the agricultural development but how it would be done? Just now my colleague was stating that infrastructural development is very necessary for that i.e. roads should be constructed to connect the villages with the cities, power be made available in the villages, farmers be apprised of the latest technique through Agriculture Research Centres so that they can enhance their production. You know it very well that the production of wheat was short by 31 lakh tonne and procurement was short by 4 lakh tonne last year. The hon'ble Minister of Agriculture is present here. Production should not be short in the country like ours. If you see that lands of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar you will find that these two states have the largest number of rivers and the largest quantity of water in the country. Water is available at the level of 30-40 ft in Bihar and

you can install tubewells there. Though, the Uttar Pradesh has the largest number of rivers and most fertile land, then what is the reason that Punjab and Haryana are producing the largest quantity of Foodgrains? The reasons is that Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have no sufficient infrastructural facilities. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit to the Government that now the Government is gong to prepare the draft of the Ninth Five Year Plan and if we want our country to be self reliant with regard to foodgrains, if we want to keep our economy strong if we want agricultural development, we will have to make available power to the villages which is their basic requirement.

[Translation]

The main target of 9th Five Year Plan should be Power generation Since the Government, in consultation with the Planning Commission, are fixing new priorities and formulating new policies, I request the Government to take power as main priority area. In 8th Five Year Plan, we have fixed the power generation target at 38 thousand m.w. During the regime of late Rajeev Gandhi, the target of generating 38 thousand m.w. power was fixed during 8th Five Year Plan period. The Rajeev Gandhi Government lost the election and a new Government came to the power. No Five Year Plan was formulated till 1990-91 and no power was generated. When the Government was formed in 1991, I requested the Government to set the power generation target at 38 thousand mw, if we had to fulfil the objective of national growth. But the 31st March is the last day of 8th Five Year Plan but we would not be believe to achieve the target of even 17 thousand m.w. If the national target for power generation is 17 thousand mw, then how would we be able to achieve our priorities? Today, U.S.A. is generating 7 lakh m.w. of power while its population is only 25 crore and Japan is generating 3.5 lakh m.w. of power while its population is just 12 crores while India having a population of 92 crores, is generating only 70 thousand mw of power. We are not even able to achieve the target fixed in this regard. If our population continues to increase at the present rate...*(Interruptions)* It is everyone's responsibility.

PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : It is the responsibility of those who were in power at that time.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : You cannot get rid of the responsibility by saying so...*(Interruptions)*

LT. GEN. SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria) : Last time the hon. Agriculture Minister in the same context had said that he was not the Minister of Power and you are putting so much thrust on power in the agriculture sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, the time allotted for discussion is about to finish but I have still a long list of speakers. If the House agrees, the time can be extended for one hour. Does the House agree?

[English]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : I have another Resolution listed in my name. It has to be introduced today and the time at our disposal is only two hours. If you extend it by an hour, then we will have to keep it strictly for sixty minutes; otherwise I will have to forego my chance.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time now expires at four o'clock. If we extend it by an hour, that means, It expires by five o'clock. And from 5.00 to 5.30, we will be left with another half an hour.

SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH (Tehri-Garhwal) : The Resolution on Uttarakhand is also important.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only one can be introduced.

SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH : Please do not extend the time. Let us stick to the time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am nobody to extend the time. I have to take the sense of the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, you extend it by half an hour...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : Please, extend the time of the House by one hour.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think, Agriculture is a very important subject. Sir, if we extend it by one hour, that would be better.

SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH : Sir, are you extending the time of the debate which is going on or the time of the sitting of the House?

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. We are extending the time of the debate on the Agricultural Policy.

So, with the consensus of the House, the time on this subject is extended by one hour from four o'clock to five o'clock.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Sir, I have absolutely no objection with the consensus of the House to extend its time by 60 minutes. But within that period the hon. Minister should be able to reply and an opportunity should also be given to Shri Anil basu. So, my submission is that you kindly restrict the speakers to their allotted time. Otherwise, I will not get a chance to move my Resolution which is also a very important one.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I agree with you.

I think, that is a very valid point made by him. Sir, I request all the speaker to kindly adhere to the time limit of 10 minutes, and after that the hon. Minister would like to take some time to reply.

[Translation]

All right. Shri Kalpnath Rai, you may carry on, please. Mr. Kalpnath, you are saying that power generation during 8th five Year Plan was less than the target fixed in this regard. If I am right, you were the Minister of power at that time.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : I had done the maximum job which is on the record.

Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on this resolution and all the members listened to me seriously... (Interruptions) This work is done by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. You are member of parliament.

I, would like to urge that if we intend to increase our agro-production, we will have to accord top priority to power sector because tube-well system can be operated only by power and the farmers can be provided water only through canals. I urge upon the Government to set power generation target at 60 thousand mw in the 9th Five Year Plan so that our backlog can be cleared and we may generate power as per the need of the country.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture is present in the House. The Government have reiterated many times that Krishi Vigyan Kendras would be set up in each district. Will the hon. Minister tell the House in how many districts in Uttar Pradesh, out of 68 districts, Krishi Vigyan Kendras have been set up so far alongwith the number of remaining districts? I am sorry to say that Krishi Vigyan Kendras cannot be set up under the present policy of the Government. I am of the opinion that either the Government should bear the responsibility of setting up Krishi Vigyan Kendras or pass on this responsibility to the State Governments. If the responsibility of setting up of these Kendras, will not shaped by the Centre and State, the target of setting these Kendras cannot be achieved. In this regard, my suggestion is that the hon. Minister of Agriculture should call a meeting of all the Members of Parliament of every State and the Executives of the Ministry, hear to their suggestions, put forward his point also, and discuss with them as to how the Krishi Vigyan Kendras can be set up in every district and how they are to be monitored and reviewed. We cannot achieve our target without it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have made good suggestion, now your time is over.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : In the end, after raising one more point, I am concluding my speech. I demand that the farmers should get remunerative price. At present, the farmers are not getting remunerative price for their products, as a result of which they are joining other professions. Today, a pan seller is in a better position as compared to a farmers. Unless farmers get remunerative price for their production, they are sure to be attracted in other professions.

Sir, only therefore, the Government should implement 'fix the price' policy. A balance should be maintained between the prices of factory products and agricultural products. Our hon. Minister of Agriculture know it well. I request him that the Government should intimate the 'fix the price' policy so that millions of farmers in the country may get remunerative price and also millions of people of the country may be engaged in agricultural work.

Sir, with these words, I conclude my speech and thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN (Barpeta) : Sir, I wish to speak in support of the Resolution moved by my colleague Shri Anil Basu. Everybody will agree that India being a country mostly dependent on agriculture, an overwhelming section of the population who are living in villages are agriculturists. Naturally the importance of the agricultural policy need not be overemphasized. It is very important that a new agricultural policy should be adopted, so that not only agriculture is developed, but also production is improved in such a way that the entire population can be fed.

The House is aware that by 2000 AD, India will require around 240 million tonnes of foodgrains. But the food production in our country is going down every year, though at a point of this time the production is around 190 million tonnes. Every year it is decreasing even though there is good monsoon. If this continues, by 2000 AD we will not be in a position to produce 240 million tonnes of foodgrains in India. It will be around 200 million tonnes. Naturally we will be facing a shortage of about 40 million tonnes. So, we require more production and also increase in the productivity in the agricultural sector.

But, it is seen that due to long neglect of the agricultural sector in our country, a situation has been created in which the required amount of foodgrains to attain self-sufficiency is not forthcoming. So, what is required fundamentally is to unleash the productive forces in the rural areas in our country. In rural areas mostly we have peasants. By peasant we cannot understand practically anything if the classification of the peasantry is not mentioned. There is a lot of scope of agriculture labourers in the rural areas, and there is concentration of land with certain sections of the people. Practically everyday a lot of land alienation is taking place. People are going landless. They are mostly agricultural labourers and poor peasants. Everyday their number is increasing. But there is no rule, there is no comprehensive law to safeguard the intense of agricultural labourers. These are the productive forces of our country. They have no relief because even today land is still concentrated in the hands of a few people. Those who produce are not having land, but those who do not contribute to the production of agriculture are having the land. This situation is impeding production in our country and at the same time this is also

contributing to the loss of productivity. So, what is required essentially is the completion of land reforms which is necessary for the development not only of agriculture, but in the interest of the entire country. It is a national problem; it is not a sectarian question of the peasants or of the rural population. It is entirely for the development of the country. If land reform is done, people in the rural areas who practically till the land, only they will have the land. Along with this their purchasing capacity and their economic standards will also increase. They can contribute a lot to the production in the rural areas. But it is completely neglected in our country. That is why though there is Green Revolution, though the production is a bit increase, it is not sufficient to feed the people of the entire country.

We have seen with the liberalisation policy of the previous regime how this creating a peculiar situation in our country. The farmers produce not only foodgrains, but they are also producing cash crops like cotton, sugarcane, etc. But what is the fate of the sugarcane grower? What is the fate of the cotton growers? They are languishing; they are not getting proper and fair price for their produce. Practically everyday there is a fluctuation in the price and as a result of the fluctuation in the price, the peasants are not getting back even the cost of their inputs into the agricultural production. As a result of the fluctuation of price, those who can hoard are earning a lot and those who are producing are losing.

16.00 hrs.

At the same time, we have necessarily to improve agriculture. An agricultural credit policy is necessary. Our peasants are not getting loans. Our cooperative banks are being practically swindled off. Our Government is also encouraging private sector banking in the rural areas. The private banks will not help the poor agriculturists. They will not encourage or help them. The private banks will not only not help the common peasants but instead will also help the landlords and it will undermine the cooperative bank sector which is helping a bit the common peasant for the development of agriculture in that area.

We have seen that some infrastructure is necessary for the development of agriculture. I am coming from Assam. Basically, there is about 32 lakh hectares of crop area; practically only two lakh hectares of land is being irrigated, though a lot of scope has been there. There is not only surface water but there is a lot of ground water also. But not practical step has been taken for the irrigation of the land. Floods are there; droughts area also there. The floods and droughts are practically inhibiting the peasant and the agriculturist. This is contributing to the continuing backwardness of the country. But it is not attended to properly. If floods are there, if droughts are there, not only the land and peasantry is affected but the country as a whole is affected. The entire water resources are not fully utilised

for irrigation. This is not helping us. It is not only creating problems for us, but it is creating a dangerous situation. It will lead to sorrow and not the happiness of the people of our country, particularly in that area, of Assam.

