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Friday, May 05,1995

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Thirteenth Session
(Tenth Lok Sabha)



सत्यमेव जयते

(Vol. XL)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)

Friday, May 5, 1995/ Vaisakha 15, 1917 (Saka)

| <u>Col./Line</u> | <u>For</u> | <u>Read</u> |
|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 41/22 | Shri Loknath Choudhary | Shri Lokanath Choudhury |
| 59/22 | SHRI LALLBABU RAI | SHRI LALL BABU RAI |
| 73/22(from below) | 4565 | 4568 |
| 99/5(from below) | 4643 | 4613 |
| 135/18(from below) | Ruruy | Runway |
| 205/18(from below) | Shri Malkarjun | Shri Mallikarjun |
| 215/20 | Andited | Audited |
| 226/17 | SHRI CHATRAPAL SINGH | DR. CHATRAPAL SINGH |

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, May 5, 1995/ Vaisakha 15, 1917 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Honourable Members, it is my sad duty to inform the House of the passing away of two of our former colleagues namely Sarvashri Balasaheb Patil and N.R.M. Swamy.

Shri Balasaheb Patil was a Member of Second Lok Sabha representing Miraj Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra during 1957-62.

An advocate by profession, he served as Professor at Sangli Law College. He also worked as Public Prosecutor during 1975 to 1988 and was Chairman of Sangli District Bar Association.

A well-known political activist, he was associated with various Trade Unions. He was the Vice-President of Miraj Taluk Kamagar Union and President of Nagar Palika Workers Union of South Satara District of Maharashtra.

He was the editor of Weekly 'Jansatta' and wrote a book namely 'The Tenancy Act' in Marathi. He had special interest in the field of sports.

Shri Balasaheb Patil passed away on 1 April, 1995 at Sangli at the age of 73 years.

Shri N.R.M. Swamy was a Member of First and Second Lok Sabha representing Wandiwash and Vellore Parliamentary Constituencies of erstwhile Madras State during 1952-57 and 1957-62 respectively. He was also a Member of Rajya Sabha during 1966-72.

An advocate by profession, he practised in the Supreme Court.

Shri Swamy was a member of Senate of Madras University during 1943-44.

A social activist, he took special interest in the upliftment of backward classes. He served as a member of Backward Classes Commission and also on District Board of North Arcot District of Tamil Nadu.

Shri Swamy passed away on 2 May, 1995 at Madras at the age of 87 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

11.04 hrs.

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

11.05 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Textile Exports

+
*441. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN
SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of textile items in various sectors has shown a very good progress and whether the foreign exchange earnings therefrom have far exceeded the targets;

(b) if so, the sector-wise details of the export of textile items and the foreign exchange earnings therefrom during the last three years, vis-a-vis their targets;

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to explore the new markets for textile goods in foreign countries to boost the exports in the coming years; and

(d) the targets fixed for exports of textile goods and the foreign exchange earnings therefrom for 1995-96 and 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The export of textile items in various sectors has shown good progress and the targets have been exceeded for most sectors.

(b) The export targets fixed for different sectors of textiles and achievements against them during the last

three years have been as follows :

(In Million US Dollar)

(Provisional)

| S.No. | Item | 1992-93 | | 1993-94 | | 1994-95 | |
|-------------|-------------------------|---------|-------------|---------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| | | Target | Achievement | Target | Achievement | Target (Upto Mar'95) | Achievement (Upto Feb'95) |
| 1. | Readymade garments | 2707 | 3052.47 | 3510.51 | 3713.65 | 4262.49 | -3978.81 |
| 2. | Cotton textiles | 1670 | 1678.64 | 1797.88 | 2008.86 | 2205.50 | 2528.49 |
| 3. | Man-made fibre textiles | 536 | 495.92 | 551.44 | 587.81 | 646.00 | 681.71 |
| 4. | Silk textiles | 311 | 253.51 | 273.46 | 251.63 | 265.00 | 270.53 |
| 5. | Woollen textiles | 94 | 146.00 | 167.90 | 192.92 | 231.50 | 157.85 |
| 6. | Handicrafts | 839 | 830.04 | 946.83 | 1071.30 | 1234.00 | 1229 10 |
| 7. | Jute | 161 | 109.91 | 115.48 | 107.30 | 110.00 | 105.18 |
| 8. | Coir | 31 | 33.13 | 36.50 | 40.44 | 45.60 | 47.56 |
| Grand Total | | 6349 | 6599.62 | 7400.00 | 7973.91 | 9000.00 | 8999.23 |

(c) In order to promote exports of textiles and clothing in new markets, Government have been sending trade delegations and encouraging exporters to participate in sales cum study tours, buyer-seller meets; fairs and exhibitions etc. The information received from our Missions abroad relating to market conditions in the textiles trade, is also disseminated among the exporters through the Export Promotion Councils.

(d) For 1995-96, an overall target of US \$ 10.5 billion has been fixed for the export of textiles (including handicrafts, jute and coir). The targets for 1996-97 would be fixed at the beginning of the next financial year.

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : Sir, the grand total of the achievement after February, 1995 itself is almost the target. So, let me first of all, congratulate the Government for achieving this target by February itself. I would like to know are the targets fixed considering the Eighth Plan objective that exports should grow at an annual rate of 13.6 per cent in volume terms?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Sir, during 1994-95, export of textiles has crossed 9.9 billion US dollars against the total export of 26.3 billion dollars from India. The textile export accounts for 37 per cent of the total exports. The low import intensity of textile is because the import content of textiles is less than 10 per cent. Therefore, net foreign exchange earning contribution from exports of textiles is round about 50 per cent of net foreign exchange earnings of the country through exports.

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : The hon. Minister in his reply says that the information received from our Missions abroad relating to market conditions in the

textile trade is also disseminated among exporters through the Export Promotion Council. In this context, I would like to know the details such as what are the benefits we have achieved by the activities of our Missions abroad and whether the role of our Missions abroad in increasing foreign exchange earnings is reviewed occasionally? If so the details thereof and if not, the reasons for not reviewing their activities and whether our Textile Commissioner is having any role in controlling these Missions abroad considering the fact that he is in charge of export of textiles, monitoring of prices, etc?

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has put a very important question. The hon. Member has wanted to know about the total exports. I have furnished this information in my reply as to what is the exported quantity of each item. So far as the Textile Commissioner is concerned, he also has a role to play in this regard and he certifies all the items to be exported. But there are 2-3 reasons behind the increase in the total exports. If we compare this year's target with that of the total exports made during the year 1992-93 we find that the target fixed for that year was 9 billion dollars and this year we have exported to the tune of 9.9 billion US dollars. The targeted export fixed for this year is to the tune of 10.5 billion US dollar. Sir, you are also aware that earlier the export of textiles used to be quite less. Now several incentives have been provided to the Exporters by us.

In a reply to the second part of the question put by the hon. Member I would like to say that we have got several facilities in the quota system after signing the

GATT agreement. We have now got facilities in 13 European countries including Canada and U.S.A. After signing the GATT agreement we also signed a bilateral agreement with the US market. Earlier we used to have a quota system in handloom also. We have got it removed after entering the bilateral agreement. Now we can export handlooms without any quota. We feel that if we pursue the export of handloom further then we can even surpass its target fixed for this year. Earlier we did not export to South America. I had led a business group to Chile, Brazil, Mexico, and Argentina and asked them as to who exported their clothes. They stated that the U.S.A. first brought clothes on behalf of their quota and brought it from China as well and then exported to them. We asked them to buy cloth from India and then we got a large number of orders from them. Similarly, we are sending our delegations to South Africa and Africa also. We are also holding conferences in this regard and it is benefiting the exporters. We have opened our outlets in Japan, Russia and other countries and the export opportunities are bright there also. We are making efforts to boost more and more exports in the field of textiles. I hope that we can even surpass our target next year.

[English]

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the percentage of exports of handloom sector to the total textile exports to foreign countries. Secondly, what is the effect of Multi Fibre Agreement which was entered into by America with special reference to our export of textiles to various countries. And I would also like to know from the hon. Minister about the steps that are going to be undertaken in order to boost the exports of handloom sector because this is passing through a deep crisis with special reference to provision and availability of hank yarn.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already given a reply.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You need not reply to the last portion of his question; you can reply to the first two portions of his question.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the multilateral agreement...

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI : I am talking about the Multi-fibre agreement of the U.S.A.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : This is what I am saying.

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI : You are not saying the same thing. You are saying something else.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : It has happened under multi-fibre agreement also and in this also handloom

has been made quota-free. I would like to say that there are some drawbacks in the policy of exporting handloom products. I have convened a conference of handloom producers on the 25th and 26th of this month. Export-oriented centres have been opened in nine states where the exporters will be given incentives. They can show their designs at these centres. Besides, the wages being given to the workers is hardly more than Rs. 25-30. But by manufacturing export-oriented clothes the wages can be increased to Rs. 100-200 and this way his poverty can be removed to some extent. This is the intention of the Textile Ministry and this programme is proposed by them.

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI : What is the percentage?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Last year the handloom products worth rs. 1500 crore were exported.

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES : At the time of discussion on GATT a serious concern was expressed by all sections of this House that once the GATT Agreement was signed the export of textile items would be very adversely affected. But from the figures it is seen, it is a matter of great joy, that in all the eight items we have exceeded the target. We are happy about it and I compliment the Minister and the Ministry for monitoring it properly which enabled us to earn foreign exchange by way of exports.

Even though this is a very very welcome change, there is another real crisis which is being faced by the workers, especially the workers engaged in the business of readymade garments. A majority of the workers who are engaged in this business of readymade garments are women belonging to the weakest section of the society. The wages that they get are very very negligible. Whatever benefits are there, they are taken away either by the middlemen or by the exporters. May I know from the hon. Minister whether a scheme will be chalked out by the Government to help the voluntary agencies or persons, coming not as a cooperative society but on a cooperative basis, by giving them minimum financial assistance?

MR. SPEAKER : Please come to the question, and a concrete question.

SHRI A. CHARLES : I am putting the question. I would like to know whether a scheme will be chalked out for giving the minimum financial assistance to the workers belonging to the weaker section of the society who are engaged in the business of readymade garments.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think it comes out of the main question. Please sit down now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you do not come to the question, I am going to call other Member.

SHRI A. CHARLES : I would like to know whether proper monitoring of export of items will be done or not.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Yes, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : It is difficult for us to pursue further in the international market except in modernisation. In this regard,

[English]

The modernisation scheme with regard to NTC is pending with the Cabinet. It has not yet been sanctioned. What the Minister is going to do about it?

MR. SPEAKER : The main question is on the export of cloth and not on modernisation of industry.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Export will not be there without modernisation.

MR. SPEAKER : In that way you can speak even on the cotton production or for that matter on the seed production also. Let us please confine to export only.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Secondly, if it is relevant, time and again we have discussed about the change in the Textile Policy with special reference to export. I would like to know whether the Government is thinking of reviewing and changing the Textile Policy of 1985.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : In regard to export policy, I am getting it reviewed by holding a meeting.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, the figures that have been supplied indicate that in the export of jute both the targets and the achievements are coming down. What are the reasons for this? Is there any special drive for export of diversified jute products and if so, to what degree of success that has been done?

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : The figures that I have received are only upto February, 1995. The export of Rs. 400 crore for this year is also included in it and Rs. 300 crore for the last year. I am saying it for the kind information of the hon. Member that the export of actual fibre jute last year was to the tune of Rs. 300 crore and this year it has been to the tune of Rs. 400 crore.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : In that case are these figures, which have been supplied to us, wrong? The figures which have been given are, Rs. 105 crore, Rs. 107 crore and so on and they have jumped to Rs. 400 crore.

MR. SPEAKER : He is correcting the figures.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : What are the figures for the last three years?

MR. SPEAKER : You can send the figures in writing.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Are you contemplating to participate in the international market?

Export of Agro-Products

*442. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian agro-exports is poised to take a big leap in the post GATT era;

(b) whether it is a fact that Indian agro-products have a competitive edge in terms of prices in comparison to other countries;

(c) if so, the details of such items; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the exports of agro-products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture will in general enhance market access opportunities for agricultural commodities in member countries besides having a positive impact on the prices of such products in the world market. India has a comparative advantage in the production of agricultural commodities because of its diverse agro-climatic conditions, reasonable labour costs and lower import requirements in this sector. Exchange rate adjustments and the liberalisations effected in export policy have further enhanced the competitiveness of agricultural exports. The country is, therefore, likely to gain from the more open World Trade environment in Agriculture.

(b) and (c). A study conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) on the price competitiveness of 17 selected agricultural commodities such as cereals, fruits, vegetables, and processed fruits/vegetables, has concluded that there is a high or moderate degree of price competitiveness in the case of Rice, Banana, Grapes, Sapota, Lychee, Onion, Tomato, Mushroom, Wheat, Mango, Potato, and Tomato Paste.

(d) Steps taken to enhance the export of agro-products, *inter-alia*, include simplification of inspection procedures, removal of Minimum Export Price and Quantity restrictions on selected items, provision of concessional export credit, product development to meet international needs, extension of benefits available under the scheme of Export Oriented Units (EOUs)/ Export Processing Zones (EPZs) to the agriculture and

allied sectors and permitting 50% sale in the domestic tariff area, assistance to exporters for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control, promoting export of identified products through brand promotion campaigns, arranging buyer-seller meets and participation in international fairs/exhibitions.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Hon. Speaker, Sir, despite the official claims of India enjoying a competitive advantage in export of agricultural products, the export growth has shown a sharp decline during 1994-95 specially in the first half of the financial year. It is because as against the targeted growth rate of 25 per cent during the year, it was only 10.58 per cent in April-September period. Commodity-wise, tea export has dropped by 26.6 per cent; tobacco has registered a dip of 56.6 per cent; groundnut export has dropped by 24.9 per cent; spices exports too have dropped by 24.2 per cent.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not necessary.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : These are the figures. Raw-cotton has also registered a decline of 72.8 per cent. I would like to know from the hon. Minister under the circumstances, whether the Government is undertaking any steps to just check all these drops in the export of agro-products and if so whether the Government is considering to take steps to increase exports of agricultural products both in terms of volume and value.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, despite the very marginal increase in the rates of growth of agricultural exports last year, I would most humbly maintain that the competitiveness of our agricultural products is still very high. Last year, there was a set back in basmati rice, non-basmati rice, tobacco and oil-meals. It is these four products which really affected the overall figure. Even so, overall, there is a marginal growth for the year ended 1994-95. But agricultural commodities are affected by a large number of special factors first is domestic availability, second is domestic prices and third is international prices. So, there will be swings, there will be ups and downs. But overall, I believe and I would humbly maintain that the competitiveness of India's agricultural products is quite high and in the post-Uruguay Round also remain high. We are looking at each one of these products where last year there has been a decline. For example in oil-meals extracts, soyabean crop declined and, therefore, we could not export oil-meals extracts. But this year, soyabean crop is good. We will export more. These are affected by climatic conditions as well as crop conditions. But, overall, I would maintain that our competitiveness is still very high.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : The important factors hampering the growth of the country's farm exports are the lack of adequate modern infrastructure, pre-cooling units, cool-chains, refrigerated vans etc. and specially lack of processing facilities along with modern

marketing advantage. These are the main factors for lack of better agricultural growth in exports. May I know from the Government whether the Government desires to introduce an integrated agro-export strategy with the overall frame work of an Agricultural Policy and if so when.

MR. SPEAKER : This is a good question.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Yes, Sir. I am grateful to the Member who put this question. Yes, for example, we have identified the development of infrastructure services as one of the critical components of enhancing agricultural exports. APEDA is the organisation which has plan schemes for all the matters which the hon. Member has mentioned. APEDA plan schemes include scheme for feasibility surveys, scheme for development of infrastructure services, scheme for export promotion and market scheme, scheme for quality control and upgradation, scheme for packaging development, scheme for organisation building, HRD and training. The plan allocation was only Rs. 10 crore in 1994-95. But in 1995-96, this has been increased to Rs.50 crore. I am confident that this year many of these schemes will get more funds and many of these schemes will take off.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, alongwith exports, foreign exchange and international debts are discussed as well is the Government considering a plan of action to do something about the hike in the prices of commodities in the wake of export of wheat, pulses, fruits and other eatables from our country?

Sir, I do not want to disturb you or the House by furnishing data. But there has been a hike of 25 per cent in the prices of cereals and 41 per cent in the prices of pulses during the last two years. I am furnishing data regarding wholesale prices of non-vegetarian food. The retail prices at which the public buys these items are different. As per Government data, there has been a hike of 37 per cent in the prices of mutton, fish and eggs. There is no check over the rates of fruit. An ordinary man does not even think of buying fruit like banana, grapes, walnut due to a hike in their prices. The prices of sapota, lichi, onion, tomato, mushroom, wheat, mango, potato, etc., in respect of which we are competitive and the multinationals are about to invade our domestic markets, have already sky-rocketed. You maintain that the MNCs are ready to enter our markets but they have yet to do so. They are about to come and the prices have already sky-rocketed, then are you planning to completely stop thinking in favour of your own countrymen in regard to these exports? Do you have any complete policy with you to ensure that our prices will not be at par with the international standards? Will you formulate a policy in view of whether the prices of daily items of eatables and fruit, justified?

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY : We will import it for India?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The other side of the coin. And there should be a balanced policy.

SHRI R CHIDAMBARAM : It would not be correct to say that it is exports which is causing price rise of these commodities in India. For example, in wheat, rice and cereals .

AN HON. MEMBER : What about pulses?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I will come to pulses in a moment.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : What about onions?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I will come to that.

MR. SPEAKER : He is talking about the integrated policy and not onions.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : If there has been a price rise in India, it is because we are giving better prices to our farmers. I am sure, the hon. Member Mr. Fernandes does not say that we should not give better prices to our farmers. If higher procurement prices are given to farmers, there will be some price rise in the country. Take for example, wheat and rice. Today the total stock of foodgrains in this country is in excess of 30 million tonnes, three crore tonnes. This year, the FCI is permitted to export only 25 lakh metric tonnes of non-durum wheat. Last year we allowed free export of Basmati and non-Basmati rice. As I said in an answer to the other supplementary, there was a decline in export of Basmati and non-Basmati rice in quantity terms compared to the previous year.

About pulses for example, we export no more than ten thousand metric tonnes of pulses. About coarse grains, we export no more than 50,000 metric tonnes of all coarse grains put together. It is not correct to say that large volumes of coarse grains or large volumes of pulses have been exported. That is not so. Large volumes of wheat and rice are available for exports. We are not exporting large volumes of coarse grains and pulses...(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I challenge that statement.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the rice exported in 1994 was to the tune of 17 million dollars. The export of cereals preparation was to the tune of 23 million dollars. The total export of pulses has been valued at 138 million dollars which is the highest so far. If you want the calculation in rupees then it comes about to Rs. 435 crore.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think the hon. Member wants to know that we should export but we should not export in such a manner that the people in the country are affected; and exactly for this purpose we need an integrated policy which creates that balance. The first Member also wanted to know whether there is policy and Mr. Fernandes also wanted to know whether there is a policy in this regard.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We are not considering on individual items as such; neither the onion nor the rice

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : There is an integrated policy. We allow no more exports than what the Agriculture Ministry fixes as the ceiling for exports. Sometimes these are formally fixed ceilings and sometimes these are informally indicated ceilings. Take pulses for example. I do not know what figures the hon. Member has. The total value of export of pulses for 1994-95 is only Rs. 86 crore. It cannot be a very large quantity and the coarse grains is only 50,000 metric tonnes. We export, as I said, no more than 10,000 metric tonnes of pulses.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, the hon. Members want to know what is the requirement of the country; what quantity can be exported; in a particular situation what is to be done and things like that and the policy approach to this problem.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : With great respect, that is my answer. Sir, we do not export anything more than what the Agriculture Ministry indicates as a surplus. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That is not a policy.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Allow you to export is not a policy.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : The Agriculture Ministry knows what is the total production in this country.

AN HON. MEMBER : You are passing the buck

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I am not passing the buck. They indicate what is the surplus...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, that is not a policy. We do not want you to discuss your Ministry's matter in the House. I have seen many Ministers saying that this Ministry is doing and that Ministry is doing. You discuss it in the Council of Ministers. You give the answer as a Government and not give the answer as a Minister looking after the Ministry.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I would answer on behalf of the Government. The Government takes into account domestic production; the Government takes into account the prevailing price situation; the Government takes into account whether there is a surplus which can be exported after meeting domestic demand; and after considering all these factors the Government decides

what would be the ceiling, subject to which export can take place. Within the ceiling we allow exports. Sometimes the ceilings are not met but I do not think, there has been any case where we have exceeded the ceiling. Maybe we may have marginally exceeded the ceiling. But, we are fully conscious, Sir, that if there is any particular commodity where a policy review is required, I am willing to do the policy review but we are fully conscious that our first obligation is to meet the requirements of the Indian people and after meeting the requirements of the Indian people, if there are surpluses, the surpluses will be exported.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, he has indicated that if necessary, he will review the policy.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY : It should be an integrated policy...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER : They cannot have it both ways.

MR. SPEAKER : They do have a policy.

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN (RETD) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: The hon. Minister has explained about the measures adopted to boost the export in the reply given to this question by him. One of these measures is increasing the capacity of production. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards a fact that increasing the production capacity is a separate thing but in many parts of the country, even the existing capacity of production is not being utilised fully. There are two main reasons behind it. These areas do not have marketing facilities, roads, arrangements for transport and processing units. In Garhwal division of Uttar Pradesh not only thousands but lakhs of fruits and other perishable goods have to be thrown as they get rotten but the hon. Minister is talking about developing more production capacity. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he is aware of the fact that several parts of the country are quite backward and these do not have any arrangement for marketing and processing units. What steps are being taken by the Government for creating marketing facilities in such areas and whether with the help of Ministry of Food Processing a scheme is being prepared for the whole country to set up food processing units so that such wastage may be checked and to save the production of fruits in the areas like ours?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, there is a policy, as I just said in answer to another supplementary. There are plan schemes to provide for infrastructural facilities but they are limited by the funds which are available. As I said, this year Rs. 50 crore have been made available. I hope that infrastructural facilities will be enhanced. But the long term answer is, it is not for the Government or an agency to pour the money because it is large country and a large amount of infrastructure

is required. What we need is investment in these sectors. The investment will increase only if the sectors are profitable. If there is profit in export, profit in providing infrastructure, investment will grow. Our policy is to encourage investment in these sectors, as requirement in these sectors grow.

If there is no investment in Garhwal, that is clearly a deficiency. But State Government, private sector will have to provide investment in these areas and only then the infrastructure will improve. To the extent it is within my capacity to provide infrastructure through APEDA, to the extent funds are available, I shall certainly provide this infrastructure and I shall take into account the needs of Garhwal region.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Thank you.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : The question I wanted to ask...

MR. SPEAKER : Not on onions, I suppose.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : There is no need for repeating the question. In Parts (b) and (c) he has replied, certain studies have been made where the competitiveness of certain things is there in the international market. In that case, I want to know whether all these items, which they think have the competitiveness in the market, will be exported to other countries as processed or as primary products. What is their idea about all these things which could be processed? I want to know whether the Government will export them as processed foods when the study has been made or they will be exported as primary products.

My second point is about the marine products. That is also treated as a part of agricultural products. Here in the reply, it has not been covered. I want to know whether the Ministry has left out the marine products from the agricultural products or not.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Answer to the first question is, there is a market both for primary products, there is also market for value added products. Take for example mangoes. There is a market for mangoes; there is also a market for mango products. I do not think the Government should decide whether it should go as mango or value added products. We will encourage value added products going out. But it is essentially a decision which has to be taken by the producer and the buyer. But the policy of the Government is to encourage value added products going out because that will secure greater revenue for us.

On the second question, in some calculations some organisations take marine products as agricultural products. In some calculations marine products are not counted as agricultural products. But for our purposes, when I gave these figures, I have included marine products as agricultural products.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI : Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister that in view of the rich production of apple in Himachal Pradesh what juice? In your reply you have mentioned 17 items such as banana, chikoo etc. and efforts are being made for export of these fruits and whether you will think over inclusion of apple and other fruits produced in Himachal Pradesh in this list. Just now my friend Shri Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri has said that there are several such areas in Garhwal from where transportation of fruit is quite difficult because these areas lack basic facilities like roads etc. In the same way there are several such areas in the remote areas of Himachal Pradesh which produce fruit in abundance but there are no means for their transportation upto main road and where there are some facilities, it proves very expensive to transport those upto the markets. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether any such scheme has been formulated by which fruits and vegetables from remote and backward areas in Himachal Pradesh may be transported to the markets and the growers of such areas may be benefited?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : With great respect, I would not be able to give a specific answer about apple juice.

MR. SPEAKER : You can inform him later.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : All I can say about processed fruits and juices is, last year we exported them to the tune of Rs. 385 crore as against the previous year's export of about Rs. 176 crore. That is the overall picture.

MR. SPEAKER : In forty minutes we have covered only two questions. I am going to the next question.

Airports Authority of India

*443. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have issued notification for the merger of the National Airports authority and the International Airports Authority called Airports Authority of India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). The National Airports Authority and the International Airports Authority of India have been merged into a unified Authority viz. Airports Authority of India with effect from 1st April, 1995 with a view to facilitate better mobilisation and utilisation of resources for integrated development of airports.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, since 1st April, 1995 the National Airports Authority and the International Airports Authority have been merged into a unified authority viz. Airports Authority of India. I would like to know the outcome of this merger so far and what more better results of this merger can be expected in future?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Member has told himself that these two authorities have been merged into one. The reason behind it is that in 1986 it was felt that National Airports Authority and International Airports Authority should be set up separately so that International Airports Authority would look into the functioning of International Airports and National Airport Authority would look into the functioning of domestic airports but we found some serious difficulties in it. Things were distributed between the two authorities, like run-way was under one Authority but lights were under the control of another authority. There are several other things about which I do not like to say anything. During the court of inquiry about the accident took place in December 1993, these points were raised and it was condemned that run-way is under control of one authority and lights are under the other, generator is under the Control of one authority and Instrument landing system is under the other and thus no one was accountable for that. We achieved 2-3 benefits by merging these two authorities. Earlier one authority was earning profit and paying tax but other was incurring losses. By merging the both the authorities and their resources, we were able to get profit. Apart from it we will be benefited by the expertise in both the authorities. In this way this merger will be beneficial.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, as per the information provided by the Department of Civil Aviation our airlines have the daily capacity of 50 thousand seats but out of that 40 per cent seats remain vacant. Throughout the world the average number of employees per aircraft is 300 whereas you have 830 employees per aircraft. I have received this information from the Department of Civil Aviation. This number is three times more. You may be incurring loss due to it. Your Employees Association is quite strong which go on strike every now and then to pressurise you to accept their demands. In this way you are incurring a loss of Rs. 200 crore. Now a days the employees of Indian Airlines are leaving their services to join private companies. It seems that after some days your department will have to be closed down. I would like to know as to what steps your department is taking and formulating new schemes or plans to check this trend.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, both these questions are different in nature. The first question relates to Airport Authority and the second question relates to Indian Airlines. As the second question relates to Indian Airlines, I therefore would request, you to ask some other question.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not got reply to my question...*(Interruptions)*. It is an important matter...*(Interruption)*.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome the merger move which I think would definitely bring in greater efficiency. But this has a concomitant difficulty also. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps have been taken regarding the integration of the services of the two authorities, whether the concerned Unions have been consulted on this and how the seniority is going to be fixed and how it is going to be ensured that those people are not retrenched.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Let me first be very categorical about it that nobody is going to be really retrenched. As it is already provided, according to Section 18 of the Airports Authority of India Act, there will be two separate division — the International Airports Division and the National Airports Division — for a period of one year; and this will be extendable by one more year. During this period of one year, extendable of course by another years, a well-considered scheme will be evolved based on the cadres of two divisions which would be integrated. This is already in the Act. An expert committee is being set up for this purpose. The composition of the committee will be a retired High Court Judge as Chairman and two senior officers conversant with the matters related to Civil Aviation as members.

Pilots of Indian Airlines

*444. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pilots who quit Indian Airlines after the expiry of service agreement and the number of pilots who quit before such expiry;

(b) the steps taken to motivate pilots to remain in service of Indian Airlines; and

(c) the action taken against those pilots who left service before the expiry of agreement?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c). Of the 148 pilots who left Indian Airlines between 1991 and 15.4.1995, ninety eight pilots had completed the required period of service under the Service Agreement/Bond. Liquidated damages were

claimed from all the 50 pilots who left before completing the obligations under Service Agreement/Bond. Recovery has been effected in three cases and is being pursued in other cases in which the amount outstanding is more than Rs. 15,000/- each.

The following steps have been taken to motivate pilots to remain in the service of Indian Airlines:

- Signing of Productivity Linked Agreement in November 1993 to increase monthly utilisation of Pilots.
- Increase in monthly allowances.
- Special allowance for operating to neighbouring countries.
- Career advancement, change in training pattern.
- Increase in allowances for Instructors.
- Appointment of Grievance Officer and Single Window services to meet day to day requirement of pilots.
- Improvement in transport facilities.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA ANGIHOTRI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that the reply to both the questions i.e. 443 and 444 should be given. He has also informed the House that why the air-services are not running properly and incurring losses. He has also given a statement about the reasons behind that in this House. My question regarding that is that as to whether any agreement was signed between the Government and pilot's Association and due to non-implementation of which there is wide spread resentment among the pilots or whether there are any other reasons for that? What concrete measures have been adopted to stop the pilots from joining other companies?

Whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that a private airline company of Gulf is attracting a large number of trained pilots of Indian Airlines to join that company for flying A-320 and A-340 aircrafts?

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Please reply to my question also.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : I will reply to that also.

[English]

As far as part 'a' of the question is concerned, it is not true that the agreement signed with ICPA...

[Translation]

SHRI REJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Hon. Minister you know Hindi very well.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : The reply has technical words and it becomes really very difficulty to find appropriate equivalents in Hindi.

[English]

As far as the agreement which was signed in November 1993 is concerned, nobody has gone back from that. To a great extent that agreement has been signed. I have already mentioned that the signing of 'Productivity Linked Scheme' has helped us to a great extent. In 1993-94, a large number of pilots, commanders and co-pilots left the Indian Airlines. I think, the number went to as high as 100 at that point of time with the result the gap was almost 30 per cent; and to meet that particular gap, we had to sign an agreement with ICPA because of which the gap was narrowed down and so, the gap was only five per cent. Otherwise, we would have suffered a great deal of problems during that period.

As to the question of what steps have been taken, I would like to mention a few steps which have helped us. As I have already mentioned, the signing of Productivity Linked Agreement in November 1993 with ICPA increased the maximum flying hours of the pilots from 65 hours to 80 hours per month. This has also increased the utilisation of pilots. Now, the pilots are in return getting increased emoluments. They removed some minor irritants. That has already been taken care of. Then, there has also been an increase in the monthly allowance for the flights to neighbouring countries and for 'hub and spoke' flights on behalf of Air India.

And flights to high altitude air-fields have also been provided extra allowances. In addition to this, addition of new cars to improve crew transport service has already been done. Appointment of Grievance Officer has also been done. Insurance for loss of life the pilots and co-pilots has been increased from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 15 lakhs. These are some soft options which we have chosen to buy, you might say, peace with the pilots or to improve the productivity. But apart from these, we have also taken some deterrent steps which may stop exodus of pilots to a great extent. They are :

- (1) Increase of notice period from one month to six months and not accepting the basic salary in lieu of notice period.
- (2) Issuance of AIC by DGCA on 11.12.1992 with the result the ATOs are not supposed to take the pilots without No objection Certificate from the Airlines.
- (3) Increasing the value of bond from Rs. 35,000 in 1988 to the present value of Rs. 10 lakhs with a minimum service of ten years.

So, these are some steps which we have taken in the past two to three years. With the result, I must say that in the past six months, there has not been a single pilot who has left the Airlines. Rather, I must say that 11 pilots have joined and there is another half a dozen of them who are in the queue to join the Airlines.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : It should be construed from the reply of the hon. Minister that the Government has accepted that they had concluded an agreement with the Pilot's associations and they were taken into confidence. My second question is, whether the hon. Minister will inform about the number of pilots deprived of flying aircraft on account of the merger of the Indian Airlines and Vayudoot? Whether these pilots, who were taken into confidence after the merger have been posted at suitable places. If so, what action has been taken and what action is likely to be taken so that the licences of such pilots may not be cancelled. Please do inform, if the Government proposes to take some effective steps to improve their training and to keep the pilots satisfied.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Mr. Speaker Sir, the reply of the first question is not true that the management has done, what the pilots had said in the I.C.P.A. As I have already said that discussion has been going on with the I.C.P.A for the last 30 years that they keep flying for 65 hours while they can do so for 100 hours. The one thing that raised there was that they should at least fly for 80 hours. As I have already said that the gap of 30 per cent got converted into 5 per cent by flying for 80 hours and it caused us a profit of crores of rupees, which is spent on appointing new pilots or giving them new trainings. It is not so that we have not received anything in return. Both we as well as they have been benefitted by it.

As far as the second question is concerned, it is a fact that the Vayudoot has been merged with the Indian Airlines, but it has not merged fully. It is working as a division of Indian Airlines. We have taken a decision that more than 50 per cent of staff will be absorbed permanently in the Indian Airlines and the rest of it will be absorbed in the Air India, Airports Authority of India and the Helicopter Corporation. As far as Indian Airlines is concerned there are around 1300 employees of Vayudoot in it, out of them, more than 700 employees have already been absorbed in the Indian Airlines. The remaining will be absorbed in the Air India, Airports Authority of Indian and the Helicopter Corporation and that is a continuous process.

As far as pilots are concerned, we had granted permission to the pilots of Vayudoot that if they wanted to join the private airlines, they could do so, while we do not allow the pilots of Indian Airlines to go outside and try to keep them. As far as Vayudoot is concerned, we had given them the permission. Many of them have joined private airlines and we are thinking in terms of giving training to the remaining pilots for the Indian Airlines or Boeing 737, so that they can be utilised. The question of the lapse of their licences does not arise at all.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the improvement in relations between the management of Indian Airlines and the staff including pilots, engineers and other categories of staff, because from what he has been saying, it appears that he is trying to make out that there has recently been an improvement in relations. I want to know whether this improvement in relations is due, partly or entirely, to the recent induction of one very prominent private sector industrialist as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Indian Airlines.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Sir, I do not know what the hon. Member is intending me to say. But I will say that this is on account of the agreement which we have signed with ICPA in November, 1993 which is now being implemented. It is the result of this agreement.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : So, it is not due to him. He has no credit for this.

SHRI UMRAO SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the basic training to the pilots for flying was being given by the flying clubs in the country. Now, most of the flying clubs are closed or under the process of closure. May I know from the Minister as to what steps are being taken to keep up these flying clubs in working conditions to produce more pilots for future requirements?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Sir, of course, this is totally a different question. But I would like to say that dearth of pilots is not on account of CPL holders. There are more than 1500 CPL holders at the moment. The dearth is of Commanders and not of co-pilots at the junior level.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, just now the question of pilots was raised. The private companies got a deposit of four and half to five lakh rupees from the boys of the poor families to give them training of pilots. They were even sent to London for training but the private companies are not giving them full salaries. There is a panic among the poor families over this issue. I had talked to the hon. Minister personally in this regard. They are trapped in the local training also. They are not being given full training. What will be the fate of the unemployed youths who have stated the whole earnings of their lives? Today, they are not being given full training and full salaries also. What steps the Government is likely to take, so as to ensure that they get full salaries from the private companies.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : I think that the private companies will not repeat the mistake committed by the Indian Airlines. Only then they will be saved otherwise they will also meet the same fate which the Indian Airlines have met.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : They have got the full amount deposited. They have deposited four and half to five lakh rupees.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : They can file cases in the Court against those persons.

[Translation]

SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Mr. Speaker Sir, just now it was being said that the pilots, the staff and the technicians should not leave their companies. The Vayudoot has been merged with Indian Airlines. It was to pay to the employees and fix the duties of the staff, such cases are lying pending still. The staff had launched as agitation. When a final decision in this regard will be taken?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : I have already given the reply of it. Vayudoot has already merged with the Indian Airlines but it is also to seen that there should be vacant posts to absorb the staff there. As far as Air India and Airports Authority are concerned, whenever the vacancies arise there, the staff of Vayudoot is absorbed instead of taking the persons from outside.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Demand of Opium

*445. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of opium exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last one year;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any policy to meet the demand for opium in and outside the country for manufacturing life saving drugs;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether opium crop is destroyed every year due to natural calamity;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the measures taken in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) The total quantity of opium exported during the financial year 1994-95 was 407.781 tonnes (at 90°C) and Rs. 58.75 crores was earned as foreign exchange.

(b) and (c). A major portion of the demand for opium comes from foreign buyers of opium who manufacture opiate alkaloids from opium for medical and scientific needs. Opium is also used in India by the Government

Opium and Alkaloid Factories situated at Ghazipur and Neemuch for production of opiate Alkaloids. Before finalising the licensing policy for poppy cultivation at the beginning of a crop year, an estimate is made of the likely demand for opium (for export and domestic use) in the following financial year so that planning of poppy cultivation and opium production could be made accordingly.

(d) Like other agricultural crops, opium crop is also susceptible to vagaries of nature and inclement weather. The villages which suffer damage due to weather conditions are generally different year to year. The areas suffering damage and the extent of damage also differs every year. The main causes of damage are hailstorms, unseasonal rains and strong cold winds.

(e) The details of area under poppy cultivation uprooted (ploughed back) on account of damage during the crop year 1991-92 to 1993-94 is as follows :

| Year | Area Measured (Hectares) | Area Uprooted/ Ploughed Back (In Hectares) | % of Area Uprooted/ Ploughed Back |
|---------|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1991-92 | 14440 | 77.75 | 0.54% |
| 1992-93 | 13657 | 1747.97 | 12.80% |
| 1993-94 | 12985 | 341.00 | 2.03% |

(f) On receipt of applications from the cultivators reporting damage to their opium crop, verification of extent of damage is undertaken by the departmental officers, wherever required. Damage affected opium crop where no lancing has taken place is permitted to be ploughed back under departmental supervision. On the basis of the reports received from the departmental officers verifying damage, appropriate relief is granted to the concerned cultivators under the licensing policy for the using crop year.