Sir, What is important is irrigation. Irrigation is neglected and at the same time power is also neglected. If floods of the Branch putra are controlled, there will not only be power but there will also be good irrigation. At the same time, there will be some recovery of land which can be cultivated by the people.

The land reforms are not taken care of properly in our country. During the years after the Independence, the Government has not taken up this issue and hence our entire resources are not fully utilised. It is creating a problem is the progress of our country and also agriculture in our country.

So, I urge that we should take into account all these things and frame a New Agricultural Policy. Some people say that we should go for export and then everything will be all right. But the international market has already been captured by some people. We are not in a position to export. If we export more, it will be at the cost of our people and our agriculture. So, I would like to say that for achieving self-sufficiency, more public investment should be made. If we do that, our agriculture will have a new look and it will help in our socio-economic development...*(Interruptions)* So, naturally we should have more land reforms, more public investments and more equitable and favourable agricultural policy for the peasantry, particularly for the poor peasants. It would encourage the poor peasants and it would contribute to the growth of agriculture. Then, there will be unleashing of forces in the rural areas which will lead to the growth of the country. It would contribute to the growth of agricultural productivity.

Sir, with these words I conclude.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, I strongly support the Resolution moved by Shri Anil Basu as their Resolution is about the Indian Agriculture and seeks to protect the interests of Indian farmers as well as to prepare the new policy for increasing productivity. This Resolution is infact very important because agriculture is the foundation of Indian economy and it is the backbone or rather the spirit of the rural economy. Agriculture provides employment to about 70 per cent people of our country. These people are totally dependent upon agriculture for subsistence. After 50 years of Independence, though we have been able to become self-sufficient in foodgrain production and we should be thankful to the farmers for that the whole country is grateful to the farmers and says 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan'. We hear this song quite often that 'Mere desh ki dharati sona ugle, ugle heera moti' which reveals that the farmers of our country have slogged to

produce such a huge quantum of foodgrains that India is now self sufficient in foodgrain production and we are also exporting the surplus foodgrains. However, today a situation has arisen in which we are facing foodgrains crisis and we have had to discuss the price-rise in the House. The Government had to request the foreign countries for import of foodgrains which shows our agricultural policy has some faults. Hence the Agricultural policy should be reviewed and a new national agricultural policy should be formulated.

The former Agriculture Minister Shri Balram Jakhar whilst speaking on the agricultural policy, presented a draft policy in the House. However even after discussions, the natural policy which should have been prepared, could not be formulated. The Agriculture Minister is present here. We expect him to bring a new agricultural policy in view of the present discussion and this agricultural policy should look after the interests of small, medium and middle class farmers. Uptil now, the agricultural policy used to protect the interests of landlords and big farmers. However in the hilly areas like Ajmer and Mewar, the battlefields of Rajasthan, there are small fields between the hills and these holdings are divided further. Consequently due to heavy rainfall and sometimes due to drought, at times because of excessive time gap of rainfall and the uncertainty of monsoons, farming is affected. Farming depends heavily on monsoons, we have good crops, better produce and a prosperous farmer. If monsoon does not arrive in time and there is too much of gap or there is a drought, the crops are destroyed. The farming system is thrown out of gear. I do not wish to repeat the points already put forth by my friends but I would like to draw the attention of the Agriculture Minister towards a very important aspect. The Government is spending a lot of money of soil conservation programmes but this money should be actually beneficial for genuine beneficiaries. The soil Conservation programme should be undertaken in the right earnest embankments should be there, the erosion of cultivable land should be checked and the land should be conserved. Water conservation i.e. water management is also important because rain water flows away. If soil conservation and water management is taken up in right spirit, small anicuts are constructed, minor irrigation schemes are taken up, small ponds are dug up, the rain water can be collected therein and then we will have water in the wells which can be used by the Farmers for irrigation purposes. This water can be drawn by conventional methods i.e. by using bullocks and then this water can be used for irrigation. Besides if electricity is made available the farmer may draw water for irrigation by using power or the diesel pump. However, the Government should pay utmost attention towards water management and soil conservation. Hon'ble Minister would say that he is not in charge of all these. But I would request the Central Government to form a Co-ordination Committee by clubbing together all the matters related to agriculture, be it power, Irrigation or water Resources or chemicals. Department

of Power or Ministry of Chemical and others related to farming should work in collaboration so that the problems ailing the agricultural sector can be solved immediately otherwise the same file keeps on shuttling from our ministry to another.

"Gyan door kuckh kriya bhinn hai,

Ichha jo poore ho man ki

Ek doosre se na mil saka.

Yahi vihdambana hai jeewan ki."

Hence appropriate adjustment is a must.

Through you, I would also like to submit that a number of Agricultural Universities have been set up in the country and Krishi Vigyan Kendras to have been set up in each district. But where these Kendras are not available, they should be set up very soon. The Research Centres are also doing good work. The agricultural scientists deserve to be praised. They have done research work for producing improved seeds, plants and have tried to find new techniques, but their Know-how must reach the farmers. The information should be disseminated amongst the farmers in an easily understandable manner, only then the farmers can be benefited. Now farmers have begun to understand the advantages of fountain system. The farmers should be trained to irrigate their fields by using less water and their knowledge must be constantly updated.

Farmers live in villages and there is illiteracy in villages because of which villagers are victims of superstitions. It is essential to make farmers literate in order to broaden their outlook so that they may adopt new techniques. Alongwith this, it is important to provide medical facilities in the villages. If all these facilities are made available, the farmers will be able to devote utmost attention to the farming forgetting all other worries you are living in Delhi and around Delhi the cultivable land of Gurgaon and Rewari is being acquired by big industrialists. Large scale industries are being set up there which are causing pollution. The poor farmer lured by the Good prices offered, sells the land which gives good produce year after year and provides food for people. Hon'ble Minister, is it possible that agricultural sector is suffering a set back because of industrialisation? It is true that the farmers too have become money-minded. Such a thing is heaping because people throughout the country are more concerned about earning more and more money. Now farmers are inclined towards producing cash-crops. If farmers keep on producing cash crops, how much food grains would be produced? If there is fall in production of foodgrains, we will have to face the shortage of foodgrains. That is why I would like to request the Minister of Agriculture through you that as far as possible, the sale of cultivable land should not be permitted. Alongwith this, land Ceiling Act and Land Reforms Act should also be implemented otherwise the farmer get embroiled in litigation. In India, the farmers born in debt, grow up and breathe their last in debt. Co-operatives and agricultural sector are

integrally related. Institutions such as the Agricultural Credit Co-operative committees, the Rural Credit Co-operative Committees, Land Development Banks should be strengthened and made more effective so that these institutions are able to provide loans to farmers during the sowing Season. Priority should be given to farmers in the matters like to fertilizers, seeds, purchase of Diesel or power driven machines.

Sir, there is commotion over the issue of subsidy that subsidy should stopped. Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say to the Government that ever in developed country like U.S.A., the farmers are given subsidy. Hence electricity should be provided to the farmers at cheaper rates and even if the Government has to give any amount of subsidy, power should be made available to farmers in time. Sir, if power is released for eight hours, only at night, had would the farmer be able to irrigate his field in the chilly night? Does not he feel the cold. The farmers of India - "sheet Kaanmpta jiske bhay se, aatap thanda pad jatta hai" is a person who keeps on providing foodgrains to the countrymen by zealously carrying on farming against all odds. The farmer has the capacity to keep the storehouses of the country full but we too should look after their interests.

Sir, the Multinational companies are coming ... (Interruptions) world Bank, Multinationals, W.T.O. agreements and GATT, Dunkel, agreements are there. Apart from this, talks are being held regarding seeds for India. These are being patented. In case of Commodities like brinjals and tomatoes and other crops, the farmers of India have been able to develop highly improved seeds and now that knowhow should not be transferred to the other countries and or farmers should not lag behind. The subsidy on fertilizers should not be stopped. The subsidy given on power or tractor etc. should not be withheld. The farmers should continue getting all sorts of subsidies on such items and the supporting price should be announced before the sowing of crops and that supporting price should be sufficient enough so that he recovers the cost of his produce and gets the remunerative price because when the traders in the markets offer Rs. 500 to the farmers but the Government offers only Rs. 300 or Rs. 375 so he will definitely suffer losses. As a result he would not sow crops like wheat and rice next time.

Sir, through you, I would like to make a request to the Government to introduce a new agricultural policy and continue giving subsidy to farmers. Now-a-days all sorts of international agreements are being signed under pressure of the World Bank but we should not let these agreements affect the interests of farmers ... (Interruptions)

Sir, the amount of loans and investment should not be reduced for agriculture. The quantum of loans and investment is rising in other sectors but in case of agricultural sector it is steadily going down. Sir, the

population of the country is increasing and on the other hand "bade muh aur ghatte Khalihan." Minister must have understood what I mean by that. I mean to say that the number of fields is decreasing and the number of people is increasing. The population is increasing hence it is extremely important to pay attention towards improved farming in order to meet the increasing demand and it is equally important to introduce reforms in agricultural sector. The crop Insurance schemes should be implemented and the rains water should be fully utilised. Full attention should be paid towards small irrigation schemes.

Sir, with these words, I support the Resolution and hope that the Government in order to make the farmers prosperous, will set up agro-based industries and promote the agro-processing industries. The Government should pay utmost attention towards all these points and due attention should be paid towards such important factors as irrigation, fertilizers, seeds, etc.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support this Resolution brought forward by our colleague, Shri Anil Basu, for a New Agricultural Policy. You know that during the last five years, we, most of the people of our country and peasantry, as a whole, have been engaged in opposing the so-called 'New Agricultural Policy' formulated by Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, hon. Minister in the previous Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev!

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : His Party.

AN HON. MEMBER : Sir, at that time, you were also in the Government.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : By and large, the basic feature of that policy was that it was formulated in the interests of big landlords, rich business and rural *kulaks*. Secondly, it was to give an opportunity to multinational companies to come, invest and exploit the land and cheap labour of this country. Thirdly, the priority was changed. Earlier, the priority was self-sufficiency in foodgrains. But they changed the priority from food crops to cash crops. The poor people are concerned with food but the rich peasants are concerned with crops which can be sold and exported and can earn a huge profit.