[English]

Lending Rates of Foreign Banks

*446. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN :
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that some foreign banks have increased the lending rates;

(b) if so, the names of banks alongwith the details of the increase in the lending rates;

(c) whether this increase in rates is in accordance with the guidelines of RBI; and

(d) if not, the action taken/proposed to be taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that some of the foreign banks have raised their prime lending rates after the announcement of the Credit Policy for the first half of 1995-96 on 17.4.95 as per details given below :

| Name of the Bank | Prime Lending Rate (excluding interest tax) (per cent per annum) | Effective date |
|-----------------------------------|--|----------------|
| 1. American Express Bank | 15.0 | 26.4.1995 |
| 2. Bank of Nova Scotia | 16.0 | 21.4.1995 |
| 3. Bank of Tokyo | 16.0 | 26.4.1995 |
| 4. Societe Generale | 16.0 | 18.4.1995 |
| 5. Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank Ltd. | 15.5 | 26.4.1995 |
| 6. Sakura Bank | 16.0 | 01.5.1995 |
| 7. Credit Lyonnais | 16.0 | 20.4.1995 |

(c) and (d). RBI has intimated that since 18 October, 1994 banks have been given freedom to fix the lending rates for borrowers with credit limits of over Rs. 2 lakhs with the approval of their respective Boards. Each banks prime lending rate needs to be declared and be uniformly applicable at all branches. In view of this, raising of prime lending rates by foreign banks does not contravene RBI guidelines.

Bank Loans to Industrial Sector

*447. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the outstanding loans of public sector banks are rapidly increasing against the industrial sector;

(b) if so, the percentage of bank loans out of the total bank loans outstanding against the industrial sector in 1991-92 and the percentage thereof during 1994-95;

(c) the type of industries against which outstanding bank loans have increased; and

(d) the action taken by the banks to recover the loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The percentage of outstanding credit to small, medium and large industries to total outstanding of public sector banks for the last three years as given by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are given below :

| | |
|------------|------|
| March 1992 | 48.2 |
| March 1993 | 49.3 |
| March 1994 | 48.3 |

It will be seen that there is only a marginal variation in the percentage.

(c) The industry-wise position of outstanding credit are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Outstanding loans have to be recovered only as and when they become due. RBI has reported that one of the obligations/commitments under the memorandum of Understanding executed between the banks and RBI was to set up a recovery cell at Head Office under the charge of a General Manager to monitor the recovery of non-performing assets by respective banks. It has been agreed by the nationalised banks that branch-wise recovery targets would be fixed. The Chairmen and Managing Director of the nationalised banks would review the recovery performance on a monthly basis and the Board of Directors would review the same on a quarterly basis. The reduction of non-performing assets is also commented upon in the inspection reports of RBI and monitored. The need for better recovery performance is also emphasised at the time of discussions of the Chairmen of banks with the top management of RBI on inspection findings.

STATEMENT

Industry-wise Deployment of Gross Bank Credit

(Rupees crore)

| Industry | Outstanding as on | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------------|----------------|---|
| | March 18, 1994 | March 19, 1994 | March, 20 1994 | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Industry (Total of small, medium and large scale) | 80,492 | 78,662 | 65,240 | |
| 1. Coal | 457 | 340 | 246 | |
| 2. Iron and steel | 4,530 | 5,710 | 3,692 | |
| 3. Other metals and metal products | 3,202 | 2,879 | 2,312 | |
| 4. All engineering of which : Electronics | 7,106 | 17,094 | 14,842 | |
| | 2,517 | 2,327 | 2,092 | |
| 5. Electricity generation and transmission | 1,426 | 1,404 | 1,298 | |
| 6. Cotton textiles | 4,805 | 4,645 | 4,278 | |
| 7. Jute textiles | 409 | 348 | 330 | |
| 8. Other textiles | 4,937 | 4,653 | 3,970 | |
| 9. Sugar | 1,367 | 1,256 | 899 | |
| 10. Tea | 917 | 782 | 658 | |
| 11. Food Processing | 1,698 | 1,423 | 1,241 | |
| 12. Vegetable oil (including nasapti) | 1,076 | 1,017 | 898 | |
| 13. Tobacco and tobacco products | 623 | 739 | 550 | |
| 14. Paper and Paper Products | 1,734 | 1,595 | 1,501 | |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|--------|--------|--------|
| 15. Rubber and rubber Products | | | 1,196 | 1,186 | 1,077 |
| 16. Chemicals, dyes, paints, etc. of which: | | | 10,027 | 10,117 | 8,280 |
| (i) Fertilizers | | | 1,533 | 1,713 | 1,357 |
| (ii) Petro-chemicals | | | 752 | 945 | 614 |
| (iii) Drugs and Pharmaceuticals | | | 1,437 | 1,309 | 1,127 |
| 17. Cement | | | 1,218 | 1,103 | 986 |
| 18. Leather and leather Products | | | 1,284 | 1,095 | 1,086 |
| 19. Gems and jewellery | | | 1,966 | 1,624 | 1,300 |
| 20. Construction | | | 1,669 | 1,567 | 1,344 |
| 21. Petroleum | | | 227 | 436 | 19 |
| 22. Safauns | | | 30 | 46 | 68 |
| 23. Other Industries | | | 18,689 | 17,803 | 14,365 |

Note : 1. Data are provisional and relate to 48 scheduled commercial banks which form about 90 - 95 per cent of bank credit of all scheduled commercial banks.

Import Linked Export

*448. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any definite trend has been established in the import linked export trade during the last one year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). The latest disaggregated data on exports and imports available for April-January 1994-95 show that overall growth rates were 17.3% and 23.6% respectively, in dollar terms. However, except for gems & jewellery, trend in direct link between imports and exports is not discernible as imports mainly comprise raw materials including oil, intermediate inputs and capital goods. Imports of these items help overall economic growth including industrial production. Imports of mass consumption goods are also permitted to supplement domestic availability and contain price rise.

Tax Holiday to Units

*449. SHRIMATI SURYA KANTA PATIL :
SHRI SURENDER PAL PATHAK

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the report of the study Group in connection with concession of five year tax holiday to new industrial undertakings commencing production on or after 1st October, 1994 in the specified backward districts; (b) if so, the districts which have been declared as backward, statewise;

(c) the main recommendations made by the study Group;

(d) whether these recommendations have been accepted by the Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which these recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f). The recommendations contained in the Report of the Study Group, submitted in October, 1994, are under the consideration of the Government. Decision on the Report will be taken soon.

Child Labour

*450. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employment of Child Labour is on the ascendancy since 1991;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have since evaluated the social implications of this trend; and

(d) the special measures undertaken to minimise the employment of Child Labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):
(a) and (b). Authentic figures on child labour are generated during decennial census. According to 1981 census, the number of working children was 13.6 million. In the 43rd round of National Sample Survey conducted in 1987-88 the figure of child labour has been estimated to be 17.02 million. The data on child labour as per 1991 census has not yet been released.

(c) and (d). Since children continue to work owing to socio-economic reasons, various welfare schemes have been taken up. The policy of the Government is to progressively eliminate child labour. Under the National Child Labour Policy, 1987, projects have been taken up in areas where child labour is concentrated. Under the Grant-in-aid schemes and the International Programme for Elimination of child Labour (IPEC), action-oriented projects for the benefit of children withdrawn from work have been taken up.

Apart from the prohibitory provisions under the various labour laws like the Factories Act, 1948, Mines Act, 1952, Bidi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1986, child labour is also prohibited in scheduled occupations/processes under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. In areas where children are permitted to work, their working conditions are regulated under part III of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. The enforcement

of the Provisions of Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 is being monitored by the Central Government. All the State Governments/UTs are also to enforce the child related laws.

In addition to the above, National Authority for the Elimination of child labour (NAECL) has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Union Labour Minister to tackle the problem of child labour. The NAECL has adopted a plan of action titled "Identification, Release and Rehabilitation of Child Labour" to tackle the problem of child labour in the country. Briefly, it calls for a convergence of services and schemes of the Central and State Governments at the implementing level- the District to effectively handle the identification and rehabilitation of child labour, the economic rehabilitation of the family with child labour and stricter enforcement of relevant laws. This plan of action has been sent to all States/UTs for adoption.

Regional Trade Alliance between Northern States

*451. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE:

SHRI SANT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Chief Ministers of Northern States decided at a meeting organised by the Council of North Indian States for Cooperation and Regional Development to form a regional trade alliance and common market on the lines of the European Union to strengthen regional cooperation, which include ports, highways and agro-industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon;

(d) whether the proposed alliance envisage any specific plan for improving standards of life in the region?

(e) whether the Zonal Councils constituted by the National Development Council in the past have ceased to be active platforms of a federal system in this regard?

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to revive these platforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). It is learnt that in a meeting organised by confederation of Indian Industry (CII) the State Governments of Northern India have agreed to consider the idea of setting-up a Council of North Indian States for Cooperation and Regional Development (CONCORD) to strengthen regional cooperation which include ports, highways and agro-industries.

The broad objectives of CONCORD are to coordinate efforts of the member-states to improve the quality of life in the region equally for all sections of

society by creating employment and promoting sustainable development. It is expected that such cooperation will prove to be fruitful in uplifting the rural economy and ensuring economic and industrial development of the region.

(c) No such reference has been made to the Central Government.

(d) According to CII by the overall development achieved by CONCORD, the standard of life of the people from these States would improve significantly, as it aims at creating employment and promoting sustainable development by giving priority to infrastructural development.

(e) No Sir. The five Zonal Councils, namely Northern Zonal Council, Southern Zonal Council, Eastern Zonal Council, Western Zonal Council and Central Zonal Council, were created under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956. These councils are active bodies and have been meeting from time to time under the chairmanship of the Union Home Minister.

(f) and (g). Does not arise.

Export Incentives

*452. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether factors like inflation have eroded the benefits arising out of export incentives;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Governments propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Rise in prices affects the competitiveness and, consequently, the profitability of India's exports.

Government's attempt is to enable exporters to source their raw materials, components and other inputs at the lowest prices. Towards this end, Government have reduced import duties and have also allowed duty free imports for certain categories of exports. Inputs sourced domestically are also eligible for certain tax reliefs.

Through streamlining of the Exim Policy and simplification of procedures, Government has reduced transaction costs of imports/exports.

Export credit is also available on concessional interest rates.

Government has also continued to extend to exporters the benefits under Section 80 HHC and related sections.

All these measures are intended to restore partially the erosion of profitability of exports due to increase in prices. In the long run, however, it is only by control of inflation that will remain competitive and profitable.

As a result of the measures taken by the Government exports recorded a growth of 18.3% in dollar terms in 1994-95 which was upon a growth of 20% in dollar terms in 1993-94.

Export Items

*453. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether export items which need special attention have been identified in order to accelerate the pace of export;

(b) if so, the details of such items; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government or proposed to be taken to provide special attention to these items and the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Thirty four 'Extreme Focus Products' have been identified by the Government for special attention based on their potential to achieve a 30% growth per annum in volume or value over the medium term.

(b) The items are aquaculture, agrochemicals, auto components, bicycles and parts, cement, complete vehicles, drugs and pharmaceuticals, dyes and intermediates, electric power generation and distribution equipment, floriculture, footwear, fresh fruits, gold jewellery, granite, handtools, internal combustion engines and parts, industrial castings and forgings, tomato paste products, tropical fruit juices pulp and concentrates, preserved mushrooms, readymade garments, rice, software packages, system software, network, computer aided design/computer aided manufacture, spices, sugar, molasses, alcohol including ethyl alcohol, sugar machinery, synthetic and man-made textiles, and tyres.

(c) The recommendations made in respect of these items have been examined and several decisions have already been taken which include reduction in interest rate on export credit, direction to commercial banks to increase the availability of credit to the export sector, opening up Inland Container Depots and Container Freight Stations to the private sector, extending testing facilities for packaging materials in the country and simplification of procedures relating to bank guarantees for fulfilment of export obligations. Besides customs and excise duties on raw-materials and capital goods have been reduced, particularly for the items covered among 'Extreme Focus Products'. As a result, export growth of items covered 'Extreme Focus' Category is reported to be higher at 23.31% compared to overall growth rate of 17%, in US \$ terms during April-December 1994 latest period for which such disaggregated data are available.

Top Exporters

*454. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the name of top twenty exporters among Indian private sector companies indicating the value of exports made by each of them during each of the last three years;

(b) the value of imports made by each of these companies during the above period; and

(c) the details of special incentives which are allowed to these exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Leading exporters are recognised as Export Houses, Trading Houses, Star Trading Houses and Super Star Trading Houses based on export performance as per the criteria laid down in para 137 of the Export/Import Policy 1992-97.

2. Based on the information received from Federation of Indian Export Organisation, the names of the top twenty exporters from these categories and the value of the exports made by them during 1991-92 to 1993-94, year-wise is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

3. Based on the information received from these companies the value of imports made by them during this period is also given in enclosed Statement-I.

4. The details of special incentives available to such categories of exporters are given in enclosed Statement-II.

STATEMENT-I

1991-92

| S. No. | Name of the Pvt. Co. | Export made | Import made |
|--------|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | (Rs. in Crores) | (Rs. in Crores) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | M/s Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd, Engg. Export Deppt. Tata Centre, 7th Floor, 43, Chowringee Road, Calcutta-700071. | 440.3451 | 413.18 |
| 2. | M/s. Tata Exports Ltd, Shah House, Shivsagar Est. Dr. A.B. Road, Worli, Bombay-400018. | 403.2069 | 14.77 |
| 3. | M/s I.T.C. Ltd., 'Virginia House, 37, Chowringee, Calcutta-700071. | 381.4669 | 31.26 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|--|----------|--------|
| 4. | M/s Indian sugar & Genl Inds. Ex. IM. Corpn. Ltd., 21, Community Centre, East of Kailash, New Delhi-10065. | 366.1882 | Nil |
| 5. | M/s Allanasons Ltd., Allana House, 4 Allana Road, Colaba, Bombay-400039. | 207.9617 | 6.27 |
| 6. | M/s Century Textiles & Industries Ltd., Century Bavan, Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, Bombay -400025. | 206.4524 | 9.23 |
| 7. | M/s B. Vijaykumar & Co. Mehta Bhavan, 6th Floor, Opp. Aibless Baugh, 311, Charni Road, Bombay-400004. | 204.3480 | 160.59 |
| 8. | M/s Hindustan Lever Ltd., Hindustan Lever House, No. 165/166, Backbay Reclamation, Bombay-400020. | 183.6775 | 50.80 |
| 9. | M/s J.V. Gokal & Co. Kasturi Building, 171/172, Jamshedji, Tata Road, Bomaby-400020. | 151.7051 | Nil |
| 10. | M/s Everest Gems, 1608/9, Prasad Chamber, Tata Road No. 2, Opera House, Bombay-400004. | 150.4312 | 100.77 |
| 11. | M/s Su-raj Diamonds (India) Ltd., 151/2/3, C-Wing, Mittal Court Nariman Point, Bomaby-400021. | 144.9822 | 101.89 |
| 12. | M/s Nava Bharat Enterprises, Ltd., Nava Bharat House, 6-3-654, Somajigunda, Hyderabad-500482.(A.P.) | 129.3224 | 7.66 |
| 13. | M/s Torrent Exports Ltd., Torrent House, Near Dinesh Hall Ashram Road, Ahmedabad-380009. | 126.7688 | 40.75 |
| 14. | M/s Mahendra Brothers, 611, Panchratna, 6th Floor, M.P. Marg, Opera House, Bombay-400004. | 112.5323 | 100.77 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|--|----------|--------|
| 15. | M/s Ratan Exports & Inds. Ltd., 3A/12, Western Extension Area, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005. | 107.2438 | 5.03 |
| 16. | M/s Ratilal Becharilal & Sons, 401/2, Prasad Chamber, Near Roxy Cinema, Bombay-400004. | 101.1339 | 81.85 |
| 17. | M/s Jindal Exports Ltd., 110, Babar Road, Opp. Holiday Inn, Hotel, New Delhi-110001. | 98.7000 | 43.946 |
| 18. | M/s B. Arunkumar & Co. 1616, Prasad Chamber, Tata Road No.2, Opera House, Bombay-400004. | 98.2348 | 83.15 |
| 19. | M/s M.J. Exports Ltd., 113, Jolly Maker Chamber, No.2, Nariman Point, Bombay-400021. | 93.6992 | 1.54 |
| 20. | M/s Coats Viyella India Ltd., 144, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001. | 88.4828 | 16.89 |

1992-93

| S. No | Name of the Pvt. Co. | Export made | Import made |
|-------|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | (Rs. in Crores) | (Rs. in Crores) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | M/s Tata Iron & Steel-Company Limited. Engg. Export Deptt. Tata Centre. 7th floor. Chowringee Road. Calcutta. 700 071. | 634.4698 | 457.72 |
| 2. | M/s. Ganapati Exports Ltd. 225 D. Lower Circular Road, Calcutta-700020 | 529.4283 | 21.12 |
| 3. | M/s. I.T.C. Ltd. 'Virginia House' 37 Chowringee Rd. Calcutta. 700 070. | 514.6941 | 75.26 |
| 4. | M/s. Tata Exports Ltd. Shah House, Shivaagar Estt. Dr. A.B. Road, Worli. Bombay. 400 018. | 507.7915 | 10.18 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|--|----------|--------|
| 5. | M/s. M.S.A.M. Md. Ibrahim Leather Pvt. 8-B, Vepery High Road. Periamet. Madras. 600 003. | 461.0468 | .081 |
| 6. | M/s. Indian Sugar & Gen, Inds. Ex. Im. Corpn. Ltd. 21, Community Centre. East of Kailash, New-Delhi. | 326.9867 | Nil |
| 7. | M/s. B. Vijaykumar & Co. Metha Bhavan, 6th Floor. Opp. Albles Baug. 31.1 Charni Road. Bombay. 400 004. | 310.4000 | 263.92 |
| 8. | M/s. Suraj Diamonds (Indian) Ltd., 151/2/3, C Wing Mittal Court, Nariman Point. Bombay. 400021. | 237.0776 | 192.3 |
| 9. | M/s. Allanasons Ltd. Allanson House, 4, Allana Rd. Colaba, Bombay-400 039 | 233.8219 | 1.53 |
| 10. | M/s. Century Textiles & Industries. Ltd. Century Bhavan, Dr. Annei - Besant Rd. Worli. Bombay 400 025. | 218.8626 | 6.44 |
| 11. | M/s Hindustan Lever Ltd. Hindustan Lever House. No.165/166, Raokbay Reclamation. Bombay 400 020. | 193.7890 | 97.67 |
| 12. | Ms. Suashish Diamonds Ltd. 347, Panchratan M.P. Marg. Opera House, Bombay. 400 004. | 190.1191 | 162.74 |
| 13. | M/s. Tata Councultancy Services. Air India Building, 11th Floor Nariman Point. Bombay 400 021. | 175.5000 | 6.81 |
| 14. | M/s. Adani Exports. Exports Ltd. 30, Asia House, Near Swatik Char. Rasta Navrangpura, Ahmedabad - 380 009. | 156.6554 | Nil |
| 15. | M/s. Gitanjali Exports Corpn. 801/802, Prasad Chambers. Opera House. Bombay 400 004. | 155.9500 | 96.07 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|---|-----------|--------|
| 16. | M/s. Mahendra Brothers. 611, Panchratna, 6th Floor M.P. Marg. Opera House. Bombay -400 004. | 139.65.10 | 106.34 |
| 17. | M/s. Beautiful Diamonds Ltd. 101-102-103, Mittal court, 'A' Wing 10th Floor, Nariman Point, Bombay. 400 021. | 134.9522 | 81.66 |
| 18. | M/s Everest Gems 1608/9 Prasad Chambers, Tata Rd. No. 2. Opera House Bombay-400 004. | 133.4002 | 149.50 |
| 19. | M/s. Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd. 10th Floor, Devika Tower, 6, Nehru Place, New Delhi. 110 019 | 133.1680 | 104.40 |
| 20. | M/s. Sesa Co. Ltd. PB. No. 125, Altinho, Panjim, Goe. 403 001. | 122.3544 | 18.91 |

1993-94

| S. No. | Name of the Pvt. Co. | Export made | Import made |
|-----------|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | (Rs. in Crores) | (Rs. in Crores) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | M/s. Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd., Engg. Export Deptt. Tata Centre, 7th Floor, 43, Chowringhee Road, Calcutta-700071. | 713 4925 | 356.30 |
| 2. | M/s. I T C Ltd., 'Virginia House' 37 Chowringhee, Calcutta-700071. | 662.3547 | 104.54 |
| 3. | M/s Tata Exports Ltd., Shah House, Shivsagar Est. Dr. A.B. Road, Worli, Bombay-400018. | 500.0189 | 18.42 |
| 4. | M/s Ganapati Exports Ltd., 2252, Lower Circular Road, Calcutta-700020. | 428.1644 | 32.90 |
| 5. | M/s Suraj Diamonds (India) Ltd., 151/2/3, O. Wing, Mittal Court, Nariman Point, Bombay-400021. | 410.0240 | 321.66 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|--|----------|--------|
| 6. | M/s Adani Exports Ltd., 30, Asia House Near Swastik Char, Rasta Navrangpura, Ahmedabad-380009. | 342.7100 | Nil |
| 7. | M/s B. Vijay Kumar & Co., Metha Bhavan, 6th Floor, Opp, Albless Baug, 311 Charni Road, Bombay-400004. | 329.6400 | 241.80 |
| 8. | M/s Indian Sugar & Genl. Industries Ex. Im. Corporation Ltd, 21, Community Centre, East of Kailash, New Delhi-110065. | 258.6906 | Nil |
| 9. | M/s Suashish Diamonds Ltd., 347, Panchratna M.P. Marg, Opera House, Bombay-400004. | 249.6683 | 115.90 |
| 10. | M/s Hindustan Lever Ltd., Hindustan Lever House, No. 165/166, Backbay Reclamation, Bombay-400020. | 241.3133 | 184.07 |
| 11. | M/s Century Textiles & Industries Ltd., Century Bhavan, Dr. Annie Basant Road, Bombay-400025. | 225.4404 | 19.26 |
| 12. | M/s Allanasons Ltd., Allana House, 4 Allana Road, Colaba Bombay-400039. | 222.8637 | 4.38 |
| 13. | M/s Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd. 10th Floor, Devika Tower, 6-Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | 219.8127 | 122.10 |
| 14. | M/s Everest Gems, 1608/9, Prasad Chamber, Tata Road No.2, Opera House, Bombay-400004. | 200.3156 | 169.38 |
| 15. | M/s Beautiful Diamonds Ltd., 101-102-103, Mittal Court, 'A' Wing, 10th Floor, Nariman Point, Bombay-400021. | 190.1053 | 104.87 |
| 16. | M/s Mahendra Brothers 611-Panchratna, 6th Floor, M.P. Marg, Opera House, Bombay-400004. | 169.6084 | 126.28 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|---|----------|--------|
| 17. | M/s Gitanjali Exports Corp., 801/802, Prasad Chambers, Opera House, Bombay-400004. | 167.2998 | 117.23 |
| 18. | M/s Dimexon, 1202, Prasad Chamber, Tata Road No., 2., Bombay-400004. | 163.3644 | 131.80 |
| 19. | M/s Sesa Goa Ltd., PB No. 125, Sltinho, Panjim, Goa-403001. | 147.6555 | 23.52 |
| 20. | M/s Asian Star Co. Ltd., 114, Mittal Court 'c' Nariman Point, Bombay-400021. | 143.7497 | 117.89 |

STATEMENT-II

The Details of Incontivers Available to Exporters Holding Exports House, Trading House, Star Trading House and Super Star Trading House and Status are Given as Under :

- (i) Special Import Licence either on FOB or NFE earned basis for imports of items listed in Appendix XXXV of the Hand Book of Procedures under normal customs duty as per entitlement in terms of Para 217 (a) of the Handbook of Procedures, Vol I.
- (ii) As per Entitlement import of Car is also allowed in terms of Para 217 (a) (e) of Handbook of Procedures Vol I, on normal customs duty payable in free foreign exchange out of status holders exchange bearing foreign currency (EEFC) accounts once in five years, against their valid status certificate, for their official use, against their own Special Import Licence.
- (iii) As per Para 217 A (C), of the Hand Book of Procedures Vol I Import of gold & silver against concessional rates of customs duty in free foreign exchange, provided the importer is an EEFC account holder and customs duty is paid in free foreign exchange out of EEPC account
- (iv) Market Development Assistance for export promotional activities abroad.
- (v) Exemption from Pre-shipment inspection from customs & other agencies.
- (vi) Facility of submitting legal undertaking instead of Bank Guarantee to import duty free raw-materials/capital goods for the purpose of manufacturing items of exports

under Duty Exemption Scheme and EPCG Schemes respectively.

- (vii) Green channal Facility as detailed in para 22 B of the Hand Book of Procedures Vol I.

[Translation]

Recovery of Bank Loans

*455. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of outstanding loans to nationalised banks during each of the last three years and as on January 31, 1995;

(b) whether the Government have formulated a comprehensive time bound programme for recovery of all outstanding loans;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have decided to set up special tribunal/courts for faster recovery of loans in order to settle huge backlog of outstanding cases; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
(a) Outstanding advances of nationalised banks during the last three years as indicated by the Reserve Bank of India are given below:

| Outstanding as on | Amount (Rs. Crore) |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| March, 1992 | 77158 |
| March, 1993 | 81800 |
| March, 1994 | 92935 |
| March, 1995 | 106080 |

(b) and (c). Outstanding loans have to be recovered only as and when they become due/Reserve Bank of India (RSI) has reported that one of the obligations/commitments under the Memorandum of Understanding executed between the banks and RBI is the monitoring of recovery of non-performing assets by banks through recovery cells at their Head Offices under the charge of a General Manager and through branch wise recovery targets. The Chairman and Managing Director of the Nationalised banks would review the recovery performance on a monthly basis and the Board of Directors would review the same on a quarterly basis. The reduction of non-performing assets is also commented upon in the inspection reports of RBI and monitored. The need for better recovery performance is also emphasised at the time of discussions of the Chairmen of banks with the top management of RBI on inspection findings.

Normally, banks, after exhausting all avenues of recovery, file suits for recovery. The setting up of Debt Recovery Tribunals is expected to improve the recovery performance of banks.

(d) and (e). Under the provisions of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 so far Government have established five Debt Recovery Tribunals at Delhi, Calcutta, Jaipur, Bangalore and Ahmedabad and a Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunal at Bombay.

Setting up of Industries in America

*456. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Indian companies have offered to set up industries in America;

(b) if so, the details of such industries proposed to be set up in America; and

(c) the total investments likely to be made in these industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). Indian companies have submitted applications for setting up joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries in the USA in the areas of trading, software development, marketing, consultancy, & research, oil/gas exploration/production, and development of hotels. The proposed Indian Investment in 12 proposals presently under consideration is US \$ 354.064 million.

[English]

Private Sector Banks

*457. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:
SHRI M.V.S. MURTHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entry of private sector banks in the country has created a competitive atmosphere; and

(b) if so, its likely impact on public sector banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has intimated that entry of new private sector banks in the country has increased the competitiveness. However, the exact impact of new private sector banks on public sector banks would be known only after the balance sheets of the banks are available when an idea about the amount of the deposits mobilised and advances given by them can be had.

Bench Mark Price for Rubber

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

(a) the rate at which the bench mark price of rubber was fixed during 1994-95;

(b) the cost of production of rubber at that time;

(c) whether there has been an increase in the cost of production of rubber since then;

(d) if so, the details of cost of production per hectare during each of the last three years;

(e) whether the Government have received any representation for increasing the bench mark price of rubber in view of their higher cost of production;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Govt. had notified the Bench Mark Price for Rubber on 22.2.94 at Rs. 2490 per quintal for RMA-IV grade based on the desk study carried out by the Cost Accounts Branch of the Ministry of Finance which assessed the cost of production at Rs. 1698 per quintal. No further cost study has been carried out since then. Cost of production of natural rubber as estimated by the Cost Accounts Branch of Finance Ministry is as follows:

| Year | Cost of production Rs./quintal |
|------|-----------------------------------|
| 1992 | 1513 |
| 1993 | 1698 |
| 1994 | Not estimated |

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Losses to Nationalised Banks

*459. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA :
DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nationalised banks in the country are running into heavy losses;

(b) if so, the details of the banks incurring losses at present;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to take any step to find out the reasons therefor;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b). Audited accounts of nationalised banks for the year ending 31st March, 1995 are yet to be received. However, during the year 1993-94, out of 19 nationalised banks, 12 have incurred losses. The names of these banks are given below :

1. Allhabad Bank.
2. Andhra Bank.
3. Bank of India.
4. Bank of Maharashtra.

5. Central Bank of India.
6. Dena Bank.
7. Indian Bank.
8. Indian Overseas Bank.
9. Punjab & Sind Bank.
10. Syndicate Bank.
11. United Bank of India.
12. UCO Bank.

(c) to (e). Introduction of income recognition and prudential norms in 1992-93 by Reserve Bank of India had resulted in some banks incurring losses due to higher provisioning requirements. In addition, low yield on advances, especially priority sector advances, fall in average yield of advances mainly because of non-performing assets, high establishment/overhead expenditure compared to the volume of business have been some of the reasons for losses suffered by the branches of nationalised banks.

[English]

Public Issues of M.S. Shoes

*460. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) :
SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHARY :

Will the minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a crisis was created by M.S. Shoes Limited in the shares market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have instituted an inquiry into the matter;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (e) whether the Government have taken action against the persons/authorities found responsible for irregularities in this matter;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps being taken by the Government to prevent such happenings in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
(a) and (b). The public issue of M/s M.S. Shoes East Limited, which opened for subscription in February, 1995, failed as the issue was not fully subscribed. The issue was in two parts, comprising a public issue of Zero Coupon Fully Convertible Debentures (FCDs) of Rs. 428 crores, followed by a rights issue of FCDs amounting to Rs. 271 crores to be offered to the existing shareholders. Transactions in the shares of this company also lead to a broker default on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) leading to the closure of the Exchange for three days.

(c) to (f). The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has taken steps to initiate action against the company, its directors, merchant bankers and the brokers. A Show Cause Notice was issued to the

company under Sec. 63 and 68 (read with 621) of the companies Act for misstatement and non-disclosure of a material fact that the prevailing market price of the shares of the company was the cum-rights price while the subscribers to the current issue would not be entitled to the rights issue. Show Cause Notices have also been issued to the company for manipulating the market price of the company's shares and a misstatement that the company had signed a MOU with M/s Marubeni Corporation, Japan for a buy-back arrangement.

Inspections of M/s Sarin & Company, M/s R.C. Maheswari & Company and M/s Yadav & Company, the brokers of the Delhi Stock Exchange, were conducted by SEBI in connection with price rigging by these broker firms in collusion with the company. SEBI has also directed the BSE to appoint a Committee of public representatives to look into the reasons for the broker default and to fix responsibility. The BSE has constituted the committee, which has also been requested to suggest such measures as it deems fit for avoiding the recurrence of such events. A Show Cause Notice has also been issued by SEBI to the merchant bankers for failure to exercise due diligence.

(g) Under the existing guidelines of SEBI, all companies intending to float public issues are required to submit their offer documents to SEBI through their lead manager for vetting in accordance with the SEBI Guidelines for Disclosures and Investor protection. Regulation 23 of the SEBI (Merchant Bankers) Regulation imposes an obligation on the Lead Merchant Bankers to verify the correctness of the documents for vetting. The Lead Manager is also required to give a due diligence certificate to SEBI as prescribed under the regulations. SEBI, which only vets but does not approve any public issue, is required to ensure that a company seeking to raise capital from the public discloses material information in the offer documents necessary for investors to take informed decisions.

With a view to further strengthening the existing disclosure requirements, SEBI has also constituted a committee of experts to suggest improvements in the disclosure norms.

Shilpgram Project

4525. SHRI RAMCHANDRA MAROTRAO GHANGARE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) the progress made so far in the establishment of the multicore 'Shilpgram' project at Nagpur which contained the establishment of a village to promote traditional folk artisans and craftsman;
- (b) the reasons for delay in implementation of the project;
- (c) the measures being taken to implement the project;

(d) whether the Government have selected any other place for the said project; and

(e) if so, the reasons for the change of site?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) There is no proposal with the Government to set up any 'Shilpgram' project at Nagpur to promote traditional folk artisans and craftsmen.

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

[Translation]

Investment in Small Savings

4526. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested the Union Government to introduce certificate of higher denomination for encouraging institutions to invest in small savings; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The request was not agreed to. Investments in Kisan Vikas Patra, National Savings Certificate and Post Office Time Deposits by institutions barring certain exceptions such as trusts, have been discontinued from 1.4.95.

[English]

Manufacture of Commercial Aircraft

4527. SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China propose to pool their technology and other resources to manufacture commercial aircraft jointly; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in November, 1993 by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) with M/s Daewoo Heavy Industries Ltd. of South Korea for conducting a feasibility study on manufacture of a medium sized passenger aircraft jointly by Republic of Korea, People's Republic of China, Singapore and India. Thereafter, the Government of South Korea have replaced Daewoo with M/S Samsung Aerospace as lead partner. HAL is in touch with Samsung and Aviation Industries of China (AVIC); a decision on HAL's participation would be taken on the basis of evaluation of the costs and benefits.

International Airport at Visakhapatnam

4528. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set-up an International Airport at Visakhapatnam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Savings

4529. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of domestic corporate and public savings vis-a-vis G.D.P. in the last three years;

(b) whether the percentage in some categories declining; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to arrest the decline in percentage of savings in the relevant categories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). As per the latest available data with the Central Statistical Organisation the details of Corporate and public savings as percentage of GDP are as under:

| | 1991-92 | 1992-93 | 1993-94 |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Private Corporate Sector | 3.2 | 3.0 | 4.0 |
| Public Sector | 2.1 | 1.5 | 0.2 |
| Gross Domestic Savings | 23.1 | 20.0 | 20.2 |

(c) For promoting savings it is imperative to improve the parameters which have a bearing on savings behaviour. These include rate of growth in the economy, level of fiscal deficit, tax policies, inflation, efficiency of the banking system and the capital market and confidence in the economy. The various economic reform measures undertaken so far are expected to have a favourable impact on the public and private corporate savings.

Financial Assistance to A.P.

4530. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU : Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state :

the amount of assistance sanctioned and disbursed by All India financial and investment institutions to industries in backward areas of Andhra Pradesh during the last two years and the current year, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): The details of assistance sanctioned and disbursed by All India Financial Institutions to industrial units in backward areas in Andhra Pradesh during 1992-93 and 1993-94 (latest available) are as under :

| | (Rs. crore) | |
|---------|-------------|--------------|
| | Sanctions | Disbursement |
| 1992-93 | 510 | 438 |
| 1993-94 | 502 | 391 |

Advances by IDBI

4531. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total advances by the Industrial Development Bank of India since its inception, State-wise;

(b) the total advances written off as bad debts since its inception, State-wise; and

(c) the total authorised capital as on April 1, 1995 with outstanding advances on that date State-wise as well as sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available and permissible under the rules.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Airport in M.P.

4532. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for modernisation of airports in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government thereon;

(d) whether the time-limit has been fixed for completion of the said work; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Loan of Farmers

4533. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bank branches of nationalised banks in Uttar Pradesh bank-wise;

(b) the amount deposited in these banks during the last three years, bank-wise;

(c) the amount sanctioned and disbursed to the farmers in Uttar Pradesh during the period, bank-wise;

(d) whether the nationalised banks have achieved the target fixed in regard to sanctioning of such type of loans;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in this regard; and

(f) the amount realised from the farmers during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Bank-wise number of branches of nationalised banks in Uttar Pradesh as at the end of December, 1994 is given below :

| Bank | Number of branches |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Allahabad Bank | 591 |
| Andhra Bank | 9 |
| Bank of Baroda | 478 |
| Bank of India | 203 |
| Bank of Maharashtra | 9 |
| Canara Bank | 180 |
| Central Bank of India | 411 |
| Corporation Bank | 8 |
| Dena Bank | 34 |
| Indian Bank | 31 |
| Indian Overseas Bank | 64 |
| Oriental Bank of Commerce | 158 |
| Punjab National Bank | 834 |
| Punjab & Sind Bank | 116 |
| Syndicate Bank | 195 |
| Union Bank of India | 394 |
| United Bank of India | 41 |
| UCO Bank | 119 |
| Vijaya Bank | 30 |

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

[English]

Business Generated by Air India

4534. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of business generated by Air India at Bangalore, Madras, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Calicut and Trivandrum;

(b) the names of the foreign airlines for which Air India is operating as handling agents at these places and the business generated for them by Air India; and

(c) the income earned by Air India from the foreign airlines for handling operation during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Total revenue of Air India from scheduled operations at these stations during 1993-94 was :

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Bangalore | - Rs. 21.27 crores |
| Madras | - Rs. 61.18 crores |
| Ahmedabad | - Rs. 07.14 crores |
| Hyderabad (including Visakhapatnam) | - Rs. 19.98 crores |
| Calicut | - Rs. 22.15 crores |
| Trivandrum | - Rs. 74.59 crores |

Out of the above, Air India operates as handling agent for Air France, Alitalia, British Airways, Gulf Air, Korean Airways, Malaysian Airways, Saudia, Singapore Airlines and Lufthansa at Madras airport and for Gulf Air at Trivandrum airport. At other airports, foreign airlines do not operate. During 1993-94 Air India's revenue from handling operations at Madras was Rs. 18.25 Crores and at Trivandrum Rs. 3.11 crore.

(c) Revenue of Air India from handling operations for foreign airlines was as under :

| Financial Year | Revenue (Rs. in Crores) |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| 1992-93 | 122.92 |
| 1993-94 | 160.24 |
| 1994-95 | 156.55 (estimated) |

Determining the Instalments of Insured Policies

4535. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) the elements taken into consideration for determining the instalments of insured policy;

(b) whether all these elements are covered in every instalment of the policy; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The LIC have informed that the elements taken into consideration for determining premium rates are Mortality, Interest and Expenses. The Tables of premium rates are constructed based on all these elements.

Strikes and Lockouts

4536. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mandays lost during each of the last three years, due to strikes and lockouts, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken to contain labour unrest during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA)

(a) A Statement showing State-wise number of mandays lost due to strikes and lockouts during the last three years is enclosed.

(b) The Government have been maintaining a close and continuous watch over the industrial relations situation in the country. The Industrial relations Machinery, both at the Centre and in the States, take suitable steps to resolve disputes and reduce work stoppages through mediation, conciliation, arbitration and adjudication. The mandays lost due to strikes and lockouts have come down from 31.26 million in 1992 to 15.59 million in 1994. Regular consultations and tripartite discussions with organisations of employers and workers have helped promote harmonious industrial relations.

STATEMENT

Loss of Manday (in Thousands) due to Strikes and Lockouts during 1992-94 (Provisional) by Selected States

| State/U.T. | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Andhra Pradesh | 2548 | 2002 | 2147 |
| Bihar | 495 | 463 | 344 |
| Delhi | 95 | 54 | 8 |
| Goa, Daman & Diu | 26 | 9 | 20 |
| Gujarat | 443 | 713 | 596 |
| Haryana | 1106 | 460 | 218 |
| Karnataka | 135 | 356 | 386 |
| Kerala | 584 | 1844 | 1533 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 39 | 153 | 316 |
| Maharashtra | 3245 | 2771 | 1863 |
| Orissa | 282 | 100 | 53 |
| Pondicherry | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Punjab | 231 | 301 | 250 |
| Rajasthan | 399 | 302 | 473 |
| Tamil Nadu | 2868 | 2387 | 1415 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 859 | 836 | 403 |
| West Bengal | 17666 | 7252 | 5463 |
| Others | 233 | 298 | 101 |
| Total | 31259 | 20301 | 15589 |

O = Nil or Less than 500

Total May Not Necessarily Tally due to Rounding off of Figures.