Fourthly, instead of self-sufficiency, this export oriented policy was formulated. Fifthly, all help regarding irrigation and finance was, by and large, given to rich peasants. Another feature was the gross neglect of the poor peasants, agricultural labourers and sharecroppers. Those people were totally neglected. They were forced to be the victims of distress sale. They are not getting subsidy or fertilisers or loans.

Another negligence was that there was no mention of the agricultural labourer in the last policy. You know that without agricultural labourer, there cannot be any agricultural product. Today, there is even no law for the eight crore agricultural labourers who are one of the main pillars of agriculture. There was no mention by the Government in the last policy.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How is the sharecropper protected in West Bengal?

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : That is the best policy in the world.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : Please tell us about that.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : I have no time. I will tell you in the Central Hall. What I want to say there, I will not be able to say now. But I can claim that that is the best policy in the world.

Our friend was speaking about Rajasthan. 'Land reforms' is a state subject. They are not interested in land reforms. Except West Bengal, Kerala and Jammu and Kashmir, there no land reforms. All talk about land reforms is a hoax.

Anyway, they are making laws about the land reforms. But they know that if land reforms come, the landlords have to give their land to the landless. So, they are against it. The lobbies of the *kulaks* and big landlords are opposed to land reforms.

Another thing was about reduction of subsidies. By and large, it is the framework of the last agricultural policy.

Some benefit might have reached here and there for the common people. But, by and large, these are the basic features of the last agricultural policy. Because of that, we opposed that policy.

During the last four or five years, that policy has been implemented. Three major results are very clear. One is decline in investment in agriculture. In spite of all talks of planning and all declarations, investment in agriculture has declined over the years.

The second result of the last agricultural policy is shortage of foodgrains. Yesterday, we discussed it. The discussion is still going on. There is a shortage of foodgrains in the country. The third result is that the overall growth in agriculture is very very slow.

Before this new policy, the growth was much more. So, these are the basic results of that policy before us. Because of that, we opposed the old agricultural policy. We demand that a New Agricultural Policy should be framed.

What is happening is because of the agricultural policy. Yesterday I want to address a rally where hundreds of people came from the State of Madhya Pradesh to protest against the decision of the Madhya Pradesh Government who have decided to give a stretch - 600 kilometer long and 101 kilometer wide - of the ravines of Chambal for making some sanctuaries. One

multinational company, namely, M/s Maxwell has been given two lakhs acres of land on the ravines of Chambal. The company would now clear the ravines and start the production for whatever product they like. Now, 37 sanctuaries are going to be constructed in Madhya Pradesh which should amount to lakhs of people losing their land in that area. We are not against protection of the animals. You should protect the animals, but it should not be done at the cost of the interest of the poor people. I do not know what would happen if these lakhs of people are evicted from there for the proposed construction of those 37 sanctuaries. Hundreds of people came to protest against this decision. I think, they have also given a memorandum to the Agriculture Minister on this. This is how we are surrendering before the multinational companies like Coca Cola and others. Now new companies are entering into this country. It is in this context that we wanted a New Agriculture Policy.

Sir, fourteen Parties have now come together to form the United Front. We suggested an outline for the formulation of the new Agriculture Policy. This Agriculture Policy has to be formulated. It should be translated into action by the Government. It should be a Government policy. I would like to know as to how the Ministry of Agriculture is going to formulate the Agriculture Policy on the basis of the guidance given by the United Front.

Sir, it says that agricultural sector cries for reforms. We say, it needs reforms. Nobody is opposed to that. In the past what has been done in the land reforms, what will happen now? The representatives of *kulak* lobby are present everywhere. They are very powerful. They cannot be touched. You cannot levy a tax on the landlords. It has been our demand as to why the tax net is not being broad based. Why should there not be tax for agriculture? The Government would do everything for them but why should they not be made to pay for the country? But you cannot put agricultural tax. With one plea or the other you will run away. The landlord lobby is very strong. They would oppose it. Representatives of this lobby gets a place in every Government and they oppose it. They would not allow to pass the Agricultural Labour Act.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Hannan Mollah, are you advocating for imposition of agricultural tax?

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Definitely. Agricultural tax should be imposed not on the poor peasants and middle peasants but on the rich peasants, the *kulaks*, the agro-industrialists and big farmers. Why will they not pay tax? They are earning. They are not poor people.

Sir, it is mentioned that no strategy of economic reforms and regeneration can succeed without sustained and broad-based agricultural development. We know that this landlord lobby would not permit the passing of the Agricultural Labour Act. We have been demanding for this for the last fifteen years. The law has been drafted five times. Even it has been done by this

Government also. But still it has not been passed. The Prime Minister had promised to pass it in this Session of Parliament but it has not been brought in this Session also. We know that the representatives of the *kulak* lobbies are opposing the passing of this Bill, which is in the interest of the poor people, in order to protect the vested interests. This is how the things are.

Sir, This policy directed that investment in agriculture would be stepped up. I would like to know as to how it is going to be done. It has also been mentioned that all controls and regulations that are in the way of increasing the income of the farmers will be reviewed immediately and abolished wherever found unnecessary. I would like to know as to whether the Government have created any machinery to examine this policy and formulate it on the basis of that.

Controls on the movement of agricultural products and on the processing of agricultural products will be abolished, and measures will be taken to ensure that farmers receive fair and remunerative prices of their produce.

This was long standing demand. The farmers should get a good return. They are serving the country. They are feeding the country. Without agriculture we are nothing. But they do not get a good return. I come from West Bengal. About sixty lakh jute growers are languishing there. Jute price has come down. They are not getting good prices and, therefore, they are demanding an increase in the price. Similarly, take the case of cotton. I went to Rajasthan. There was a big 'dharna' and road block because cotton is being dumped in the godowns and nobody is there to purchase it. The Cotton Corporation is sleeping. These type of things are happening. People are suffering because of it. So, a remunerative price should be ensured. What is the policy of the Government in regard to this? The Minister should explain it while replying to the debate.

Special attention will be devoted to augmenting rural infrastructure. What is the Government's planning to augment the rural infrastructure to help rural agriculture? This should be explained by the Minister. A special plan for infrastructure development will be taken up in the 100 most backward and poorest districts of the country.

I would like to know whether those districts have been identified and whether certain direction has been given to the Ministry in this regard. We would like to be clarified by the Minister as to whether the work has started on it or not.

The rural credit system will be restructured so as to double the flow of credit to agriculture and agro-industries, particularly to small and marginal farmers within five years.

How the rural financial institutions are being geared up in this respect? Banks and financial institutions are very eager to give loan to rich people and not to small and poor farmers. They are not there to help them in calamity. What is the policy of the Government and how

it can double the flow of credit to agriculture, specially to small and marginal farmers?

A national policy on water sharing and water management will be devised in order to save farmers all over the country from recurrent floods and droughts.

We have discussed flood and drought in this House. we demanded a master plan to protect the country from such drought and flood. What is the policy of the Government with regard to water management and water sharing?

Agencies that supply inputs to farmers will be professionalised and where found feasible converted into farmer-owned cooperatives.

Regarding cooperatives, what policy the Government has formulated, I would like to know.

Agricultural research and extension organisations will be thoroughly overhauled. The most modern technology will be brought to the farm sector, for example, bio-technology for livestock and cold storage for agro-processing.

What is the Government's policy in this regard? Today, hundreds of scientists of CSIR demonstrated before the office of CSIR. We went there to address them. They are the scientists. They are supposed to help us to build a self-reliant agricultural industry but they are on the streets. I would like to know whether the Government has formulated this policy of research and development; if so, how they are going to bring this technology.

A Comprehensive law will be made by Parliament in respect of agricultural workers to guarantee them minimum wages and fair conditions of work, crop insurance and other rights.

We have been demanding a Comprehensive Central law for agricultural workers. The Government has promised that a comprehensive Central law for agricultural workers will be placed before this House. The Government should make a declaration in this regard.

States will be encouraged to implement land reforms by plugging the legal and administrative loopholes. States will also be urged to make a law dealing with land records including record of tenancy rights. In cooperation with the States, larger funds will be allocated for irrigation and extensions of cultivation.

The hon. Minister must explain as to how the Government is going to formulate these guidelines given by the United Front into Government policy and as to how they are going to implement it. He must explain as to how the Government is going to protect the interests of the poor peasants and agricultural labourers, the food security and self-reliance in agriculture. The hon. minister must also explain as to how they are

going to formulate a proper New Agricultural Policy in place of the old anti-peasant Agricultural policy. I would like the hon. Minister to address all these issues when he intervenes. I hope that from his speech we will get an outline of the New Agricultural Policy for this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, there are still nine hon. Members on the list of speaker after which the hon. Minister has to give his reply, and the time remaining is very short. If you all agree, we will restrict the time to five minutes each. Up to now it was ten minutes each but all the hon. Members were taking 15 minutes each. If you agree, we will restrict the time. Otherwise, some Members may not get a change to speak at all.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : So, I request the speakers who are going to take part in the debate now the kindly stick to the subject and make short and pointed speeches.

[Translation]

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT (Hamirpur) (U.P): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the resolution brought forwarded by our friend, Shri Anil Basu for new Agricultural Policy.

The Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi used to say that the villages and farmers are the soul of the country. But today condition of farmers is very pitiable. They are facing poverty and hunger. The farmer who is called the Annadata is on the streets today. He who ploughs the field, produce foodgrains, is dying of starvation due to the policies of the Government. He is in miserable condition.

The Government have changed but the agricultural policy has not changed at all. The attitude of the Government against the farmers has not changed. Today the United Front Government claims that it is the Government for the farmers and the Hon'ble Prime Minister himself says that he is a son of a poor farmer but it does not seem so from their works. Until now the Government of United Front has not done any such work on the basis of which it can claim that it is the government of the poor, farmers and it is working for the poor farmers. Our Agriculture Minister also belongs to party of poor farmers and labourers and he contests elections on the shoulders of that organisation but I am very sorry to say that Agriculture Minister has not done a single work in favour of farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Give him some more time. He has been given very little chance.