Source : Labour Bureau, Shimla

Trade with Mauritius

4537. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to boost indo-Mauritius trade;

(b) if so, the details of the areas identified for the expansion of trade between both the countries; and

(c) the steps taken to increase trade relation with that country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. It is the endeavour of the Government to boost trade relations with Mauritius.

(b) Area identified for expansion of trade between India and Mauritius include cotton yarn, fabrics, made-ups marine products toilet articles/cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, plastics, manmads yarn fabrics & madeupe, leather and its products, household appliances, transport equipments, meat and its preparations, food articles (including rice & oil meals) etc.

(c) Steps taken include :

- (i) exchange of industry and trade delegations;
- (ii) holding of exclusive Indian exhibitions/fairs;
- (iii) holding periodic official level bilateral discussions to resolve bottlenecks.
- (iv) Creation of Revolving Fund of Rs. 20 crores for financing joint ventures between Indian and Mauritian companies.
- (v) A Government to Government credit of US \$ 3.2 mn (Two irrigation equipments) have been granted to enable Marutius to import capital goods from India.
- (vi) A business centre has been established in the premises of High Comission, Port Louis to disseminate trade and commercial information.
- (vii) A US \$ 6 mn EXIM Bank Line of Credit has been offered to PTA Bank, Africa. Mauritius being a member of PTA Bank, can utilise the amount to source the capital goods from India.

Subsidy for Rubber Plantation

4538. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy granted to farmers for planting/replanting of rubber during 1995;

(b) whether the rubber cultivator of Kerala and Tamil Nadu also enjoy these benefits at par;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons for this anomalies; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to remove these anomalies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) An amount of Rs. 12.50 crores has been paid by the Rubber Board as subsidy under the Rubber Plantation Development Scheme during 1994-95.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The rate of subsidy of Rs. 8000/- per ha. is uniformly applicable in both the states.

(d) and (e). Does not arise in view of (b) & (c) above.

RRBs in Haryana

4539. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the location of R.R.Bs in Haryana together with their present C.D. ratio;

(b) whether the Government are aware that these RRBs are short of cash counters particularly the Gurgaon Branch of Gurgaon Gramin Bank (G.G.B.); and

(c) if so, the remedial steps taken proposed to be taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) There are four Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in the State of Haryana. Their names, Headquarters and the C:D ratio as on 31st March, 1994 are given below :

| S. No. | Name of Regional Rural Bank | Headquarters | C:D ratio |
|--------|------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1. | Haryana Kshetriya Gramin Bank | Bhiwani | 47 |
| 2. | Gurgaon Gramin Bank | Gurgaon | 58 |
| 3. | Hissar Sirsa Kshetriya Gramin Bank | Hissar | 61 |
| 4. | Ambala Kurukshetra Gramin Bank | Ambala City | 45 |

(b) and (c). The number of cash counters at various branches of RRBs in the State of Haryana are considered to be adequate to cope-up with the normal average daily transactions of cash handled by them. The average daily transaction of Gurgaon Branch of the Gurgaon Gramin Bank is around Rs.10 lakhs. One cash counter at present can effectively handle the work and providing for additional counter at the branch is not considered necessary for the present by the Bank

Schools for Child Labour

4540. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open some schools exclusively for child labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to compensate the parents of such child labour for the loss of their income; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA)

(a) and (b). Under the National Child Labour Policy, 1987 National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) Scheme of the Ministry of Labour, children are brought out of the world of work and diverted to special schools where they are given primary level education to enable them to join regular schools from the VI class onwards. These children are also given stipends, nutrition and health aid. Establishment of special schools is a major activity undertaken under the National Child Labour Projects.

(c) and (d). It is proposed to raise the income levels of the parents of the children who are being brought out of the world of work through other schemes of the Government. These, *inter-alia*, include schemes like IRDP, Employment Assurance Scheme and JRY. In order to ensure proper convergence of schemes of the various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India to effectively implement the proposed programme, an Authority called the "National Authority for the Elimination of Child Labour has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Union Labour Minister.

Foreign Loan

4541. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the world Bank loan is obtained for restructuring the capital of public sector commercial banks;

(b) if so, the exact loss of foreign loan in developing the capital structure;

(c) whether such a development is possible to foreign loan; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY)

: (a) The World bank has recently approved a loan of \$ 700 million for the Financial Sector Development Project. The loan agreement was signed on 24.3.95 and made effective on 27.03.1995. Out of this, \$ 350 million is for a Capital Restructuring component meant to assist

Government in making Tier-II capital contribution to six nationalised banks in order to enable them to achieve the capital adequacy norms stipulated by RBI.

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

Check off Facility

4542. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) the names of public sector banks who have allowed the check-off facility to the SC/ST Employees Welfare Associations functioning under them;

(b) the public sector banks where this facility is not allowed along with the reason therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) to (c). Public Sector Banks have allowed, on specific demand, check off facility to such Unions/Associations of Banks Employees which are registered under Trade Union Act, SC/ST Bank Employees Welfare Associations in public sector banks, which though not registered under Trade Union Act, have been demanding similar check off facility from their respective banks. While some public sector banks have, as a gesture of goodwill allowed this facility in their banks to some such Welfare Associations, others have not extended this facility on the ground that they are not entitled to it. According to available information, the Banks which have extended check off facility to SC/ST Employees Welfare Associations are Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, Syndicate Bank, Union Bank of India, Allahabad Bank, Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Vijaya Bank, Andhra Bank and State Bank of Mysore.

Loan Requirements of Farmers

4543. SHRI NURUL ISLAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have estimated the total financial requirements for the exploitation of total potential of agricultural sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also estimated the loan requirements of farmers to make use of more and more inputs in order to get optimum yields per hectare; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make available the finance for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) to (c). The Working Group of the Planning Commission

had estimated the projections of ground level credit for agriculture during the VIII Plan period as under :

| Year | (Rs. crores) | | |
|---------|--------------|-----------|--------|
| | Short-Term | Long-Term | Total |
| 1992-93 | 7,619 | 7,369 | 14,888 |
| 1993-94 | 8,898 | 8,650 | 17,548 |
| 1994-95 | 10,534 | 10,665 | 20,677 |
| 1995-96 | 12,457 | 11,665 | 24,122 |
| 1996-97 | 15,041 | 13,414 | 28,455 |

The production credit requirement of farmers are granted on the basis of scales of finance. The scales of finance for crop loans are worked out by Technical Committee set up at the district level for the various crops grown locally. These scales of finance are to be reviewed annually and refixed taking into account the changes in the prices, level of inputs, total cost of cultivation, gross yield, repaying capacity, etc.

(d) The commercial banks are required to grant at least 18% of their net bank credit to agriculture. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised all Scheduled Commercial Banks to make every effort to achieve the stipulated target. Banks have been urged to draw up special credit plans with a view to achieving a distinct and marked improvement in the flow of credit to agriculture. Banks have also been advised to identify the areas and the activities which they could conveniently concentrate upon and draw up their action plan accordingly. For timely and adequate credit for agriculture production, farmers satisfying certain criteria are extended flexible line of credit in the form of cash credit facility to meet their composite credit requirements. The facility is available to farmers having irrigation facility and also those who do not have such facility but who in addition to cultivation of crops undertake allied activities like dairy, poultry, etc. and/or other non-farm activities and who have satisfactory track record in the conduct of their bank/borrowal accounts. RBI has also asked commercial banks to finance high-tech activities like aquaculture, floriculture, tissue-culture, bio-technology, etc.

Debt Relief Scheme in Maharashtra

4544. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers and rural artisans benefited from Debt Relief Scheme in Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) the amount released to the State under this Scheme since April, 1994 so far; and

(c) the time by which the outstanding amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
(a) The Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR)

Scheme, 1990 formulated by Government of India was a one-time measure and no year-wise allocations were made. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that 60008 farmers and 68017 rural artisans have been provided debt relief under the ARDR Scheme by public sector Commercial Banks in the State of Maharashtra. Similarly, Cooperatives and Regional Rural Banks have provided debt relief to 20,39,332 beneficiaries which include farmers, landless labourers, rural artisans and weavers in the State of Maharashtra.

(b) and (c). RBI and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have reported that as per the policy guidelines the claims of banks in Maharashtra under the Agricultural & Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990 have been settled in full. An amount of Rs. 464.499 crores has been released by NABARD to State Cooperative institutions by way of grant and loan. No further amount is due to be paid to Government of Maharashtra either as direct payment or as loan, under the Scheme.

Projection of Air Traffic

4545. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the projections of air traffic potential on different routes for the next five years;

(b) the details of action plan formulated to harness the air traffic potential, route-wise for the year 1995-96 and onwards; and

(c) the projections of air traffic to foreign countries and from foreign countries to India and the steps taken/proposed to harness the same?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). According to the available projections, domestic traffic is likely to grow at the rate of 12.5 per cent annum and international traffic at 6 to 7 per cent per annum. To meet the growing requirements, Indian Airlines plans to increase utilisation of available capacity by combating shortage of operating crew in the near term and increase/renewal of its fleet in the medium term.

Air India has placed orders for two Boeing 747-400 aircraft which are likely to be delivered in 1996. Techno economic study of medium capacity long range aircraft has been undertaken with a view to increase capacity in coming years. Bridge capacity by wetlease of aircraft would be created by the two airlines, as necessary.

Unemployed in Delhi

4546. SHRI KESHRI LAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of B.Ed. candidates registered with the Employment Exchanges, Delhi since January, 1990, year-wise;

(b) the number of candidates amongst them called for interview for the post of teachers, year-wise, during the said period;

(c) whether a large number of candidates registered with the employment exchanges in 1990 have not been sent any call letters so far;

(d) if so, the number thereof and the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) The number of B.Ed. candidates registered with the Employment Exchanges, Delhi since 1990 was as follows :

| Year | PGT | TGT | TOTAL |
|-------------------------|------|-------|-------|
| 1990 | 7891 | 10579 | 18470 |
| 1991 | 1287 | 4633 | 5920 |
| 1992 | 2321 | 7374 | 9695 |
| 1993 | 2067 | 6768 | 8835 |
| 1994 | 5146 | 10229 | 15375 |
| 1995 (1.1.95-31.3.1995) | 1017 | 1734 | 2751 |

(b) The number of candidates called for interview since 1990 was as follows :

| Year | PGT | TGT | TOTAL |
|-------------------------|------|------|-------|
| 1990 | 869 | 2465 | 3334 |
| 1991 | 95 | 391 | 486 |
| 1992 | 673 | 1297 | 1970 |
| 1993 | 1896 | 2519 | 4415 |
| 1994 | 1806 | 3172 | 4978 |
| 1995 (1.1.95-31.3.1995) | 362 | 621 | 983 |

(c) and (d). Yes Sir. About 17,759 candidates registered in 1990 could not be sponsored as their seniority did not mature for Sponsorship.

(e) Employers covered under Employment Exchanges Compulsory Notification Act, 1959 are being educated to notify vacancies to Employment Exchanges before filling them. This is done so that more submission can be made through Employment Exchanges to assist jobseekers.

Manufacturing of Gold Jewellery by MMTC

4547. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the MMTC has decided to enter into gold jewellery manufacture in a big way;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any chain outfit will be located in Calcutta;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the names of the foreign compaines from which the MMTC is contemplating to get technological assistance and the terms and conditions thereof;

(f) the strategy adopted by the MMTC so far to explore export markets for its jewellery and how far will it be able to satisfy current gold demand trends in the country; and

(g) the estimated capital outlay involved in this project and the manner in which the finances will be raised therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(f) Apart from exports of jewellery through Associates, MMTC also organises exhibitions in potential markets abroad in order to boost exports. MMTC is fully geared to import and supply gold to exporters.

(g) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Pragati Maidan, New Delhi

4548. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH .
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any scheme for the construction of a double-storey building for parking purposes by the India Trade Promotion Organisation to resolve the problem of parking of vehicles during the exhibitions being organised in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (b). The India Trade Promotion Organisation (IITPO) has taken up a proposal with the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi for development of a parking facility in three levels i.e. basement, ground and roof of the ground. The proposed parking complex would also provide public conveniences, kiosks, public telephones etc. apart from security, fire safety and other facilities essential for an underground car parking complex. The proposal is under consideration of the Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

[English]

Jute Industry

4549. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :
SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA):
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Committee to look into the demands submitted by a delegation of the Federation of Chatkal Majdoor Union;

(b) if so, the details of the demand made by the delegation; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c). The Federation of Chatkal Majdoor Unions has submitted a memorandum containing 16 demands to the Prime Minister.

The demands relate to jute industry and trade, role of Government agencies, competition from synthetics, arrears of dues, labour issues, modernisation of mills etc. These issues will be looked into by a committee proposed to be set up dues, labour issues, modernisation of mills etc. These issues will be looked into by a Committee proposed to be set up by Government.

Policy to Attract F.D.I.

4550. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make the present economic policy more transparent to attract more Foreign Direct Investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to offer more concessions to foreign investors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The package of economic reforms introduced in mid 1991, including the Industrial Policy and Foreign Investment Policy initiatives were directed towards imparting greater transparency in policy and automaticity in procedures.

(c) and (d). Reform is an ongoing and continuous process to provide impetus to growth and improve the investment environment both for domestic and foreign investors through various fiscal and tariff measures, delicensing of trade and industry, and liberalisation in the financial sector and public sector.

Agricultural Labour

4551. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a large number of agricultural labourers in Gujarat State as compared to other States in the Country; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Export of Marine Products

4552. DR. GUNVANT RAMBHAU SARODE :
SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE:
SHRI RAM PAL SINGH :
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :
SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE :
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

Will the minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target has been fixed for the export of marine products during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total quantity of marine products exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to boost the export of marine products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) No target has been fixed for the export of marine products during the current year. However, it is expected that quantity of 300000 tons with a value of US\$ 1250 million could be exported.

(c) The total quantity of marine products exported and foreign exchange earned there from during each of the last three years, in major countries/markets is given below :

| Market | | Q - Quantity in M.ts V - US\$ million | | |
|-----------|---|--|---------|---------|
| | | 1992-93 | 1993-94 | 1994-95 |
| Japan | Q | 41240 | 44985 | 56640 |
| | V | 279.06 | 378.04 | 542.60 |
| U S A | Q | 20141 | 26152 | 32790 |
| | V | 66.29 | 97.62 | 135.65 |
| W. Europe | Q | 67582 | 71850 | 76500 |
| | V | 178.01 | 205.72 | 250.43 |
| S.E. Asia | Q | 62410 | 78469 | 87430 |
| | V | 63.36 | 82.99 | 98.84 |
| Others | Q | 17652 | 22504 | 19883 |
| | V | 28.74 | 33.88 | 15.93 |
| Total | Q | 209025 | 243960 | 273243 |
| | V | 615.46 | 798.25 | 1043.45 |

(d) Some of the steps taken/proposed to be taken by MPEDA to increase export of marine products are:

(i) Assistance in stepping up production of culture fisheries by bringing more area under

shrimp culture, establishing shrimp hatcheries and in sourcing feed and fish seed at cheaper rates.

- (ii) In the case of capture fisheries, MPEDA renders help in diversifying fishing activity, modification of mechanised vessels and providing diesel at international prices. MPEDA can also participate in the equity of projects set up in the areas of culture and capture fisheries.
- (iii) Assistance is also provided for new units acquiring quality control equipment, individual quick freezing machines, generator sets or for technology upgradation of existing units.
- (iv) MPEDA's help is also available for sponsoring overseas delegations participating in Trade Fairs and organising buyer-seller meets in major markets.

[Translation]

Assessment of Projects

4553. SHRI LALLBABU RAI .
SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have stressed the financial institutions for early assessment of projects belonging to Bihar; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard up to March 31, 1995?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (b). The industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that the decision to extend assistance by financial institutions to industrial projects is based on economic, commercial, financial viability and technical feasibility of the project. The location of the project is assessed from the angle of its suitability.

Details of applications received, sanctioned and rejected in respect of the State of Bihar during 1993-94 and 1994-95 under IDBI's direct loan and refinance schemes are as under :

| | Applications received | Applications sanctioned | Applications closed/ withdrawn/ rejected |
|---------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1993-94 | 32 | 28 | 1 |
| 1994-95 | 27 | 18 | 2 |

IDBI has also decided to provide term loans to projects in Bihar even if the cost of project is less than Rs. 5 crores subject to the project satisfying the norms of viability and other criteria.

[English]

Development of Handloom Sector

4554. MAJOR D.D. KHANORIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to State :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Himachal Pradesh for the development of handloom sector in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government of India has introduced various schemes for the Development of Handloom Sector but allocation of funds in the handloom sector is made Scheme-wise and not State Wise. On the basis of proposals received from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh, Central Government has released funds to the tune of Rs. 64.31 lakhs during 1992-93, Rs. 102.32 lakhs during 1993-94 and Rs. 122.58 lakhs during 1994-95 under Plan Schemes and Rs. 24.43 lakhs during 1992-93, Rs. 16.16 lakhs during 1993-94 and Rs. 43.31 lakhs during 1994-95 under Non-Plan Schemes. A Statement regarding progress of releases during the above mentioned period is enclosed.