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Our late Prime Minister Choudhary Charan Singh had said that the path to prosperity of the Nation does not pass through the roads of Delhi and Bombay rather it passes through fields and barns of 5.75 lakhs villages of the country where 80 percent of the total population of the country

is farmers, the Government should spend 80 percent of total budget on the farmers. Rather the Government use to spend that money on those metropolises where only few people of the country live and exploit the farmers

16.41 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the chair)

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government frames such policies because, the high officials in the Government have no rural background. They belongs to the urban areas and their tendency is to develop the urban areas only. Neither they realise nor they pay any attention towards the problems of villages. The policies framed by the Government are such that helps in plantation. But in big towns fountains are installed so that the grass and the flowers of the parks are not destroyed. But the Government is unable to provide water for the crops standing in the fields. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the need of the hour is to provide the infrastructural facilities in the 5.75 lakhs of villages of our country.

The Government should provide basic necessities to the farmers such as electricity, means of irrigation, canals, tubewells, small check dams and ponds and metalled roads should be constructed there. A little subsidy is given to the farmers but the farmers are not getting electricity and water for irrigation, metalled roads have not been constructed there to enable the farmers to take their crops to the market. There are no schools for their children, no medical facilities have been extended to the villages. Unless we provide the infrastructural facilities in the villages, the farmers of the country cannot prosper. Sir, through you I would like to tell the Minister of Agriculture that there has been 35 crore hectare barren land in the country at present which can be made cultivable. Today, the number of unemployed youths is more than 10 crores in the country. If the Government agrees to spends money to make this barren land cultivable and thereby distributes this 35 crores hectare land among the unemployed youths of the country in the ratio of 5 hectare per youth, then we can provide employment to the seven crores unemployed youths of the country. I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture to the fact that if government provides fertilizers, electricity and water in time to cultivats the 35 crore hectare barren land the country can repay the foreign debt within the period of five years.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : What is the amount of foreign debt outstanding against the country?

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Per capita loan is about Rs.6000. Rai Sahib is interviewing me.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are the son of a farmer and 53 percent members of this Parliament have rural background but with regret and I have to say that a private member's resolution has been brought here to

discuss about the condition of farmers. But the problems of the farmers and strengthening the infrastructure in rural area is very rarely discussed in the House. Now the situation is this that if the farmers owes the loan has to pay the stamp duty for and if he is unable to repay the instalments of loan in time then he is imprisoned by the officials of the Tehsil and on the other hand if millions billions of rupees are outstanding against a capitalist and he does not repay that loan he is not imprisoned. Is this the Government of the poor people when a farmer takes loans to purchase a tractor then he has to mortgage his land and pay stamp duty but when a capitalist takes loan from the Government to set up a factory then he is not supposed to mortgage his property. I would like to ask the government why such stepmotherly treatment is being given to this farmers of the country. Therefore, there is nothing wrong if I call this Government as the Capitalist-Government. The Governments have changed but there has been no change in its attitude. If it is the Government for the farmers then farmers should also be provided the same facilities as are being provided to the rich people of the country. Ours is an agricultural based country. 80 percent population of the country depends on agriculture. If farmers of this country are in such a poor condition, then how can this country prosper. If the farmers does not have money or purchasing power then the businessman will also not be able to run its business. Therefore, everything depends on the condition of farmer of the country. Now the need of the hour is to improve the economic condition of the farmer so that both the businessmen and the farmer can prosper.

Sir, through you I would like to give some suggestions to the Government. I would like to say that the Government should introduce a new agricultural policy and give agriculture the status of industry so that the farmers could get all the facilities that are being given to the rich people e.g. they get electricity, water throughout the day, there are metalled roads in urban areas, they have the facility of schools and hospitals. All these should also be provided to the farmers.

My second suggestion is that when an industrialist manufacture cloths or shoes then he himself determine the process fits product but the farmer can never determine the price of his crop. The price for this products is fixed by the business men. I would like the Government to frame such policy so that the farmer should have the right to fix the price for their agricultural products and he could get the remunerative prices for it. Today, when the price of the machines and equipments used in agricultural sector is increasing, the prices of fertiliser, diesel, tractor, irrigation, electricity are increasing but the prices of agricultural products have not been increased.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Rajputji, please conclude now.

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Yes, I am concluding. The Government should consider over it

very seriously that such arrangement are made that farmers could get reasonable price for the agricultural products keeping in view its increasing cost. I would also like to say that today the farmers reeling under burden of loans and is unable to repay it and to recover loan from him, he is being sentenced to imprisonment again and again. I therefore, demand that interest of the loans of such farmers should be waived off and only principal money should be recovered during the next year they should be given loan at a very low rate of interest.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Thank you. Please sit down.

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, proper arrangements should be made by the Government for the education of the children of farmers because the percentage of illiteracy is the highest in villages. Today not even one percent of the villagers are graduate. Throughout India no one from the family of farmers is an I.A.S. or I.P.S. officer because the policies are made by these people. Therefore, unless and until the sons of the farmers become I.A.S. and I.P.S. officers, no policy would be made in favour of farmers. One who is from the family of farmers, born in hut, ploughing the fields and grazing cattle can understand the problems of the farmers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, you please sit down.

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am concluding. The Government should open Agriculture Science Centre in every district. The Minister of Agriculture is aware of the fact that my Bhudelkhand area is very backward area and there is Agricultural University. I shall be grateful if an Agriculture Science Centre is opened there with these words. I conclude.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you that you have given me a chance to speak on very important issue. I beg pardon from my friends, especially from Shri Sukdeo Paswanji because I have requested the Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker to speak in his place and he too have acceded to my request as I am in hurry.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today here we are discussing the agricultural policy. First of all I am thankful to Shri Anil Basu Saheb who has brought this motion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yadavji, you were saying that you were in hurry but you are as slow as passenger train. Please be quick in your speech.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the train is always slow initially but gradually it gains the speed.

The United Front Government is pro farmers and its leader hon'ble H.D. Deve Gowda ji and the Minister of Agriculture hon'ble Shri Chaturanan Mishraji are themselves farmers and as just now our colleague

Shri Ganga Charan Rajput has told that it is for the first time that 54 to 55 percent members of this Parliament are sons of the farmers in this Parliament. Perhaps for the first time in the history of the country the leaders have represented the farmers of the country in such a large number in this Parliament. The Parliament is the Supreme legislature of the nation and while discussion on the agricultural policy we shall certainly pave the way for the framers of the country with the co-operation of the hon'ble Minister. 70 percent of the population of India depends on the agriculture, therefore the maximum amount should be spent on the farmers. The United Front Government has for the first time decided to spend 60 percent of its Budget on agriculture which includes rural development and irrigation as well. It is a good beginning this budget allocation needs to be increased. Several hon'ble members have told that if we give special attention towards agriculture, only then we and our next generation would be free from the foreign indebtedness. Our indebtedness to foreign countries is increasing day by day. Our per capita indebtedness amounts to Rs.6000. Even our future generation is under debt. If we pay attention towards agriculture and gear up our agricultural policy then certainly we would be free from debt. This is the only solution to get rid of the foreign debt. The Government should try to pay attention to these suggestions and formulate schemes to increase the production so that the 70 percent of the population which depends on agriculture could earn their livelihood properly.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The extended time is over. In this last session of the House it has been decided that discussion on any resolution or private members Bill will not be more than four hours. If it is to be extended for one more hour then I shall request the hon'ble Minister to intervene. Thereafter he may reply, otherwise the other bills and resolution will remain undiscussed. They are also important.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If the time is extended for one hour more then it will continue in next session. You may decide as to what should be done? In any case time will not be extended beyond four hours.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Please give me a chance to speak for a minute.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What will happen in one or two minutes. Earlier it was decided to allow five minutes to you but it could not be completed even in five minutes. Tell me not what has to be done? Whether you want an extension of half an hour or for one hour.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : How can it be extended on his request? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Let this resolution be introduced and then you can extend as much as you like. *(Interruption)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It will not be possible. At half past five there is a half an hour discussion. If the hon'ble Minister and the mover also give reply then it can be completed even earlier.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, please allow him to introduce his Resolution. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : How will it be possible? It is possible only after it is concluded.

(Interruptions)

PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT : This resolution is important. Please introduce it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Alright I extend the time by one more hour.

[English]

Now I request the hon'ble Minister to reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Sir will I be able to introduce my Resolution today? I want assurance from you. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is why I am doing so.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I shall conclude in a minute. Let me speak first.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Well, you may speak.

MR. RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I am concluding after putting forth one or two points. There are three sources of water in India surface water, rains and underground water. Unless a unit is constituted for this purpose and arrangements of distribution are made, irrigation will not be done properly. Unless you consider it as an unit the country cannot process in agriculture.

17.00 hrs.

Secondly, it would have to be made lucrative. Agriculture would have to be given the status of industry. Unless it is made lucrative and the youth participate in agriculture, this sector cannot develop. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Shri Yadav, please take your seat. This is too much. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : With these words I would like to thank the United Front Government and to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture. *(Interruptions)* They have started working for the farmers and I hope they will continue it in future also.

so that the farmers of this country may progress and in agriculture is made attractive field of activity
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Thank you, thank you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have thanked you so many times. Please take your seat

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I am grateful to you, to the hon'ble Minister and to the House and conclude
...(Interruption)

[English]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Please allow me for only one minute

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, it is not possible now.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : I am grateful to the Hon'ble member Shri Anil Basu as he has brought such an important matter in this House. I am also grateful to all those hon'ble members who have given effective suggestions. I am very happy that all the members of all the parties in the House are unanimous that the agriculture should be developed. The most pleasant thing is that our friend from B.J.P. also saying that the land ceiling should be implemented strictly. While some people in the country are asking for nullifying the ceiling laws it is a matter of happiness that the House is in favour of continuing it. If you all are having unanimous view than we agree with you that we shall not remove land ceiling, we will continue it.

The proposals moved by him pertain to the agriculture policy. This House and the other House had discussed it in 1955 and during the discussion many suggestions had come. In view of those suggestions we shall present it in a new form before you... (Interruptions)

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Whether you will implement the ceiling in urban areas?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Urban Area is not our subject matter. You are asking us about what is not our concern. We can reply only when you ask about a subject of our concern

I would like to draw the attention of my friends Shri Basu and Shri Hannan Mollah to the fact that though the earlier policy was fail but it also envisaged that the small and marginal farmers would be given priority.

[English]

"Item No.2: Indian agriculture is basically dependent on the endeavours of the small

and marginal farmers. Then, the policy would be so pursued as to channelise their energy for exerting greater production"

[Translation]

It was already there is the earlier policy
...(Interruptions) As I have said the people of congress who had drafted the earlier policy, they were also of this view. That is why I said that if you all have unanimity in this regard, then it will be a good thing.

Suggestions from all the concerned departments of the Government have come. Suggestions from the Planning Commission is yet to come. Thereafter we shall call conference of State agriculture Ministers because it is a state subject

And after knowing their view we will finalise the Agriculture Policy. I hope that this House will allow us to do so. You have brought the Motion at the time when we ourselves are going to do so. The salient features of both are the same. Therefore, we can adopt the Motion if you wish. We have no objection to it. However, if you think that it should not be adopted as the Government is going to finalise its policy, it is upto you... (Interruptions)

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : If you give assurance, they will withdraw it.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : It is upto you
...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : I would like to raise only two points... (Interruptions) I want clarification from the hon'ble Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, no. Do not ask me if Bill is not taken up now... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It cannot be our in this way

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : The Hon'ble Member has raised a question about GATT that if GATT agreement is accepted by our country how the traditional rights of the farmers would be safeguarded? Two different opinion have been expressed in this regard. Some people are of the view that we would benefitted much by adopting GATT while others think that GATT would affect adversely. But I do not believe in that. I only want to tell you that all of us one unanimous on the point that the farmers' rights should be protected. We have drafted the Bill and we would send it to the Law Ministry next week. I want to tell you that we would not lease our farmers unsafe in the hands of the foreigners at any cost. The next thing in this direction is that the present era is a science era in which importance of science has increased to great extent and thus the importance of agricultural science has also increased to larger extent. It is being preserved that in some of the next decades, Bio-technology and Genetic Engineering will become dominant to such an extent that 60-70 per cent of foreign trade will be done only by these sectors. To meet this challenge, we have

decided to upgrade our research institutes and agricultural research Universities or colleges. We would constitute a committee soon in this regard after consulting experts in the field. On 16th of this month we are convening a meeting of consultative committee of my Department. We would obtain the concrete suggestions of the hon'ble Members. Secondly, we would co-ordinate the system under which money is spent separately for the same research so that more research work can be done with the less money. It may be possible that we have to seek some financial assistance. So as to promote the research in the field.

A change is taking place in the farmers society. Today, youth in a large number having education upto tenth or 10+2 standard are taking keen interest in agriculture. They want to do mechanised farming. If they are asked to plough, they will not do but if they are asked to drive tractor or to operate power tiller, they will definitely do it. I am of the view that new generation should be imparted education about agriculture from the very secondary level so that they can accept this challenge. I am making efforts for that.

The most important task before us, about which the hon'ble Members have also made a mention is that we should be self reliant so far as the matter of foodgrains is concerned, we should be able to produce such a large quantity of foodgrains that we may have export thereof to the other countries. I do not want to criticise the former Government. I want to tell you that if we compare the agricultural productivity of our country with Japan, it works out to one fourth of the agricultural productivity of that country. But if we compare the productivity of Bihar, West Bengal and eastern parts of Uttar Pradesh with that of Punjab and Haryana it comes to half or less than half.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : If we take China?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Leave China. I am talking about Japan but you are talking of China. You have more knowledge about China. I am just telling about the position of our country. If these states produce even equal to the half of the production of Punjab and Haryana, we may become self reliant as far as foodgrains are concerned. The agricultural area of these states is 70 per cent whereas area of Punjab and Haryana where green revolution has taken place is only 30 per cent. We are making programmes for the 70 per cent area. We will hold a discussion on the point about which Shri Rajput ji is very much concerned that we have taken no steps in this direction...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI I.D. SWAMY (Karnal) : You should not ignore the Punjab and Haryana which have 20 and 30 per cent area while flourishing the 70 per cent area...*(Interruptions)* Punjab and Haryana should also be taken altogether in the process of agriculture development.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I have told you many times and I repeat it once again that we would

make efforts to develop the remaining 70 per cent area continuing all the facilities to Punjab and Haryana. Our approach will be that if this remaining 70 per cent area produce foodgrains as per. the requirements, and if we say that West Bengal is making progress, let it make required procurement, let Bihar make required procurement, we would feed the entire north east region alongwith our own region. Then, we will not have to spend money on freight transportation from Haryana. We will provide grains to the South after procuring it from Orissa on cheaper rates and also to the north-east. Besides this, we can keep the grains produced in Haryana reserve for export purpose and thus we will move smoothly towards our objective. It is our strategy which I have put before you. I am telling you what we have started.

The first step which we are taking and which is in the interest of all farmers is that we are getting the soil of each Gram Panchayat tested. In Bihar, we have started this work and we have also sent a team to Orissa. We have also started soil testing in Indore region of Madhya Pradesh. I myself visited West Bengal and said that we would conduct soil testing in Midnapur district centrally which is the biggest district of West Bengal and remaining testing will be done by them...*(Interruptions)* You said that small area have not been covered under this strategy. I want to tell you that if this soil testing is completed, our poor farmers may understand that which fertilisers and what quantum thereof they should use otherwise their lands will become infertile and what crop they should produce and which crops will be better yield. We have got soil health cards printed which give all there informations as to which kind of fertilisers in what amount farmers should use in their fields. Our scientists would go door to door and they will give these cards to concerned farmers on the spot after conducting the soil testing of the villages. We have started this task.

Sir, I have already informed the hon'ble Members that we want to open atleast one agriculture science centre in each district. We have prepared a list of 100 most backward districts of the country and sent it to the Planning Commission two months back for clearance. We are seeking advance and we will manage with this money only. We have asked for Rs. 36 crore as advance and it will be adjusted in the next year. If it is possible to cover 100 districts in this budget then we cover up rest of the districts of the country in the next budget. Then, we would be able to provide one agriculture science centre to each district. I had talked to the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission. He told me that the list has been sent to the Ministry of Finance and as soon as they received it back...*(Interruptions)* First let me complete my point...*(Interruptions)* We have worked out the district-wise requirements of seed and varieties for the entire country. We have two corporations. We would get a depot opened in each district and our next step would be that there should be a dealer in each

Block so that farmers can get these seeds where they want to get it. There will be the high yielding seeds. As a result thereof, production will increase. Small farmers will also be able to produce more. We have prepared a plan for that. I want to tell you that my colleague Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat ji has said about subsidy. "Yesterday a delegation of World Bank had come to us to discuss about subsidy as the World Bank is very concerned about subsidy. We have put an alternative proposed before them about which they will take a decision in the month of February-March. We are in favour of minimising subsidy without increasing prices. You must have read it in today's newspaper. Some of you have doubt. Though, I should not say it because the hon'ble Members can not have any doubt, only Government may have apprehension. But I can say that the farmers are not getting benefit of the subsidy. I would like to take two minutes more for that. People say that subsidy is being given on electricity. I would like to say that PLF of electricity is very low. There is a lot of power pilferage. We can get the amount equal to the subsidy given to the farmers if we are able to lesson the power pilferage only by five per cent in ten years. It is said that subsidy is being given to the farmers but pilfers take its benefit. The prices of Urea in our country is less by three to four thousand per tonne than prices of that Urea imported from other countries. You do not give us but you subsidise the other countries and say that farmers are being provided subsidy.

You have said about sugar that a subsidy of Rs. 800 crore is being given on it. Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra are main sugar centres. In Maharashtra recovery is made by the corporations which is 10-11 per cent and in Uttar Pradesh it is between 9 to 10 per cent. It is in the private sector. We said to the World Bank that private sector was friend of yours. The profit has been taken away by them. Their machines remain out of order due to which recovery remains less as a result of which prices go up. The rate of their sugar comes out to Rs. your per k.g. If we are able to increase the level of recovery, we can cut the amount of subsidy without increasing the prices of sugar. But unfortunately, the private sector of sugar industry is sick and this is the responsibility of that sector only. Now private is compelling the Government not to decontrol it. Earlier Government had made a policy so as to remove the control and it had actually done so. The present Government was also following the same path. But as soon as the people come to know that control is being removed an uproar begins in the market that there is no wheat in the market and at last we are compelled to the same impose restrictions. We have told the World Bank that the Government of India has been friendly to the market.

[English]

The Government of India is friendly to the market but the market is not friendly to the Government of India.

[Translation]

Thus these people compel the Government. I can tell about each subsidy.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I do not know how much time Shri Anil Basu will take. I do not want to curtail his time. I would like to conclude it at 5.25 p.m.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I have already told you about crop insurance scheme which will be based on Panchayats and small and medium farmers will be brought under its purview. We have sent this scheme to the Ministry of Finance. You have mentioned about market in which the share of benefit of middlemen is very high. So far as jute is concerned we have constituted a Committee in this House. Hon'ble Members are the members of the Committee. As soon as this Committee presents its reports the purpose would be served. As far as cotton is concerned, a committee has been constituted in the other House. The profit of the middlemen will be reduced and suggestions received in this regard would be accepted. We are entrusting that responsibility to you. A women Committee has also been constituted to look into the problems of women farmers. We will take action according to the report of the Committee.

You told that a lot of degraded land was lying unused. You can hold a discussion on it. If you become unanimous about it, we can take some decision in this regard. There is 19 acres of degraded land which is lying unused. If all the parties especially leftists agree and allow us to do something, we can definitely find a way out. It will provide employment to at least 20-25 percent people. We will not give ownership or proprietorship to any other persons but only to the poor. We are really to do so if you consider it unanimously. We will have no objection to it and we will do it.

Discussion was also held on co-operative here. We have constituted a committee of all who belong to cooperative. We have given representation almost to all the parties in it. We have received a suggestion from them and one more suggestion is also expected to be received. We will make an amendment to the co-operative Act very soon. We have asked the banks to increase the credit. We have also contacted the World Bank in this regard. Please give some idea about it. We do not have correct figures of it. Our Government is taking action in this direction. Nothing has been finalised so far in this regard. A final decision will be taken in the next plan about it. We would allocate around Rs. 60 crore for the agriculture and village development i.e. we will double it. We will double the present expenditure so that the benefit may reach them... (Interruptions) If you want to give them equal status, we will have to levy tax on farmers also... (Interruptions) If you are insisting on giving them equal status, you should also listen to us. We will have to levy tax on them as is being levied on industries.