STATEMENT

(Rs. in Lakhs)

| S. Name of Scheme No. | 1992-93 | 1993-94 | 1994-95 (provisional) |
|---|---------|---------|-----------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| PLAN | | | |
| 1. Share Capital Assistance to Primary Weavers Cooperative Society. | | | -Transferred to State Govt. |
| 2. Asstt. for Modernisation /Renovation purchase of looms. | - | -do- | |
| 3. Asstt. for Pre-loom and Post-loom Processing Facilities. | - | -do- | |
| 4. Margin Money per Destitute Weavers | 2.20 | 2.27 | 2.44 |
| 5. Research and Development | - | - | - |
| 6. Project Package Scheme | 43.66 | 57.05 | 25.16 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| 7. Integrated Handloom Village Dev. | | 5.00 | - | 12.00 |
| 8. National Silk Yarn Bank | | - | - | - |
| 9. Welfare Package Scheme | | | | |
| (a) Thrift Fund Scheme | | - | - | - |
| (b) Health Package Scheme | | - | - | 0.63 |
| (c) Group Insurance Scheme | | - | - | - |
| 10. Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme | 11.20 | | 28.00 | 29.49 |
| 11. Handloom Development Centre | | - | 2.00 | 30.36 |
| 12. Grant for Setting up Enforcement Machinery | | - | - | - |
| 13. Grant for Setting up IIHT. | | - | - | - |
| 14. National Design Collection Programme | 2.25 | | 13.00 | 22.50 |
| Total : Plan | | 64.31 | 102.32 | 122.58 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|----------------------|---|-------|--------|--------|
| NON-PLAN | | | | |
| 1. MDA/Rebate | | 24.43 | 16.16 | 43.31 |
| 2. Janata Cloth | | - | - | - |
| 3. Hank Yarn Subsidy | | - | - | - |
| Total : Non-Plan | | 24.43 | 16.16 | 43.31 |
| G. Total : | | | | |
| Plan & Non-Plan | | 88.74 | 118.48 | 165.89 |

Beedi Workers

4555. SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken welfare measures to improve economic and social conditions of Beedi Workers and their families;

(b) if so, the details of the programmes and funds allocated and number of beneficiaries during each of the last three years; and

(c) the details of the schemes implemented in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A Statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

Statement Showing the Number of Beneficiaries and the Expenditure Incurred under the Welfare Schemes Such as Education, Housing and Health for Beedi Workers

| Name of the Scheme | All India | | Karnataka | |
|---|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| | Beneficiaries | Expenditure | Beneficiaries | Expenditure |
| EDUCATION (Scholarship & financial assistance for books, slates, dress) | | (Rs. in lakhs) | | (Rs. in lakhs) |
| 1992-93 | 76580 | 179.31 | 8281 | 22.54 |
| 1993-94 | 119904 | 389.00 | 18929 | 66.11 |
| 1994-95 (upto Jan/Feb '95) | 198468 | 663.84 | 27752 | 97.02 |
| HEALTH | | | | |
| 1992-93 | 2522578 | 682 | 435204 | 20.09 |
| 1993-94 | 2602584 | 818 | 447866 | 19.77 |
| 1994-95 (upto Jan/Feb '95) | 2411045 | 1023 | 438418 | 23.80 |

(a) BUILD YOUR OWN HOUSE SCHEME

| Year | All India | | Karnataka | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| | No. of House sanctioned | Amount of subsidy + Loans | No. of Houses sanctioned | Amount of subsidy + Loans |
| | | (Rs. in lakhs) | | (Rs. in lakhs) |
| 1992-93 | 554 | 19.82 | - | - |
| 1993-94 | 1202 | 38.16 | - | - |
| 1994-95 (estimated) | 866 | 68.56 | 5 | .10 |

(b) ECONOMICALLY WEAKER SECTIONS

| Year | All India | | | Karnataka | |
|---------|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| | No. of Houses sanctioned | No. of Houses constructed | Amount of subsidy released | No. of workers covered | Amount released |
| | | | (Rs. in lakhs) | | (Rs. in lakhs) |
| 1992-93 | 3507 | 4137 | 236.43 | 400 | 323.20 |
| 1993-94 | 6261 | 4659 | 264.13 | 1306 | 69.00 |
| 1994-95 | 10180 | 6719 | 530.13 | - | - |

GROUP INSURANCE SCHEME

No. of beneficiaries.

| Year | All India | Karnataka |
|---------|-----------|-----------|
| 1992-93 | 10,41,822 | 3,609 |
| 1993-94 | 10,41,822 | 6,123 |
| 1994-95 | 10,57,048 | 8,544 |

[Translation]

(c) The agreement is effective from 28th January, 1993.

Prevention of Smuggling

4556. SHRI SATYADEO SINGH :
SHRI AMARPAL SING :
SHRI RAMPAL SING :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have entered into any agreement in regard to prevention of smuggling and drug trafficking;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the date from which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
(a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Republic of India and the Government of Russian Federation have signed an agreement on Cooperation in Combating Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

(b) The agreement provides for exchanging information and undertaking measures in order to identify, suppress and prevent the criminal activities of international drug syndicates.

Smuggling of Cows

4557. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :
SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of cows are being smuggled every year from India to Pakistan and Bangladesh for slaughtering; and

(b) if so, the concrete steps taken by the Government to check smuggling of cows?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Some attempts to smuggle cattle including Cows to Pakistan and Bangladesh have come to the notice of the Government. Field formations are alert to detect and prevent all smuggling including smuggling of cows. Measure taken to deter smuggling include strengthening of anti smuggling formations, erection of border fence; intensive patrolling and use of equipment like hand held searchlights, night vision binoculars etc.

[English]

Jute Modernisation Fund

4558. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formed a jute modernisation fund; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). The Jute Modernisation Fund Scheme (JMFS) was introduced by the All India Financial Institutions with the Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd (IFCI) as the nodal agency, in consultation with the Ministry of Textiles with effect from the 1st Nov. 1986 with a total corpus of Rs. 150 crores for providing financial assistance to eligible concerns for undertaking need based modernisation of their plant and machinery. Under JMFS provision has been made to sanction special loan upto 80% of the promoters' contribution carrying concessional interest @ 6% p.a. to be repaid over a period of 12 years including initial moratorium of 6 years both in payment of interest and repayment of principal.

New NTC Units

4559. SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI THAKORE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up more NTC units in Gujarat State and other parts of the country during the current financial year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Bank Scandals

4560. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY :
SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and nature of bank scandals which took place during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government have directed the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Reserve Bank of India to take measures for curbing the increasing incidents of bank scandals;

(c) if so, the reasons for issuing such directions; and

(d) the measures taken in this regard so far and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) to (d). The number of frauds and amount involved therein reported by public sector banks to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) during the years 1993 and 1994 are as follows :

| Year | Number of frauds | Amount involved (Rs. in lakhs) |
|------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1993 | 2213 | 32032.43 |
| 1994 | 2266 | 20007.88 |
| | | + U.Sh. 9844000 |

(Data Provisional)

The nature of fraud cases reported by the public sector banks can be classified as under :

- (i) Misappropriation of Cash tendered by the banks' constituents and misappropriation of cash in remittances.
- (ii) Withdrawals from deposit accounts through forged instruments.
- (iii) Fraudulent encashment of negotiable instruments by opening an account in fake/fictitious names.
- (iv) Misappropriation through manipulation of books of accounts.
- (v) Perpetration of frauds through clearing transactions.
- (vi) Misutilisation of delegated powers.
- (vii) Opening/issue of letters of credit, bank guarantees and instruments without proper authority.
- (viii) Frauds in foreign exchange transactions.

The primary responsibility for preventing frauds is that of the bank. Whenever a fraud is detected by a bank or is brought to its notice, a preliminary investigation is made by the bank based on which a decision is taken to conduct a thorough investigation departmentally or to handover the case to the local police or the central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The public sector banks at the instance of Government and RBI have taken several steps from time to time for checking corruption and prevention of frauds. These steps include issue of comprehensive guidelines by RBI in strengthening the control mechanism in banks, review of fraud cases on a continual basis by RBI, setting up of a Special Investigation Cell in RBI, proper training of operational personnel etc.

[English]

Chief Flying Instructor

4561. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the flying schools in the country are facing an acute shortage of chief flying instructors (CFIs);

(b) if so, the reasons there or;

(c) the details of the flying training clubs functioning in the country;

(d) whether these clubs are likely to provide adequate training to flying students; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Following liberalisation in the air transport sector and emergence of private airlines/operators, Chief Flying Instructors (CFIs) get attracted to join to private airlines/operators because of better career prospects offered by them. Consequently, a number of experienced Flight Instructors left the Flying Clubs to join them, resulting in shortage of CFIs in some Flying Clubs.

(c) There are 36 Flying Clubs/Institutions/Schools in India out of which 4 are privately owned.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Do not arise.

Public Sector Banks in Gujarat

4562. SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of public sector banks working at present in tribals and backward areas of Gujarat alongwith their locations;

(b) the number of branches out of them running in loss for the last two years as well as current financial year and details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to close down the branches which are running in loss; and

(d) if not, the action being taken by the Government to make them profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they do not maintain information relating to branches of public sector banks functioning in tribal and backward centres in Gujarat and also the number of such branches

running in losses. However, District-wise number of branches of public sector banks in Gujarat as at the end of December, 1994 is given below :

| District | Branches | District | Branches |
|-------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| Ahmedabad | 500 | Kheda | 293 |
| Amreli | 77 | Mehsana | 160 |
| Banaskantha | 70 | Panch Mahal | 94 |
| Bharuch | 105 | Rajkot | 216 |
| Bhavnagar | 146 | Sabarkantha | 91 |
| Dangs | 5 | Surat | 253 |
| Gandhinagar | 45 | Surendranagar | 69 |
| Jamnagar | 96 | Vadodara | 292 |
| Junagarh | 155 | Valsad | 190 |
| Kachahh | 122 | | |

(c) RBI have reported that in terms of their extent policy with regard to closure of Bank branches in the country including in Gujarat, bank's proposals for closing of loss making branches located at well-banked urban/metropolitan centres are considered by them on merits by two commercial banks (excluding Regional Rural Banks) the decision for closure of one of the branches may be taken by the concerned banks by mutual consultation.

(d) A major factor contributing to the loss in banks is the high level of non-performing assets. RBI has, therefore, impressed upon the banks the need to strengthen their credit appraisal machinery and exercise close supervision and control over advances.

Nature Tourism

4563. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have identified some places in Gujarat and other States to promote nature tourism;

(b) if so, the places identified for the same State-wise; and

(c) the special funds allocated to each State for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Development of tourism infrastructure is primarily the responsibility of the State Govts. Identification of areas where nature tourism can be promoted is done by the State Governments.

(c) Government of India provides financial assistance for activities such as mountaineering, trekking, camping, water sports, mountain biking, aero sports etc. depending on the specific and complete proposal received from the State Governments.

During 1994-95 Deptt. of Tourism has released funds to the various State Govts. for new and continuing schemes as per the enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT

*Funds Released to Various State Govts.
during 1994-95*

| Name of the State | Funds Released (Rs.) |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Bihar | 2,00,000/- |
| 2. Nagaland | 85,000/- |
| 3. Tripura | 7,32,020/- |
| 4. Mizoram | 11,74,300/- |
| 5. Madhya Pradesh | 3,00,000/- |
| 6. Daman & Diu | 2,00,000/- |
| 7. Andhra Pradesh | 22,980/- |
| 8. Kerala | 10,00,000/- |
| 9. Lakshadweep | 10,00,000/- |
| 10. Uttar Pradesh | 5,00,000/- |
| 11. Jammu & Kashmir | 23,59,000/- |
| 12. Delhi | 12,92,700/- |
| 13. Punjab | 11,14,000/- |
| 14. Rajasthan | 4,25,000/- |
| 15. Chandigarh | 3,11,000/- |
| 16. Himachal Pradesh | 18,35,000/- |
| 17. Sikkim | 7,60,000/- |
| 18. Maharashtra | 30,19,000/- |
| 19. Goa | 12,85,000/- |

[Translation]

Bank Facilities for Tobacco Trade

4564. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the norms followed by UCO Bank and Indian Overseas Bank while providing facilities for tobacco trade;

(b) the number of tobacco traders to whom such facilities are provided;

(c) whether these banks provide such facilities to the traders not engaged in export, and

(d) if so, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The norms for extending credit facilities by way of Export Credit, apart from usual credit appraisal followed by UCO Bank are given below :

- (i) Company/firm is to be registered as exporter with the Tobacco Board and Reserve Bank of India and the company to furnish RBI Exporter's Code Number.

(ii) Antecedents of the company are discussed with the Tobacco Board and their informal concurrence obtained.

(iii) The company/firm and the partners to have proper trade record and sufficient experience in export of tobacco.

(iv) Satisfactory opinion reports to be obtained from the existing bankers.

(v) Health Code of the borrowing company should be satisfactory.

(vi) Satisfactory credit reports on partners and guarantors of the company to be obtained.

(vii) Personal guarantees of all partners/directors to be obtained.

(viii) The company should secure the advance by adequate collateral to the satisfaction of the bank.

(ix) Books and stocks to be verified by a firm of chartered Accountants once in a quarter.

As regards Indian Overseas Bank, the bank has reported that they extend packing credits (exports finance) against indication letters that are produced by the exporters to procure raw tobacco, from tobacco auction platforms for Andhra and Mysore crops and also from dealers registered with Tobacco Board, to process and to execute such export orders with a condition that the indication letters are to be followed by confirmed orders/ letter of credit.

(b) UCO Bank have extended credit to 8 traders totalling Rs. 33.44 crores for exporting tobacco through their Guntur branch, and Indian Overseas Bank have provided export finance credit facilities to 12 exporters. The total of such credit limits sanctioned by Indian Overseas Bank during 1994 is Rs. 72.85 crores.

(c) and (d). UCO Bank has not provided with export facilities to any non-exporters. However, Indian Overseas Bank has reported that credit facilities are extended to tobacco traders who are engaged in domestic sales also. But the number of such people assisted are a few. Some of the traders are engaged in supply of processed and graded tobacco to cigarette manufacturing companies. Hence to take care of the financial requirements, need-based credit limits are sanctioned by Indian Overseas Bank.

[English]

Steps to Check Entry of Animals into Airport

4565. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether birds and animals staying into prohibited zones of airport pose serious threat to air safety;

(b) if so, whether airports do not have adequate staff and equipments to ward off birds and animals from straying into prohibited zones of airports; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Airport Authority of India (AAI) have posted required staff and provided equipment to ward off birds and animals from straying into the operational area of airports. AAI provide fencing/operational wall around the operational area, spray the area with insecticide to remove the source of bird menace and take necessary measures to scare away the birds.

Disinvestment Policy by Financial Institutions

4566. DR. R. MALLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any policy under consideration to suggest or direct financial institutions to liquidate their holdings in blue chip companies to obtain highest sale value for their investment;

(b) whether any survey has been made in regard to the benefits of such a disinvestment policy by financial institutions;

(c) if so, whether the Government is likely to obtain huge revenues from disinvestment; and

(d) the pros and cons of such a policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d). All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs) follow their own policies as regards disinvestment of their share holdings in industrial concerns. It may, however, be added that Government be that Government had in May 1990 issued guidelines relating to transactions in shares of AIFIs in order to make such transactions more open and transparent.

Export to C.I.S. Countries

4567. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exports to C.I.S. countries are on the increase;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the European Countries and U.S.A. are taking strenuous efforts to increase their exports to these countries specially export of drugs;

(d) whether this has affected India's prospects of exports to CIS countries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the latest information available from DGCI&S, exports to 12 countries of CIS increased by 7% in the period - April'94 - January '95 (Exports - Rs. 2143 crores) compared to the figure for the period April'93 - January '94 (Exports - Rs.2001 crores).

(c) to (e). According to the available information European countries and USA are making efforts to increase their export to CIS countries specially in regard to drugs and pharmaceuticals. However, the Government has adopted a pro-active customised strategy to expand trade and economic relations with CIS countries. The principal policy thrust in this regard being followed by Ministry of Commerce is outlined below :

- (i) Singning of new bilateral framework agreements on trade and economic cooperation with the emergent countries of the CIS and substitution of rupee payment trade by standard convertible currency trading agreements;
- (ii) Evolution of a more liberal credit policy vis-a-vis CIS states (credits worth US \$ 55 million have already been advanced to Central Asian Republics);
- (iii) Liberalisation of the counter-trade regime with CIS countries;
- (iv) Identification and development of more viable transport and trasit routes -commissioning of two multi sectoral study teams to study transit routes to Central Asia via Iran; initiatives on developments of the port of Novorssisk for trade with Russia;
- (v) Liberalisation, in consultation with RBI, of consignment exports and warehousing regulations;
- (vi) Conclusion of bilateral air traffic agreements and commencement of direct flights to the new capitals of CIS;
- (vii) Encouragement to establishment of direct business contacts *inter-alia* through participation in trade fairs etc.;
- (viii) Setting up of Joint Commissions, Joint Committees and holding of meetings;
- (ix) In the special case of Russia, a number of initiatives have been taken which include; (a) activation of the Joint Commission and holding of its successful first meeting followed by intensive follow-ups; (b) high level visits including by the Prime Minister and Commerce Miniser leading to intensive discussion with the top Russian leadership;

(c) reiteration by the Russian side of the commitment to evolve a mechanism to use debt repayment funds and import of tea, tobacco etc. on a long term basis; (d) formation and meeting of a sub-group on transport to address all transport related matters; (e) impetus to Joint Venture Bank etc.

Regarding the exports of drugs to CIS countries, the Government are aware of the fact that European countries and USA are making efforts to increase their exports to CIS countries. However, India still has a lot of scope to increase her exports of drugs in view of the fact that Indian drugs offer very competitive price and are of good quality. They are also well-known in the CIS market. We have aided CIS countries with supplies of medicines and the credit lines offered by the Government to the Central Asian countries are also being utilised for joint ventures in production of medicines.

[Translation]

Hank Yarn Obligation Rule

4565. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA .
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI .
SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imposed such a restriction on textiles mills that unless they fulfil the prescribed target of hank yarn production they would not be permitted to undertake export of textiles.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the public sector mills have been exempted from such restrictions;

(d) if so, the reason therefor;

(e) whether the Union Government have received any request in regard to exemption of yarn manufacturers operating under the 100 percent export-oriented units (EOUs) scheme from hank yarn obligation rule;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b). Fulfilment of hank yarn obligation as determined by the Textile Commissioner has been prescribed as one of the conditions for the export of cotton yarn.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) and (f). There have been representations from 100% EOUs producing yarn seeking exemption from the above condition for export of cotton yarn.

(g) Hank Yarn obligation is related to civil delivery of obligatory varieties of yarn within India. The hank yarn obligation in the case of 100% EOUs is only related to the yarn delivered by such units in the Domestic Tariff Area. Since the 100% EOUs producing cotton yarn are, by and large exporting almost their entire production, the incidence of hank yarn obligation on such 100% EOUs is only marginal.

[English]

Non-Fulfilment of Export Obligation

4569. DR. K.D. JESWANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1426 on August 17, 1990 and state :

(a) the action taken by the Government against those companies who failed to fulfil their export obligations during that period so far;

(b) the details of such companies against which action is still pending or in the process with the reasons for delay;

(c) whether the Government will reimpose export obligation conditions on importing companies to enable to Government to repay foreign loans taken from I.M.F., World Bank and Asian Development Bank, which have been more than U.S.\$ 90 billion by the year 1994; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to settle these cases expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). 196 firms were reported defaulter on account of nonfulfilment of export obligation imposed on Industrial licence/FC approval and OG Licences as reported in the reply of Unstarred Lok Sabha Question No. 1426 dt. 17.8.90 in the years 1985, 1986 and 1987

Of these 73 cases relate to export obligation imposed on industrial licence/FC approvals. The action taken in respect of these cases is attached as Statement.

In respect of remaining 123 cases where the export obligation have been imposed on C.G. Licences the latest position is being ascertained from the Regional Offices of DGFT who monitor export obligation in such cases.

(c) At present no such proposal is under consideration by the Govt.

(d) In view of (c) above, does not arise.

STATEMENT

| | |
|---------------|---|
| (i) 9 cases | - Export obligation has been fulfilled. |
| (ii) 1 cases | - Export obligation has been waived. |
| (iii) 1 cases | - The period for fulfilment of export obligation has been extended. |
| (iv) 5 cases | - Based on the information received from the firms, Clarifications have been sought from concerned Administrative Ministry regarding fulfilment of export obligation. |
| (v) 57 cases | - Under adjudication. |

[Translation]

New Airports

4570. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering any scheme for the construction of new airports in Uttar Pradesh and other States.

(b) whether the places have been selected for the purpose;

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

(d) the time by which the construction work of new airports is likely to be started in U.P. and other States; and

(e) the amount likely to be spent on the construction of these new airports, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (e). Airports Authority of India (AAI) has no plan to construct any new airport in Uttar Pradesh. It is proposed to set up new airports at Kargil in Jammu & Kashmir, Tura in Meghalaya and Lengpui in Mizoram at a cost of Rs. 25 crores, Rs.7.20 crores and Rs. 45 crores respectively. The work at Tura and Lengpui airports is likely to commence in 1995-96. The AAI is carrying out a feasibility study on Kargil airport.