The hon'ble Member Shri Hannan Mollah has said that they should levy income tax on them. But this is a State subject. If the Government of West Bengal takes initiative in this direction, the rest of the country will also follow it. Therefore, you should get it done. This is a State subject. How can we encroach on it? ...*(Interruptions)* I have just said but you did not hear it. We have constituted 3 Committees. You should decide something and we are ready to provide but you should keep in mind one thing that we do not want to increase the prices of any commodity so much that people are forced to starve. If unfortunately it happens, you will bring Calling Attention Motion. We do everything keeping in mind the interests of the poor. If we increase the prices of cotton, handloom weavers will have to face starvation. If we increase the electricity charges to a large extent, landless people will die to hunger. After keeping a balance, we are ready to provide as much subsidy as we can.

We are not against this Resolution

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : You have not said anything about agro-based industry.

[English]

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : The agro-based industry is not my subject. I am in favour of that; that should be done, but time lag is there and industry cannot be opened within a minute.

[Translation]

If you want we can also pass resolution. If you have faith on us, we can leave it. I leave it to the will of the House. We do not want division on this issue. You said it to be done unanimously, we are ready for that. I have requested to give some time that after taking the opinion of Agriculture Ministers' Conference, I will do it. Taking this point in view, if the hon. Member take it back then I shall pay my thanks to him and if he continues it, even then I shall pay thanks to him.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member raised precise worthy points which cast an impression that they are going to bring a sea change. 70 per cent population of the country lives in villages. The average of agriculture in national income during the last 40 years has fallen from 60 percent to 30 percent. 70 percent people are still engaged in agriculture but the area of agriculture has decreased by 4 percent. As per the figures with me, as compared to Budget in Central Plan of 1991-92, the allocation for agriculture and co-operative was 2.6 percent but it has fallen down to 1.69 percent in 1996-97, which shows that there has been constant decline. The outlay for agricultural researches should be one percent while it was only 0.32 percent during 8th Five Year Plan. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister to pay attention towards these matters.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I have already told that I am considering for 60 crores.

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Mr. Deputy-Speakers, Sir, I am very much grateful to all the hon. Members who participated in the discussion on my Resolution. I am also grateful to the hon. Minister of Agriculture who has explained the present position of the United Front Government in regard to the formulation of a New Agricultural Policy. He has also said that he was in complete agreement with my Resolution and that he had no objection if the Resolution was adopted in the House, as the Government itself was coming before this House with a New Agricultural Policy which is at the stage of formulation now. I am very much thankful to all the sections of the House including the Government for expressing solidarity with my Resolution.

Sir, I brought this Resolution because I was deeply concerned about the decline in the investment in agriculture for the last two or three years. There is also a decline in the growth of agriculture and in the production of foodgrains. It is all because of the new economic policy of the previous Government. The whole strategy of the previous Government was to lease out the development of agriculture to the richest section of the farmers and also to the market forces. The New Agricultural Policy which was adopted by the previous Government was an outcome of the New Economic Policy. At that time, it was thought that the prices of agricultural commodities would be higher and there would be a good return for agriculture. They also thought that more investment would come from the private sector and the production would increase. That was the perception at that time.

For this purpose, the Government of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao had withdrawn the role of the Government in regard to public investment for the development of agriculture and also in all sectors like irrigation, power, infrastructure development, marketing etc. The allocation was reduced in the field of research and development during the last two or three years. So, that was a great concern to our country. If we cannot arrest the decline in production and if we are not able to maintain the growth in agricultural production, it would create a serious to the whole economy itself, because ours is a big country, a great nation with more than 90 crores of people. We have to feed our people, we have to maintain our economy and we have to bring our people above the poverty line. So, if the agricultural sector is neglected and the whole responsibility is given to the private sector, then this very important sector of the economy would not survive and that would bring a total peril to the economy of the country. That was the main concern why, I brought this Resolution. Now, I am very much thankful to all the sections of the House, because they have extended their full support.

Even in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Eighth Five Year Plan by the Planning Commission - this is for the information of my good friend Shri Ramesh Chennithala - during the Congress Government, it is stated

"An impact of adoption of new economic policies the availability of food per person in the country was going down, investment in agriculture was falling, the fertiliser use was not growing at the rate expected and the Government's skewed pricing policy was leading to an imbalance in fertiliser application with adverse consequence for soil productivity and fertility."

This is the mid-term appraisal of the Planning Commission. It further says:

The peak level agricultural production of 186 million tonnes was recorded in 1994-95. Yet the per head food availability in the country kept going down. In 1992, the per person food availability went down to 468 grams per day and then fell further to 460 grams per day in 1993.

Sir, though there is some increase in the food production in some years, yet the per person food availability is coming down. So, this is the mid-term appraisal of the Planning Commission of the previous Government

Shri Ramesh Chennithala has also supported my Resolution. I also support the major portion of his speech. But I cannot agree with some portion of his speech. So, there are 10 or 11 sectors to which more importance should be given.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Basu, please conclude.

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, we lost 15 minutes. So, we will get 15 minutes more.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Ten minutes were there I am aware of that. But another resolution is to be introduced.

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, I can assure Shri Drona that I would conclude quickly so that he could move his Resolution

Sir, there are ten important sectors. The decline in investment should be arrested. The Minister has already said about the land reforms. It is also the declaration of the Revenue Ministers' Conference which was held on 27th December, 1995 in Delhi. They formulated some policies and those policies have to be implemented throughout the length and breadth of the country. Whenever we speak about land reforms, some people say - it is being said by the Prime Minister himself - that it is the State subject. Even if it is a State subject, we can do something. In Panchayats, we have introduced the Constitution amendment and compelled the State to

hold Panchayat elections and to have Panchayat body at the grass root level. So, why in the case of land reforms we cannot do something? It is very important for the economy of the country. We cannot ignore it by saying that it is a State subject. It should be taken proper care of. It has been resolved in the Revenue Ministers' Conference also. They have formulated some policies which have to be adopted throughout the length and breadth of the country. But besides three States West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura - no State has implemented that policy. Why should there be so much option? Now some States are even giving a go by to the land reforms. Why? So, the Revenue Ministers' decisions of 27th December, 1995 should be implemented through the length and breadth of the country.

Now, there is price fluctuation in the prices of non-food crops like tobacco, chilli, spices, etc. There is some price fluctuation during the last two-three years; that is why the poorer sections of the farmers are facing a lot of miseries. Now, the case of our country is that even after 50 years of Independence, the villager is always a loser, a cultivator is always a loser. When he sells his commodities, he is a loser, when he produces some commodity, he is a loser. When he sells his commodity, there are so many middlemen involved. There are so many agencies between the producers and the consumers. The producer does not get actual prices and the actual benefit of his produce. The consumer also does not get the benefit out of the production from the agricultural sector. The middleman eats away everything. There is a very wide gap between the price paid to the producers and the price that has to be paid by the consumers. So, in our country villager is always a loser whether he purchases or whether he sells some commodity. The marketing information should be there. The crop insurance is very important. More coverage should be given to the crop insurance sector. It should not only be done in the case of loans from the cooperatives or the banks, but it should be extended where the people have invested their own money. Crop insurance should also be available to them.

Now, 50 per cent of the credit is available from the cooperative banks and the commercial banks; the other 50 per cent credit is being given by the money-lenders. So, this remaining credit has to be covered.

Horticulture and animal husbandry are the other sectors where the small and marginal farmers and the poor sections of the peasantry can be benefited. In horticulture, the allocation has been increased to Rs. 1,000 crore.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What do you propose now?

SHRI ANIL BASU : A majority of this allocation is going to the big business houses. In the East Asian countries, horticulture has given the benefits to the

lowest strata of the peasantry. Here also that type of policy should be adopted in the horticulture sector. For the science and technology development and extension work, the budget allocation has been reduced and that should be given proper priority. As the Minister has already said, in the bio-technology and gene sector.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Basu, please conclude now. Would you like to withdraw your Resolution or not?

SHRI ANIL BASU : I am finishing in a minute. Lastly, I would like to quote before this House what has been said by the Government of India in the recent Rome Summit. In the Rome Declaration, it has been said that:

"Besides spectacular increase in the foodgrain production in recent years, the problem of chronic malnutrition continues to exist extensively among children and women because they are caught in the relentless sequence of ignorance, poverty, inadequate food intake, disease and early death."

The paper also glosses over the skewed foodgrain production patterns being pursued in the country. Pulses, considered the key source of protein for the poorer sections, have registered a downward slide with the per capita availability coming down from 69 grams in 1961 to 37 grams in 1995. The only source of protein which is available to the poor, to the villagers in the countryside are the pulses and their consumption has come down to 37 grams.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Basu, I have to take up the Half-an-Hour discussion also. What do you propose now?

SHRI ANIL BASU : So, Sir, a New Agricultural Policy is urgently required for the economy of the country, for better living of our countrymen, for the betterment of our agricultural sector and also of the peasantry. I urge upon the Government to formulate a New Agricultural Policy to protect the interests of the Indian agriculture and the agriculturists and to increase the productivity. All sections of the House have extended their support to this Resolution and the Minister had also promised that they are in tune with this Resolution, and that he would come before the House with a New Agricultural Policy. They will have to decide in the Cabinet and after that they will have to come before the House and give us a chance for discussion. All the points have been noted by the Minister. I am very happy that the Resolution has been accepted not only by the Government but by all sections of the House. That is why, I am not pressing the Resolution; I am withdrawing my Resolution.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Is it the pleasure of the House that the Resolution moved by Shri Anil Basu be withdrawn?

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

17.38 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

[Translation]

SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I beg to move:

'That this House expresses 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.'

Sir, I have moved this resolution because illegal immigrants are creating a lot of problems in our country. The population of our country is already 95 crore, and in 9 country like ours where we find ourselves unable to provide employment to our people, raise the standard of living of our people, when two and a half crore illegal immigrants will reside here, they are sure to cast far reaching effects on the standard of living of the people and on the situation of employment, the security of the country and other problems and I would urge upon the other hon. members to raise themselves above the politics and party times and express their views in the House in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Drona? you may continue your speech afterwards.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI (Karnal) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. Now, it is almost 6.00 p.m. Half an Hour's short duration discussion is also to be taken up but my resolution regarding the creation of Uttaranchal is very important which is also listed in today's agenda. Since, this discussion is sure to continue, if you allow to move my resolution also, it may be taken up for discussion afterwards.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Only one and not two resolutions can be moved at a time.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Second resolution can also be moved with due permission of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we have taken up half an hour discussion.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : My resolution pertains to the creation of Uttaranchal announced by the hon. Prime Minister from the Red Fort... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Swami, please sit down. Two resolutions cannot be moved at a time.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Two resolutions can be moved at a time with the permission of the House and there have been such precedents.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let the Half an Hour discussion be taken up.

17.41 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Welfare Scheme for Tribals

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Sir, the day when this question was raised in the House, the Hon. Minister had tried to satisfy the House by giving a detailed reply which created a dispute and as a result many hon members become agitated and tried to seek reply to their questions. I, continuing the same discussion, with your permission, would like to ask certain questions from the hon. Minister. I am raising this point in regard to the welfare scheme for tribals and I hope that the hon. Minister would come forward with detailed reply and satisfy the House. He had admitted in the House that the amount released by the Ministry to the States, is at some places misutilised, at some places diverted and at some places embezzled totally. This point must not have struck your mind that day also. I can well imagine that the funds allocated by you for tribal development and big plans streamlined for their welfare by the Government of India is based on figures only and it is studied through satellite. May I know from the hon. Minister. Whether he can measure the hunger of a rural poor through satellite? You cannot know about it through satellite. It is the greatest shortcomings of the Government of India that all its information is based on figures, reports, satellite and surveys but it has neither any knowledge, criteria for the basic elements and conditions prevailing at certain places and the mode of expenditure nor it has any control over all these things.

At present, the population of tribals is 8 percent of the total population out of which 50 percent population is living below the poverty line. Right from the first Five Year Plan upto Eighth Five Year Plan, the funds allocated for the welfare of Tribals have been raised several times but no major changes has been made in their life style, standard of living, culture and their surroundings.

Before coming to the main question, I would like to say that whatever schemes the Government of India has formulated for the development of tribal people such are, hundred percent Government assistance for the students clearing Matric exam., book bank scheme for them with fifty percent contribution from Central Government and fifty percent from the State Government. Besides this, Tribal sub-plan is prepared and implemented by all the Departments of the State Government. State Governments and Union Government bear fifty-fifty percent expenditure of tribal sub-plan. Except these, there are many other national programmes like construction of hostels for tribal children which have been mentioned in annual report and with the help of National Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation, agricultural development works, horticulture development, cattle-breeding, aquaculture and other

schemes are implemented which are prepared by the Central Government. For preparing tribal sub-plan, the Union Government provides funds, in some cases hundred percent assistance and in some fifty percent.

Sir, in 8th Five Year Plan, provision of Rs. 1250 crore Central assistance for tribal sub-plan and Rs. 330 crore were to be provided in 1996-97. I would like to draw your attention some of the States and I presume that the same situation must be prevailing in other States of the country also. I would like to draw your attention towards south Bihar comprising 20 districts dominated by tribals and the poor. I think that the same situation will be in other States also. I am specially mentioning this because everyone knows about the condition of Bihar and same is in the rest of the parts of India. You are also aware of the financial structure of Bihar. Last year a plan of Rs. 2600 crore was prepared out of which the State Government could spend only Rs. 750 crore. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Union Government has been providing funds to the State in the same manner for the last 18 years by preparing plans but when Bihar Government utilises only Rs. 750 crore out of the total allocation of Rs. 2600 crore made to it, then you can well imagine as to how much money must have been spent on Adivasis living in those 20 districts. Since the fund allocated under plan head does not reach these districts and they do not have their own internal resources, how can the Central Schemes can be implemented in these districts? I want a reply to this question. I would also like to know that the States who find themselves unable to meet the plan expenses, who cannot spend the funds allocated to them, then how would you spend the entire amount there, besides how would you include them in national data? How much amount of your Central Plan has been spent? You please tell me that in such circumstances, how your plan will implemented in that area? The States who do not use their plan expenditure fully, do not spend their prescribed allocations then how you would include the people of those area in your national figures and how you would say that so many Adivasis were benefitted with those funds and so much development really took place? This much I would like to know. It is the background of the main question and I am telling this much to you because I want to know your view point about that area.

Sir, the point which I raised in the House has always been raised that millions of rupees have been released by Centre for Bihar from the Central plan head under various schemes like tribal sub-plan, IRDP, for digging wells, for the development of fodder and cattle rearing, aquaculture, poultry, Farming for the purchase of buffalows, cows and fodder. My main question in the context of the entire country is related to Bihar because one thousand crore rupees have been withdrawn illegally in those 20 districts in the name of Adivasis. May I know as to whether the money, one thousand crore rupees withdrawn illegally, belong to the Central

Government? Such a scandal in which in the name of poultry farming, aquaculture, purchasing of hybrid buffalows, purchasing of fodder, medicines for animals so much money has been looted so much that 40 Kg feed has been shown to be fed by one hen in one day and Rs. 5000 have been shown as being spent on one hen in one day.

Sir, the Adivasis do undertake poultry farming, aquaculture in the rural areas but they do not produce fodder in their farms. Crores of rupees have been withdrawn illegally. What is the reaction of Union Government in this regard? This situation prevails in the entire country. The funds illegally misappropriated in the name of purchasing hybrid buffalows shows that the Government have no control over proper implementation of such schemes. Though that day, you had accepted that if you made your point, you had used a particular word and which I do not want to use here, that entire country would be taken aback. I am mentioning it here because we are discussing this point in the House with a determination. I would like to know the system to be adopted by the Government so that thousands crores of rupees may not be withdrawn illegally again? The money has been extracted in the name of I.R.D.P. development of Adivasis, of agricultural development and small loans, but no development of Adivasis has taken place and that money has been embezzled. I would like to draw your attention to three points. Firstly, how does the Union Government monitor the funds provided by it, to the State Government and what measures it adopt for proper expenditure of the funds provided to the States? Secondly, what action does the Government of India take in case of diversion of funds i.e. if the fund meant for tribal development is spent on other items, the fund allocated for the construction of road is spent on schools and the fund meant for the construction of school buildings, hostels and providing scholarships is misappropriated? That I would like to know because the contribution of the Government is also there. Thirdly, what the Central Government is doing in regard to such schemes if in case any such incidents have occurred, such a situation can take place in many States also. I do not have the accurate figure in this regard but I do know about Bihar. Thousands crores of rupees were released to Southern Bihar under Tribal sub-plan for Animal Husbandry and tribal development. That money have been embezzled. I would like to know about the steps proposed to be taken by the Central Government for recovery of the same. With these three question, I conclude my speech.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, infact when this issue was being discussed in the House, Hon'ble Minister had put forth certain points which reveal quite a lot. So many have passed since Independence and still we have not been able to do what we wanted to do for Scheduled Tribes. It clearly reveals that whenever an attempt is made to promote talented youth from Scheduled tribe area, the

posts reserved for them remain vacant and it appears that whatever we have been doing to extend facilities and render assistance to these classes, these mostly remained on paper. Hon'ble Minister has used the words. This applies more on those persons who are in power. What I want is that Hon'ble Minister should do the same kind of work in the House as is presently being done by the court and he will surely be praised for it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, without making a lengthy speech, I would like to request Hon'ble Minister to express his views on two-three points. Although my colleague Mr Rudy has spoken at length, even then I would request him to give clear information. The first question is which states have not utilised the grant and what action has been taken by the Central Government when the cases of misutilisation of funds were brought to notice because the Government contributes fifty percent of the funds for four scheme and six schemes are fully aided by it. What are the arrangements made by the Central Government for monitoring the schemes. You simply take action on the direction of the states and then do nothing hoping that whatever is being done by the State Government is right. If the funds have been utilised, it is all right and if not, even then it is fine. This point should also be taken into consideration. Thirdly, I represent Uttar Pradesh. I believe that a large number of people belonging the Scheduled tribe live in Uttar Pradesh. The amount of fund allocated is very less. Does the Hon'ble Minister believe that Uttar Pradesh requires less funds for Scheduled Tribes? You should get clear picture about the position of utilisation of funds in Uttar Pradesh so that action is taken accordingly.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to add to the points raised just now with regard to the main question. As the original questioner has asked, what monitoring arrangement has been made in regard to the funds for Tribal sub-plan. I would like to quote an example. He has spoken about Bihar and Shri Santosh Ji has spoken about Uttar Pradesh. If Tribal sub-plan funds which should have been spent for providing medical, educational or other facilities for tribals, are spent instead for Bharat Bhavan in Bhopal in the name of promoting art and culture, the tribals are never going to be benefited. Hence, I would strongly emphasize that some monitoring mechanism should definitely be provided. I am speaking about Madhya Pradesh. I would like to quote one more example in context of the original question. Recently I had undertaken tour of Madhya Pradesh. In District Jhabua of Madhya Pradesh where 95 percent of the people are tribals, the Central Government has contributed a certain percentage and even cent percent amount for certain schemes such as irrigational facilities and canals for the welfare of tribals. However, there are no canals at the proposed sites. Who knows whether any such work was ever undertaken there. In this way, if the funds meant for welfare of

tribals are not spent for them it would make things more difficult. This is why the 95 percent tribal population of Jhabua district is compelled to migrate to other places for six months to look out for employment opportunities even after fifty years of Independence. If this state of affairs continues it would not be good. In view of all this, whether you propose to formulate any such policy or plan to ensure that the funds allocated by Ministries such as Ministry of Human Resource Development Ministry of Rural Development etc. are properly utilised. Whether the Government would bother to find out as to whether the funds allocated by the Central to States have been properly utilised or not? The situation is very much the same in Bastar as well as in Jhabua. Where parallel Government is running. Even after spending millions of rupees, there is lack of medical facilities, roads and irrigational facilities. The funds allocated for providing shelters are being mismanaged.

Lastly, I would like to ask one more question...*(Interruption)* What is the criteria for providing grants to the voluntary organisations. How much grant has been given to the voluntary organisations during 1994-95 and 1995-96? Whether all such organisations are registered? What is the basis of issuing grants to them? Thank you very much.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Central Government provides funds for the development of tribals. However, whether the same is being utilised by the States for that particular objectives or not is enquired into by the Government through C.A.G. or C.B.I. or by constituting a commission. Whether the amount allocated by the Government by the Government under the tribal sub-plan or other schemes during the last five years, has been fully utilised for their upliftment or not?...*(Interruption)* Rs. 79.85 crore were spent for the upliftment of tribals in the Fourth Five Year Plan and during the Eighth Five Year Plan, the same amount was enhanced to Rs. 18,119 crores. Even then why has the time bound programme for the social and economic upliftment of tribals remained unsuccessful. As Japaka Parthasarthy, the officer of Uttar Mandals of Tribals Research Centre said that

[English]

The sub plan has not failed as a concept but it has failed in its implementation.