[English]

Funds to Gujarat by Nabard

4571. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI :
SHRI N.J. RATHVA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds provided by NABARD to Gujarat under various schemes during the last three years and current year, so far scheme-wise;

(b) the number of farmers benefited therefrom during the period particularly in the tribal areas of Gujarat; and

(c) the amount of loan recovered so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides refinance facilities to various agencies under schematic lending. The details of purpose-wise disbursements made by NABARD in Gujarat State during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The number of small farmers benefited by the refinance assistance disbursed by NABARD under schematic lending during the years 1992-93 and 1993-94 is as under :

| Year | No. of farmers (in lakhs) |
|---------|---------------------------|
| 1992-93 | 1.05 |
| 1993-94 | 1.14 |

Data on farmers separately in respect of tribal areas of the State is not available.

(c) The amount repaid by banks to NABARD during the last three years under schematic lending in Gujarat State was as under :

| Year | Amount (Rs. crores) |
|---------|---------------------|
| 1991-92 | 86.13 |
| 1992-93 | 91.00 |
| 1993-94 | 107.28 |

STATEMENT

Purpose-wise Refinance Disbursed by NABARD to Various Agencies under Schematic Lending in Gujarat during the year 1992-93, 1993-94 & 1994-95 (Till January, 1995).

| Purpose | 1992-93 | 1993-94 | 1994-95 (till January 1995) |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|--------------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Minor Irrigation | 2119 | 2465 | 1296 |
| Land Development | 57 | 116 | 33 |
| Farm Mechanisation | 3989 | 5503 | 4322 |
| Plantation/Horticulture | 37 | 82 | 30 |
| Poultry/Sheep/Piggery | 46 | 96 | 69 |
| Fisheries | 103 | 100 | 195 |
| Dairy Development | 834 | 1342 | 509 |
| Storage and Market Yards | 439 | 947 | 102 |
| Forestry | 53 | 97 | 84 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----------------|-------|-------|------|
| Gobar Gas Plant | 5 | - | - |
| Non-Farm Sector | 2021 | 3501 | 1968 |
| Other | 48 | 2 | 116 |
| IRDP | 2931 | 2627 | 898 |
| Total | 12682 | 16878 | 9922 |

* Includes refinance amount of Rs.52 lakhs disbursed under SC/ST Action Plan

[Translation]

Binded Labour

4672. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI RAM PAL SINGH :
SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Committee has been constituted by the Government to ascertain the progress made in abolishing the bonded labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

Textile Policy

4573. SHRI KUNJEE LAL :
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make certain changes in the present Textile Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER FOR TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Deployment of Camels to Prevent Smuggling

4574. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhuj Customs division employs cameling on smuggling prevention duties in desert areas of Kutch in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the time since when the cameling has been employed for such duties;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the number of camel riders is more than the number of camels; and

(d) the measures the Government are taking to reduce the number of camel riders and the expenditure thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY). (a) to (d). Information is being-collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Mobilisation of Public Deposits

4575. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the present trend of Government/private companies mobilising public deposits in big way adversely affecting the growth of deposits in nationalised banks; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to increase public deposits in nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Plantation Labour

4576. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any facility has been made available to impart education to the children of the workers of tea plantation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the company-wise amount allocated for this purpose during each of the last three years; and

(d) the company-wise amount spent for this purpose during the above mentioned period?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

Project Loans by Financial Institutions

4577. SHRI AMAL DATTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of project loans sanctioned in the country during each of the last three years by financial institutions and banks, separately, State-wise;

(b) the amount disbursed against each such sanction;

(c) the value of production; and

(d) the generation of employment expected against each such sanction and realised against each completed project?

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

Gurupadswamy Committee

4578. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have constituted the Child Labour Cell, Child Labour Advisory Board and Child Labour Technical Advisory Committee as per the recommendations of the Gurupadswamy Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the work undertaken by those bodies during each of the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Child Labour Cell in the Ministry of Labour has been set up in 1979. The Cell is concerned with the formulation, coordination and implementation of policies and programmes for the welfare of working children. Under the National Child Labour Policy, 1987 - Project Based Plan of Action, 9 National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) were under implementation in five States during 1993-94 covering 7000 children. Twelve National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) in 1994-95 are under implementation in eight States covering approximately 14,000 children. A major activity taken up under the NCLP is establishment of special schools to provide basic needs like non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition etc., to the children withdrawn from employment.

(i) The Child Labour Cell grants financial assistance to voluntary organisations to take up action-oriented projects for child labour. Voluntary agencies are being financially assisted to the extent of 75% for taking up welfare projects for working children under a grant-in-aid scheme. During 1993-94, the Cell has rendered financial assistance to 6 projects of voluntary organisations. During 1994-95, financial assistance was given to 11 voluntary organisations in the field of child labour for implementation of continuing as well as new projects for the welfare of the working children, to provide non-formal education, supplementary nutrition, health care and vocational skill training.

(ii) The Child Labour Mini Advisory Board was formed on 4.3.1981. The Board has been set up to review the implementation of the existing legislation

administered by the Central Government, suggest legislative measures as well as welfare measures for welfare of working children, recommend industries and areas where there must be progressive elimination of child labour. The Child Labour Advisory Board in its meeting held on 19.4.93, *inter-alia*, recommended evaluation of National Child Labour Projects, progressive elimination of child labour in States and also recommended initiation of efforts in Jaggampet in Andhra Pradesh and Mandasaur in Madhya Pradesh to totally eliminate child labour in these two districts. The Child Labour Advisory Board was re-constituted on 2nd November, 1994.

(iii) The child Labour Technical Advisory Committee has been constituted on 3.8.1987 under Section 5 of the child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 to advise the Central Government for the purpose of addition of occupations/processes to the Schedule under Section 3 of the Act. On the basis of the Committee's recommendations, one occupation and seven processes have been added so far to the Schedule to the child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986.

[Translation]

Revival of Sick Small Scale Industries

4579 SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL :

DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes formulated to make the sick small scale Industries financially viable;

(b) the quantum of financial assistance provided by the Union Government and State Governments to these industries during each of the last two years and current year; and

(c) the extent of success achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY).

(a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has issued guidelines to scheduled commercial banks for tackling the problems of sick small scale industrial (SSI) units. These guidelines, *inter-alia*, include definition of sick SSI units, viability norms, incipient sickness as also reliefs/concessions from banks/financial institutions for implementation of packages in the case of potentially viable units.

(b) and (c). The data reporting system of RBI does not generate the information in the manner asked for. However, according to information furnished by RBI, as at the end of March, 1994 (latest available) there were 256452 sick SSI units with Rs 3680.37 crores outstanding to scheduled commercial banks. Out of these 16580 units were considered potentially viable

and in 2607 cases viability was yet to be decided. Of the viable units, 11376 units were under nursing programme as on that date.

Financial Assistance to Gujarat by LIC

4580. SHRI RATILAL VERMA : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial assistance provided by the Life Insurance Corporation to Gujarat for its various schemes during each of the last two years;

(b) the details of the schemes being considered for financial assistance by the L.I.C. during the current year; and

(c) the amount earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) Requisite Information is as under :

| Item | 1993-94 | 1994-95* |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|
| | (Rs. in crores) | |
| Investment in State Govt. Bonds debentures & State Govt. Guaranteed Securities | 45.95 | 32.95 |
| Loans to State Govt. under Plan assistance | 62.36 | 77.11 |
| Private Sector loans Equity & Debentures | 110.75 | under compilation |

* Figures are provisional.

(b) and (c). LIC makes investments in State Government and other Government Guaranteed Marketable Securities and renders loan assistance to Socially Oriented Sectors, e.g. State Housing Apex Cooperatives, State Electricity Boards, State Road Transport Corporations, Municipalities, Zila Parishads etc. The amount to be allocated by the LIC under these schemes is yet to be finalised by the Planning Commission.

[English]

Mahila Cooperative Banks

4581. SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL :
DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the Mahila cooperative Banks functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from various State Governments for opening of some more banks;

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

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) There are 47 Mahila Cooperative Banks functioning in the country at present. The State-wise position is as under :

| State | No. of Mahila Banks |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Andhra Pradesh | 2 |
| Gujarat | 7 |
| Karnataka | 6 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 2 |
| Maharashtra | 28 |
| Manipur | 1 |
| Goa | 1 |
| Total | 47 |

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have also issued licences to 8 Mahila Banks which are expected to commence banking business within 12 months from the date of issue of licence. State-wise position of these 8 Mahila banks is as under :

| State | Mahila Bank |
|----------------|-------------|
| Karantaka | 2 |
| Maharashtra | 3 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 1 |
| Rajasthan | 2 |
| Total | 8 |

(b) to (d). RBI have reported that 20 proposals for organisation of Mahila banks have been received by them and these are at various stages of finalisation.

Economic Reforms

4582. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some eminent economists have expressed concern over the rising prices; disinvestment in public sector and erosion of investment in the social sector as reported in the "Hindu" dated February 27, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the interests of vulnerable sections of people are not adversely affected due to the economic reforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) and (b). As per News Item captioned "Reforms have pitfalls, says Economist" published in the Hindu dated February 27, 1995, 13 eminent Economists expressed concern over the rising prices, dis-investment in the public

sector and erosion of investment in the social sector. Economists have specifically stated that the vulnerable sections had been adversely affected by the new policies and despite 6 good monsoons, the nation continues to be in the throes of double digit inflation. They have also criticized the sale of shares of public sector enterprises at significantly below market prices.

(c) The Government does not agree with the assessment made by the Economists. Significant improvement have taken place in all the sectors of the economy in the post-policy period. However, recognising that fruits of growth will take time to reach some of the poorest and weakest sections of our society and to ensure that they too derive benefit in the short run the Government has given the highest priority to strengthening programmes of rural development, employment generation, primary education, primary health and other key social sectors programmes. The allocation for rural development has been increased by 148 percent from Rs. 3100 crores in 1992-93 (BE) to Rs 7700 crores in 1995-96 (BE). Over the same period the allocation for education has been increased by 92 percent from Rs. 952 crores to Rs. 1825 crores, that on health by 122 percent from Rs. 302 crores to Rs.670 crores and that on welfare, family welfare, woman and child development by 64 percent from Rs 1982 crores to Rs. 3251 crores.

Security Systems at Banks

4583. SHRI V. SHREENIVASA PRASAD :
SHRI TARA SINGH .

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- whether the public sector banks in the country lack proper security system;
- if so, the details of such security lapses incurred in public sector banks during the last three years,
- whether the Government have examined the causes of such lapses;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (e). The details of incidents of bank robberies/dacoities during the years 1991, 1992 & 1993 as reported by public sector banks to Reserve Bank of India are given below :

| Year | No. of incidents | Amount involved (Rs. in lakhs) |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1991 | 121 | 475.42 |
| 1992 | 88 | 200.37 |
| 1993 | 89 | 282.82 |
| (Data Provisional) | | |

The public sector banks have been advised of several measures of strengthening their security arrangements. These include classification of branches into specified categories depending on various factors, setting up of Central Security Cell in Reserve Bank of India for looking into all aspects of security and to provide guidelines to banks relating to security arrangements, constitution of State level security committees, etc. Security measures implemented by the banks are reviewed on an on-going basis and such further action as considered appropriate is taken.

11th Convention of Indian Association of Tour Operators

4584. SHRI RABI RAY Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

- whether the 11th convention of Indian Association of Tour Operators was held recently,
- if so, the details thereof,
- whether a decision was taken to give a boost to student travel and pilgrim tourism in order to develop domestic tourism; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The 11th Convention of Indian Association of Tour Operatos was held from 9th - 12th April 1995 in Delhi. The Prime Minister of India inaugurated it on 10th April, 1995 at Vigyan Bhawan. The Convention was attended by around one thousand delegates from India and abroad, besides senior officials of Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and other related Ministries and Department connected with the travel trade.

(c) and (d). One full session was devoted to Domestic Tourism where the emphasis was to boost student travel and pilgrim tourism in the country.

[Translation]

Child Labour

4585. SHRI VISHWESHWAR BHAGAT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- the details of the labour laws under which child labour has been prohibited,
- whether any machinery has been set-up to monitor the effective implementation of these laws;
- whether there is any proposal to amend Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 for effective implementation of child labour laws; and
- if so, the details thereof and the time by which appropriate legislation is likely to be introduced in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, prohibits the employment of children below 14 years of age in specific occupations and processes contained in Parts A&B of the Schedule to the Act. It also regulates working conditions of children in non-prohibited employments. It provides for penalties for violation of the law.

In addition to this Law, there are protective and prohibitory provisions in various labour Laws as well, such as the Factories Act, 1948, the Mines Act, 1952, the Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961, the Bidi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966.

(b) The Government of India monitors the enforcement of the Child Labour (Regulation & Prohibition) Act, 1986 both in the Central and States spheres.

(c) and (d). A proposal to amend the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 is under consideration of the Government to make it more effective.

[English]

Child Labour

4586. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently some child labourers had been rescued by a social group in the carpet looms in a village near Allahabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to eliminate child labour from the country and provide funds for rehabilitation of such child labourers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

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

[Translation]

Prices of Yarns

4587. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of different types of yarn have increased enormously since 1993;

(b) if so, the increase registered in respect of each type of yarn over the years, giving comparative figures as on January 1, 1993, January 1, 1994 and January 1, 1995;

(c) The reasons for increase in the price of these yarns; and

(d) the extent upto which it has affected the employment of weavers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Data in respect of prices of different types of yarn during last 3 years are given below :

| Items | Prices as on | | |
|---|--------------|--------|--------|
| | 1.1.93 | 1.1.94 | 1.1.95 |
| Cotton Yarn (Hank) (Wtd. Average) | 61.31 | 68.05 | 92.65 |
| Cotton Yarn (Cones) (Wtd. Average) | 71.50 | 77.43 | 105.48 |
| Cotton Yarn (Hosiery) (Average) | 69.63 | 69.75 | 94.18 |
| Poly. Viscose Blended Yarn (Average) | 144.41 | 137.66 | 148.04 |
| Poly. Cotton Blended Yarn (Average) | 126.13 | 136.88 | 153.12 |
| Viscose Filament Yarn (Wtd. Average) | 187.78 | 196.24 | 194.54 |
| Nylon Filament Yarn (Wtd. Average) | 191.44 | 196.54 | 158.74 |
| Polyester Filament Yarn (Wtd. Average) | 182.00 | 172.00 | 176.00 |
| Partially Oriented Yarn (Average) | 160.03 | 150.55 | 153.20 |
| Texturised Yarn (Average) | 163.65 | 166.44 | 159.97 |

(c) The reasons for increase in the price of these yarns has been due to increase in input costs including the cost of basic raw materials.

(d) Report had been received that some of the powerloom units in Salem, Erode and Coimbatore Districts observed closure for certain days in January '94 allegedly in protest of the high prices of yarn. The hike in price has been felt by the handloom sector also. But the Government of India has no information about the extent upto which the employment of the powerloom and handloom weavers was affected due to the price hike of cotton yarn.

[English]

Medical Insurance Scheme

4588. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of insurance companies owned by the Government of India having Medical Insurance Scheme;

(b) whether dental treatment is covered as part of the medical insurance;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether India is the only country not having an insurance scheme which covers dental treatment; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (e). All the four subsidiaries of the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) viz. National Insurance Company Limited, New India Assurance Company Limited, Oriental Insurance Company Limited and United India Insurance Company Limited issue medi-claim policies. Dental treatment which is outdoor treatment is not covered under the terms of this policy. If outdoor treatment is also required to be covered under this policy, the premium charges will go up steeply and the policy will become unviable. Dental treatment is excluded from coverage in the medical policies issued in some overseas markets also.

[Translation]

Non Banking Financial Institutions in Maharashtra

4589. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO
GUNDEWAR :
SHRI ANNA JOSHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) the details of the non-banking financial institutions permitted by the Reserve Bank of India for operating in Maharashtra, location wise.

(b) whether the Government are aware that these institutions have duped the depositors in large scale;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to impose a ban on such institutions;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Reserve bank of India (RBI) has reported that 8208 non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) registered in the State of Maharashtra were on the mailing list of RBI as on 31st December, 1994. Apart from this, there are companies registered in other States having branches in Maharashtra. Information regarding location of branches is not available with RBI. NBFCs do not require prior permission from RBI for commencing their business.

(b) RBI has reportedly received some complaints from public regarding non-refund of matured deposits.

(c) and (d). RBI has till date issued orders on two financial companies registered in Maharashtra and two other companies, registered in West Bengal and having a number of branches in Maharashtra, prohibiting them from accepting further deposits from any person.

(e) RBI has proposed some amendments to the RBI Act to regulate more effectively the activities of the NBFCs.

[English]

Branches of Dena Bank in Bihar

4590. SHRI ATAL 'BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branches of Dena Bank in Bihar as on December 31, 1994;

(b) the level of expansion/growth of branches of Dena Bank in various regions of Bihar since the inception of its business in 1967; and

(c) the reasons for the slow growth/expansion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) As reported by Reserve Bank of India the number of branches of Dena Bank in Bihar as on December, 1994 is 9.

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

Import of Raw Silk

4591. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that sericulture, which is the major cottage industry of North-East, is presently in shambles;

(b) whether raw-silk is being imported from China and Japan;

(c) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to revitalise sericulture in these States?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (d). The raw silk production of the Region has increased from a level of 800 tonnes in 1991-92 to 890 tonnes in 1993-94. Data for 1994-95 is not available.

Among the various measures being taken to speed up development of sericulture in the Region, the major ones are establishment of a Central Muga Research & Training Institute by the Central Silk Board at Jorhat in Assam and formulation of a comprehensive Action Plan for development of sericulture which is to be implemented by the Central silk Board and the States of the North-Eastern Region.

In so far as import of raw silk is concerned, it may be stated that in order to enable Indian silk exporters to compete effectively in international markets, they are allowed the facility to import their raw silk requirements from various countries (including China and Japan) only for export production, at international prices, under the Advance Licensing Scheme.

Development of Tourism in Karnataka

4592. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA :
SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO :
SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether some private firms in Singapore and Malaysia are keen to invest in Karnataka for development of tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these firms also propose to construct an international convention centre in Bangalore, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (d). Two Singapore based companies viz. M/s Chesterfield International Private Limited and M/s Redevco Private Limited have signed the Memoranda of Understanding with the State Government of Karnataka for building of five 4-Star hotels in Bangalore, Mysore, Hassan Shimoga and Hampi and for construction of an international convention centre in Bangalore City and establishment of a Limousine and coach service company. The convention centre will have an outlay of Rs. 400 crores approximately and the complex will consist of a big convention centre, Exhibition Hall, 5-Star Hotel, shopping-cum-Entertainment Complexes, Service Apartments and Tourism Training Institute.

A Malaysian based company has also shown interest to invest in Karnataka for development of Tourism. This company has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a Karnataka based Indian company in this regard. The project involves construction of a 4 star hotel, a convention and trade centre, a 18 hole golf course and an amusement park.

Money Inflow Through GDR

4593. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the objectives of raising money through global depository receipts and the total dollar inflow during 1993-94 has been achieved;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main reasons of losses made by R.B.I. on dollar inflows;

(d) whether any concrete steps in this regard have been worked out to control the inflow of dollar;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Corporate entities are being

permitted, based on certain eligibility criteria, to raise funds from International Capital markets through the issue of Global Depository Receipts (GDRs). During 1992-94 Indian companies have launched GDR Issues totalling US \$ 1522.441 Million.

(c) to (f). Large capital inflows can have monetary implications. As a consequence, RBI from time to time undertakes sterilisation measures such as open market operations. This can entail a cost depending on the yield differential between domestic securities and foreign interest rates. In order to moderate capital inflows, effective from 28th October, 1994 companies issuing GDRs are required mandatorily to retain the issue proceeds abroad and repatriate the proceeds as the when expenditures are actually incurred on the approved lend uses.