[Translation]

The sub plan has not failed as a concept but it has failed in its implementation.

[Translation]

What steps does the Central Government propose to take to ensure the effective implementation of all these programmes and whether the Government would formulate a fast time bound programme in order to review the situation?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon'ble Minister, it has been stated in Annexure II 'E' that same voluntary organisations were given more than Rs. ten crores during 1994-95 and 1995-96. What are the names of those voluntary organisation and if you do not have the names of such organisations with you, kindly supply a list of their names later on. There are some organisations which are bogus and have nothing except a sign board of Office. Now you may please reply..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Kindly allow me to speak for one minute. I would like to give clarification regarding a question put by Hon'ble Minister. CAG has given a Report regarding Bihar. Hon'ble Minister has asked me whether I have got any proof or not? The CAG has presented a complete Report regarding the Fodder Scam of Bihar which is concerned entirely with the tribal area. You have asked me very explicitly that's why I would like to tell you very clearly..*(Interruptions)* I am speaking about the Fodder Scam.

18.00 hrs.

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : The views expressed by Hon'ble Members, Shri Rudy, Shri Gangwar, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey and Prof. Rawat reveal only one prime concern that the funds allocated by the Central Government for upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Tribes is not utilised properly and it is also diverted elsewhere. Shri Rudy has gone to the extent of using the term 'embezzlement' while speaking about a State. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to put forth two-three points. As a Minister and as an ordinary citizen, I admit that the attitude of society and Governments towards Scheduled Tribes is not satisfactory. For example, tall claims are made regarding the upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Tribes. However, if one goes in depth, the reality is quite different. Ever since I have taken charge of this Ministry, I have met the representatives of Scheduled Castes and Tribes in both the House. It pains me to say that such hurdles are put everywhere which hamper to get justice to these people. Take the case of promotion. I would like to say in the House that I have received such complaints also that in case of foreign postings made by the Ministry of External Affairs, the eligible candidates belonging to these castes are ignored for year together. Similarly in Banks and other financial Sectors, the representation of these castes of prime postings is negligible. Such cases have been brought to my notice. It is true and there is a need to pay attention towards these things. However I can not claim that everything can be set right in one stroke. However I would like to submit in this august House that there are still many shortcomings which have come to our notice and that the pace of development is also slow. Hence whatever you have stated is not very wrong.

Recently, we took a decision that if any State fails to utilise the entire amount then it would be given disincentives. For example, the Central Government

released an amount of Rs. 1748 lakh for the State of Bihar. However, the State Government utilised only Rs. 274 lakhs. This time we have allocated Rs. 274 lakhs for them. Now who is responsible for Rs. 15-16 crores which have not been released. Certainly only those are responsible who have not spent it. We have withheld that allocation. Now the Parliamentary Committee and the Government also thought that if a State does not utilise the funds and the Central Government also withholds the release of funds, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes would suffer. So the issue was re-considered. Under the earlier scheme it was proposed that the funds not claimed by the States should be reduced and disbursed amongst other States during the next year. The Hon'ble Members and the Parliamentary Committee suggested that this too is unfair. We accepted the suggestion of the Parliamentary Committee that the Government won't impose any cuts but would fix responsibility instead. Through you, I would like to say that bureaucracy is not responsible for non-utilisation of funds. Political will is also a very important factor. This is what I want to say to you. The Hon'ble Members of various States are present here and they have to ponder over it. The Central Government is allocating funds in various forms for development. I would also like to inform you that during the last conference wherein all of you were invited, a suggestion had been put forth. Now a brochure containing information about the schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Welfare for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been prepared, a copy of which will be circulated to the members.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : We have not received it as yet.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : I too have been shown a copy today. I had a look at it when I was about to leave for the House. A copy of it will be mailed to all the members within a week irrespective of whether any member asks for it or not.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, there is one more point. Only that much Central grant is given as is utilised by the State and that too is given as a matching grant which in fact is a double loss. The State spends the Central aid saves its own funds. So you should find a way out in this regard also.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : The contribution of Centre is 49 percent. The States show the same as 100 percent and do not show their contribution. Such cases have come to our notice. All the Government level, there are two separate course of action about which I would like to tell the Hon'ble Members. We want development. One course of action is that if a mistake has been committed even if by us, an attempt is made to conceal the facts. I am sharing with the Members the aspect of concealment. Just now I told you about the position in Bihar. Regarding the Bihar issue, I would like to say that we have sought

specific information from the Government of Bihar with regard to several points but we have not got any reply so far.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : When did you ask for this information?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : We will put pressure on the Government of Bihar and whenever we get a reply, I will inform you.

The Second issue emphasized by the Hon'ble Members is that of monitoring. Sir, you too have emphasized this very point. I would like to say to Hon'ble Members that the Central Government does not have any effective measures for monitoring.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : There should be some sort of mechanism.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : There is a provision and I will tell you about that also. I would like to tell you about N.G.Os also. The Government contributes 100 percent for certain schemes and contributes in the proportion of 50:50 for certain other schemes. The grants are given as constitutional provision as per Article 275 (ii). We agree that scheme should be formulated for tribal areas. Under the same, five percent should be there for infrastructure and 95 percent should be for the development of what we call the target group. During the last meeting which was attended by Hon'ble Members, it was stated that a road has been constructed. Then it was said that it is exclusively for tribals whereas the facility is being utilised by others also which is wrong.

Sir, we put emphasis on the expenditure of five percent incurred on infrastructure. That expenditure should be there for the development of target group. I would like to reiterate that as for the main issue raised by you and issue of Uttar Pradesh raised by Shri Gangwar and the issue of monitoring raised by Shri Pandey, the prominent issue before us is that of monitoring. After all we have a Republic. The Centre can not interfere in the state matters, but now we have started a system under which the senior officers would be sent to the state capitals after 20th. I shall personally visit a few of the States, in order to ensure about the utilisation or misutilisation of the funds released by the Union Government for the schemes, especially being implemented for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I shall personally visit some of the places. As for the issue of misutilisation of funds raised by you, I do not wish to say anything, why should we mention anybody's name so we'd better leave it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, the reply given by the Minister is not correct. If a clear statement is given in this regard, only then the House and the country will know the actual position...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : If I have rejected your point or camouflaged the truth, then you

should complain. I spoke on these points also. You'd mentioned Bihar and I never said that whatever you have said about Bihar is incorrect. I said that a report has been sent for and that report will be sent by the state...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV (Parbhani) : When the report will be submitted?... (Interruptions)

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : It has been delay...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Hon'ble Minister is saying that it has been delayed...(Interruptions) The House would like to know about it...(Interruptions)

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : I will tell you about it later on. Please let me talk to them personally because it has been delayed...(Interruptions) If I say today that they should reply within some period but they do not reply, then what would be my position...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may assure them that it will be done at the earliest.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : The matter pertains to the weaker sections. The Government should pay more attention and bring the report as soon as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : I seek your guidance regarding two-three points. People have apprehensions regarding promotions, hence we have made some arrangements. I will discuss it with the members outside the House and thereafter I will speak on the subject in House. The issue of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is not a party matter and I consider it to be a very important national matter. You may have observed during the last six months that I do not do anything alone...(Interruptions) A number of people are aggrieved over the issue of promotion however there is no provision to punish these who obstruct promotion. I shall discuss with you in this regard...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may do this. The subject of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is a very wide subject. There is not only the issue of promotion but there are several other issue as well.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may have a short duration discussion in the House on this subject

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : I am ready to do so...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Business Advisory Committee will take care of it.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : I also want that the country should know about the fact. People are talking about the appeasement and that a lot of facilities are being given to these people.

If this is done, the truth will be sifted from the falsehood. I am ready for it.

I would like to say some thing about monitoring. We are preparing a proforma for the utilisation service. There are many states to whom Rs. 17 crore were sanctioned and in the end, whereas they had showed the expenditure of Rs. 16,99,900. Now we are trying to bring a change by way of a new proforma. In case things still do not change, I will tell you.

You have spoken about N.G.Os and I would also like to speak on this issue. I would like to tell you that 90% N.G.Os are doing good work, but 10% NGOs are not functioning properly. I would like to tell you about a raid conducted by us. A NGO was supposed to be functioning for the welfare of Scheduled Caste however we were surprised to see that there was no building, no registers and a sign board was put up in a corner in a small factory.

[English]

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : I beg to differ on that. When he said about 90 per cent, it is not satisfactory.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There may be a difference of opinion about the percentage.

[Translation]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : When we enquired, we came to know that salaries were being changed for 36 or 40 women, whereas only five girls belonging to upper castes were working there. There was no register. Those women too were relatives so we have to stop all such malpractices.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, no member belonging to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe is present in the House today. So it is futile to discuss it today.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister has agreed to have a short duration discussion on it. Nothing more can be achieved in half an hour.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : I would like to make two-three points about NGOs. I am constituting an eleven members or fifteen members supervisory group. Hon'ble Members, prominent people of the country, four or five prominent people from the field of journalism, Retired judges, I.A.S. officers who have served this Ministry, will be included in this group.

We will hand over a list of all the NGOs to the group. I would like to tell you that N.G.Os were paid Rs. five crores four years ago and now they are asking for one crore rupees more. We feel agonised at the thought of giving away public money of one crore rupees just like that. Hence we shall seek the opinion of the group we are going to constitute it. We shall follow whatever they support.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Would you like to set up a Commission or make an enquiry through C.B.I. or C.A.G. to find out the utilisation of funds sanctioned for tribal areas...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Would you tell us about the Fodder scam of Bihar which is related to the Tribal areas.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is a separate issue.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the tribals, not us, have been affected by this scam.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is a part of the whole thing.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH (Seoni) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the member from Madhya Pradesh has not been included in the Planning Committee set up for tribals scheme. The scheme is implemented with cent percent Central aid...(Interruptions)

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : I will reply to both the issues. I have full confidence in the power of the Parliament and the Government and I also have full faith in the enquiry proposed to be conducted by it. When I lose my faith, I will sit in the other side.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH : No M.P. has been nominated in the Committee set up under Tribal sub plan in Madhya Pradesh...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now the House stands adjourned to meet again on Monday, the 16th December, 1996 at 11.00 A.M.

18.21 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, December 16, 1996/Agrahayana 25, 1918 (Saka).