Indian Workers in Gulf Countries

4594. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is decline in the number of recruitment of Indian workers in Gulf Countries;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote the flow of Indian workers in those countries?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Emigration procedure has been further simplified by bringing the following six additional categories of workers under 'Emigration Check Not Required (ECNR)' category w.e.f. 4.10.1991 :

(i) Supervisors (all professions);

(ii) Skilled Workers (all professions);

(iii) Semi-skilled workers (all professions);

(iv) Light/Medium/Heavy vehicle Drivers;

(v) Clerical workers of all categories including stenographers, store-keepers, time-keepers, typists etc.

(vi) Cooks excluding those in domestic employment

This is intended to promote emigration of Indian workers abroad.

Theft Cases at Airports

4595. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of theft cases reported by passengers at different airports of the country during the last two years;

(b) the number of cases successfully solved and whether any compensation has been given to passengers against unsolved cases; and

(c) the steps contemplated to prevent such thefts?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) All theft cases reported by the passengers at the airports are handled and pursued by the respective state police authorities. no centralised information is maintained by the Airports Authority of India in this regard nor do they have information about police investigations and their results.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Textile Mills

4596. DR. P.R. GANGWAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the amount sanctioned by the Government to various public sector textile mills for modernisation during the last year;

(b) whether the Government have assessed the modernisation work of those mills and their efficiency after the expenditure incurred on the modernisation of these mills,

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) No funds for modernisation were sanctioned to National Textile Corporation Limited and British India Corporation Limited during 1994-95.

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

(d) Based on the modernisation/revival plan prepared by the Textile Research Associations and endorsed by the Labour Ministry's Special Tripartite Committee, a revised Turn Around Strategy for modernisation/revival of the NTC mills is under consideration of the Government. Since the cases of 8 out of 9 subsidiaries of the NTC have been referred to the BIFR, and final scheme that may emerge would require the approval of the BIFR before implementation.

[English]

Stake of Financial Institutions in Companies

4597. SHRI RAM KAPSE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Finance Ministry has formulated a policy regarding the role of Financial Institutions (FIs) in companies in which they hold substantial stakes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs) have their own policies for safeguarding their interest in companies assisted by them. FIs have also evolved guidelines in respect of nominee directors appointed by them on the Boards of assisted companies. These guidelines also take into account instructions issued on the subject by Government from time to time.

Cooperative Textile Mills

4598. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL :
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state.

(a) whether any priority is accorded to cooperative sector in the matter of setting up of cotton textile mills; and

(b) if so, the number of textile mills proposed to be set up in the cooperative sector during the current financial year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF THE TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Majuli River Island

4599. SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Assam have requested the Union Government to declare Majuli River Island of Assam as tourist spot;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM. (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Import of Coffee/Coffee Seeds

4600. SHRI C. SREENIVAASAN :
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMCHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any shortage in supply of coffee seeds in the country during the last one month;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision for importing coffee/coffee seeds during 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the conditions under which such import is effected;

(e) whether any representations have been received from the coffee growers of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu against the import of coffee;

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regards; and

(g) if not, the steps taken by the Government to meet the domestic demand of coffee and coffee seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Import of roasted/decaffeinated coffee (in bulk package) has been allowed under Open General Licence from 1st April, 1995 at normal duty

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g). Since the international price of coffee is almost at par with the domestic price, import of roasted/decaffeinated coffee is not likely to affect the interests of the growers. On the other hand it will improve the domestic availability in case of any future shortage in the internal market. It may also have a restraining effect on high prices.

Sales Centers of NTC

4601. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ :

DR. LAL BHADUR RAWAL :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of showrooms/sales centres of the National Textile Corporation along with their locations in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of showrooms/sales centres proposed to be set up during the current financial year, State-wise; and

(c) this funds earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) A Statement indicating the number of the existing showrooms/sales centres of the NTC and their location, State-wise is enclosed.

(b) NTC does not propose to set up any new showrooms/sales centres during the current financial year.

(c) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

| S.No. | Number of Showrooms | Name of the State/U.T. |
|-------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. | 27 | Andhra Pradesh |
| 2. | 6 | Assam |
| 3. | 26 | Bihar |
| 4. | 9 | Gujarat |
| 5. | 8 | Haryana |
| 6. | 2 | Himachal Pradesh |
| 7. | 4 | Jammu & Kashmir |
| 8. | 23 | Karnataka |
| 9. | 18 | Kerala |
| 10. | 12 | Madhya Pradesh |
| 11. | 29 | Maharashtra |
| 12. | 1 | Meghalaya |
| 13. | 8 | Orissa |
| 14. | 6 | Punjab |
| 15. | 10 | Rajasthan |
| 16. | 65 | Tamil Nadu |
| 17. | 55 | Uttar Pradesh |
| 18. | 71 | West Bengal |
| 19. | 16 | Delhi |
| 20. | 2 | Chandigarh |
| 21. | 1 | Daman & Diu |
| 22. | 1 | Pondicherry |
| Total | 400 | |

Migration of Labour

4602. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of labourers migrate from Raipur and Bilaspur divisions and also from Dhar, Jabua and Khargone districts of Madhya Pradesh in other States in search of employment every year after the monsoon months;

(b) whether the Government are also aware that a vast majority of them are exploited and under-paid by their employers and in some cases are even kept as bonded labourers;

(c) whether any estimate of the number of these migrating labourers has been made;

(d) if so, their number and if not, whether any such survey is likely to be made; and

(e) the steps the Government propose to take for creating job opportunities for such labourers locally and also to ensure that exploitation of these labourers is stopped?

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

(e) The problem is sought to be tackled through a multi-dimensional course of action viz. improvement of rural infrastructural facilities, diversification to non-farm activities, skill improvement programmes, financial assistance to promote self employment and optimising the use of land resources etc. From 1993-94, two more important wage employment programmes, namely Intensified Jawahar Rojgar Yojna (IJRY) in 120 backward districts in the country and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) in more than 2000 backward and tribal blocks in the country are under implementation. The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1970 and the Inter-State Migrant workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Central Rules, 1980 regulate the wages and working condition of migrant workmen who are recruited through contractors. The Act provides for the registration of establishments, licensing of contractors, wages and welfare facilities and cognizance of offences etc.

[Translation]

Facilities to Foreign Tourists

4603. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have given any travelling facilities or concessions to foreign tourists; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Government have set up 18 Tourist Information Counters at domestic and international airports; 21 Tourist Offices in India and 18 Tourist Offices overseas which impart touristic information, which includes information about reservation and other facilities available. Government does not give any concession to foreign tourists.

[English]

Import of Equipment

4604. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have permitted for the import of certain special equipment to effectively deal with drought situation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any such application for imports of collapseable containers for providing drinking water to the drought effected areas more efficiently and more economically in view of the shortage of road tankers from any State Government, semi-Government organisation or private sectors;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e). Does not arise.

Customs Clearance of Calicut Bound Passengers

4605. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Customs Clearance for the Calicut bound international passengers are still being carried out in Bombay Airport;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reasons for not carrying out this customs clearance exercise at Calicut Airport for the international air passengers, after internationalisation of the Bombay-Calicut sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). Where the Calicut bound international passengers choose to avail the in-transit facility in the international airport for proceeding to Calicut by international flights, they are not subject to any customs clearance formalities at Bombay's Sahar Airport. But where Calicut-bound passengers disembark at Bombay as international passengers and avail Bombay-Calicut transfers by domestic flights, such passengers take the customs clearance formalities at Bombay Sahar Airport.

Export of Seeds.

4606. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of seeds and planting materials exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the export of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The total quantity of seeds and planting materials and foreign

exchange earned therefrom during the last three years are as under :

| | QTY : In MTS. | Value : in Rs. Crores. |
|---------|---------------|------------------------|
| YEAR | QUANTITY | VALUE |
| 1991-92 | 8419 | 16.09 |
| 1992-93 | 7024 | 23.84 |
| 1993-94 | 9139 | 24.50 |

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta

(b) Measures adopted to encourage export of seeds include, exports being allowed without restrictions except in certain categories which form part of the Negative List of Exports under the Exim Policy, reduction in import duties, tax benefits for in-house research and development and pre-shipment and post shipment credit at concessional rate of interest.

Proposal to Lease out Airports

4607. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to lease out some airports for use by Buddhist pilgrims on the pilgrims circuit; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the airports identified for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Export Processing Zones

4608. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the main objectives of Export Processing Zones(EPZ);

(b) whether the Export Processing Zones are able to procure raw-materials at international price;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the EPZ are unable to assist export oriented units;

(f) if so, whether the Government propose to revamp the EPZ scheme;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The main objectives of Export Processing Zones(EPZs) include earning of foreign exchange, stimulating domestic and foreign investments in export oriented industries and expanding employment opportunities.

(b) to (d). Units in Export Processing Zones can source their raw materials indigenously or through duty free imports. In the case of the former, such goods would be entitled to excise exemption and reimbursement of Central Sales Tax. In addition, domestic supplies to EOU/EPZ units are considered as 'Deemed Exports' and eligible for benefits as per para 122 of EXIM Policy.

(e) to (h). In order to assist export oriented production, EPZs offer basic facilities such as ready built factory premises, developed land for construction of factory sheds and other infrastructure such as power, water supply and drainage. Customs clearance is also arrange within the Zone at no extra charge.

The working of Export Processing Zone Scheme is under constant review and improvements are sought to be brought about on the basis of feed back from the trade and industry. Certain changes recently effected in this regard include simplification of Customs procedure, higher access to the local market, flexible value addition norms and broadening of the area of activity to include trading, re-export after repacking/labelling, repairs, reconditioning and re-engineering.

Setting up of Commercial Centres

4609. SHRI M.G. REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether U.S. is going to set up commercial centres in India to complete global negotiations in trade services and to build up free trade initiatives in Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation forum;

(b) if so, the reasons for setting up of such centres; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Government is not aware of any such proposal.

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

Construction of Hotels by ITDC

4610. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether India Tourism Development Corporation construct hotels at places of pilgrimage and hill stations;

(b) if so, the number of ITDC hotels at various places of pilgrimage and hill stations at present; and

(c) the places of pilgrimage and hill stations where ITDC Proposes to construct hotels or Yatri Niwas?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) In its pioneering role, ITDC constructed/modified hotels in places of pilgrimage and hill stations.

(b) At present ITDC owns/operates 26 hotels in the country including the hotels at Varanasi, Bodhgaya, Jammu, Hassan and Madurai which are commonly known as pilgrimage centres and also a hotels at Manall, a famous hill station;

(c) The ITDC's Annual Plan for 1995-96 does not include any specific plan scheme/provision for construction of new hotels at places of pilgrimage and hill stations.

Privatisation of Insurance Sector

4611. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise the Insurance sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some trade unions have opposed the proposal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d). One of the recommendation of the Malhotra Committee report relate to opening the insurance industry to the private sector. The Government has yet to take a decision on the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee report.

Rampur Coal Mines

4612. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers of the Rampur Coal Mines under Brajraj Nagar orient areas were on hunger strike;

(b) if so, the details of the demands raised by them;

(c) the steps taken to provide them the basic amenities; and

(d) the details of the steps taken for the welfare of these workers?

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

Loan Applications with IDBI

4643. SHRI PROBEN DEKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications for grant of financial assistance received by the Industrial Development Bank of India from Assam during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of applications sanctioned and rejected; and

(c) the financial assistance provided by IDBI to set up industries in Assam during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that the number of applications for grant of financial assistance received, sanctioned and rejected by them in respect of the State of Assam during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 (latest available) under IDBI's Direct Assistance Schemes are as under:

| Year | Applications received | Applications sanctioned | Applications rejected/ closed/ withdrawn |
|---------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1991-92 | 7 | 5 | 1 |
| 1992-93 | 5 | 5 | - |
| 1993-94 | 13 | 8 | 4 |

(c) The details of financial assistance sanctioned and disbursed to industries in Assam under various schemes of IDBI are as under :

| Year | (Rs. crore) | |
|---------|-------------|---------------|
| | Sactions | Disbursements |
| 1991-92 | 33.9 | 56.4 |
| 1992-93 | 13.0 | 50.8 |
| 1993-94 | 30.7 | 16.0 |

[Translation]

Development of Handloom Sector

4614. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the population of weavers in Uttar Pradesh is highest but it is very backward in the production of handloom clothes;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any proposal from Uttar Pradesh for development the handloom industries in the State;

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). On the basis of the proposal received from the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, the following releases were made under various schemes during 1994-95 :

| (Rs. in lakhs) | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Margin Money For Destitute Weavers | 27.44 |
| 2. Research & Development | 2.80 |
| 3. Project Package Scheme | 125.25 |

| | | |
|--|---|-------------------|
| 4. Integrated Handloom Village Development | : | 60.00 |
| 5. National Silk Yarn Bank | : | 16.20 |
| 6. Thrif Fund Scheme | : | 18.00 |
| 7. Health Package Scheme | : | 58.00 |
| 8. Group Insurance Scheme | : | 10.00 |
| 9. Workshed-Cum-Housing Scheme | : | 182.00 |
| 10. Handloom Development Centre Scheme | : | 404.89 |
| 11. National Design Collection Programme | : | 4.50 |
| 12. MDA/Special Rebate | : | 397.15 |
| 13. Danta Cloth Subsidy | : | 665.35 |
| Total | : | Rs.1971.58 |

[English]

Credit Deposits Ratio of Banks in Rajasthan

4615. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the deposits mobilised by all the banks

in Rajasthan remained for larger than the credit advance during the last few years;

(b) whether the C.D. Ratio in Rajasthan after 1987 has moved at a negative variance with reference to all India C.D. Ratio;

(c) whether the CDR which was 49.85% in September 1993 has further, declined to 43.32% in September, 1994;

(d) whether despite vast potential and requirement of resources in the State, the commercial banks are not ensuring adequate flow of credit to the various economy sectors of the State; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken for improving the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
(a) to (c). Credit, Deposit and Credit Deposit Ratio (CDR) of Scheduled Commercial Banks in Rajasthan and for the country as a whole for the period from March 1987 to March 1994 are given below :

(Rs. in lakhs)

| | Rajasthan | | | All India | | |
|------------|-----------|---------|------|-----------|----------|------|
| | Credit | Deposit | CDR | Credit | Deposit | CDR |
| March 1987 | 174238 | 260218 | 67.0 | 6667291 | 10311248 | 64.0 |
| March 1988 | 198077 | 315876 | 62.7 | 7490320 | 11867801 | 63.1 |
| March 1989 | 243165 | 386337 | 62.9 | 9600852 | 14689050 | 65.4 |
| March 1990 | 286314 | 460428 | 62.2 | 11359200 | 17275853 | 65.8 |
| March 1991 | 313137 | 553965 | 56.5 | 12251018 | 20003569 | 66.2 |
| March 1992 | 342625 | 615938 | 55.6 | 14221092 | 23308569 | 61.0 |
| March 1993 | 400352 | 725610 | 55.2 | 16583621 | 27406793 | 60.5 |
| March 1994 | 424671 | 863020 | 49.2 | 18001659 | 31791750 | 56.6 |

CDRs for both Rajasthan and for the country have declined during the above period.

(d) to (e). Reserve Bank of India had constituted Task Force for Rajasthan to specifically review among otherthings, the reasons for low CDR in the State and to make recommendations for improving the same. The Task Force has since submitted its report. Bank of Baroda the convener bank for the state has reported that steps have been taken to improve credit deposit ratio in the light of the report.

Engineering Trade Fair

4616. SHRI ANAND RATAN MAURYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Engineering Trade Fair has been organised recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take steps to set up joint ventures on the basis of mutual trade interactions during such Fairs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the purpose of organising such fairs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Confederation of Indian Industry (C.I.I.), an apex industry association of the country has organised the 11th Indian Engineering Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from 12-19 February, 1995. More than 50 overseas buying delegations and 1700 exhibitors from 24 countries participated in the fair. According to CII, the business generated and the actual orders booked in the fair were to the tune of Rs. 51,250 million and Rs. 210 million respectively.

(c) to (e). The Government do not propose to set up any joint venture on its own as a follow up of the mutual trade interaction during such fairs. However, proposals received from private parties for investment in joint ventures are processed on merit as per the guidelines issued from time to time.

[Translation]

Japanese Delegation for Improvement in Banking Sector

4617. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
PROF. PREM DHUMAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level delegation from Japan visited India recently; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held and the reaction of the Government of each of the suggestions put forward by the delegation, particularly on Banking sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
(a) A Government mission from Japan visited India from 15th to 23rd April, 1995.

(b) The mission had discussions with Government of India on the funding of the 1995-96 yen package. Govt. of India had posed 29 projects for OECF loan assistance, out of which the mission short listed 17 projects for discussions. The short-list also contained a line of Credit for small Industries Development Bank of India. Final decision on the funding of 1995-96 loan package is awaited

[English]

Development of Bodh Gaya Airport

4618. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar have submitted a proposal to the Union Government for construction of Tourists Reception Centre at Bodh Gaya, Yatri Niwas at Gaya and for various other construction works;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government and the financial allocation made for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). Proposal for construction of Tourist Reception Centre at Bodh Gaya, Yatrika at Gaya and construction of public conveniences were received from the Bihar Government and sanctioned at a cost of Rs.20.55 lakhs, Rs.50.59 lakhs and Rs.12.86 lakhs respectively, during the financial year 1992-93.

[Translation]

Debt of Vayudoot

4619. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Vayudoot was heavily indebted at the time of its merger with Indian Airlines;

(b) whether the repayment of the said debt has been suspended for the next few years;

(c) if so, the total amount of the said debt and the total amount of debt proposed to be repaid during the current financial year; and

(d) the manners in which rest of the debt is likely to be paid and the sources from where funds are to be received?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (d). The total liability of Vayudoot as on 31st March, 1993 was Rs. 183.45 crores. There is a moratorium of 5 years on repayment and servicing of the dues. Thereafter the liabilities will be discharged by Indian Airlines in 10 annual instalments.

[English]

Tourism Action Plan

4620. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to scrap the Action Plan for development of Tourism;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the tourist traffic for the last two months has decreased; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The tourist arrivals for the months of January, February and March for the year 1994 and 1995 are given hereunder :

| Tourist Arrivals | | |
|------------------|----------|-------------|
| Month | 1994 | 1995 |
| January | 1,92,551 | 1,97,343 |
| February | 1,72,642 | 1,87,614 |
| March | 1,87,129 | 1,88,252(R) |

Concessional Rates on Letters of Credit

4621. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to offer concessional rates on letters of credit; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has not issued any directive or guidelines to banks in regard to the levy of service charges for opening Letter of Credit (L/C).

(b) Does not arise.

More Funds to N.S.F.D.C.

4622 SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance Development Corporation (NSFDC) have requested the Government recently for more funds; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) to (c). Ministry of Welfare has proposed raising internal extra - budgetary resources through market borrowings to the tune of Rs. 50 crores during 1995-96. This has been agreed to by the Planning Commission.

Duty on Detergents

4623. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the basic consideration for identification of "widely consumed articles" and "articles of mass consumption" for the purpose of allowing tax reliefs in the 1995-96 Budget;

(b) whether the detergent, nearly 70% of which is produced in the non-power detergent sector and consumed entirely by the poor and lower middle class, is considered as an essential commodity of mass consumption;

(c) if not, the reasons for which the detergent is subjected to 30% since 1991 and no relief on the tax burden on detergent has been considered necessary since then;

(d) whether there is any other "widely consumed" and "common consumption" manufactured goods which is subjected to same level of duty of 30%;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government consider reduction of duty on detergent also in consonance with its commitment to reduce excise duty burden on "widely consumed" and "common consumption" goods; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) Excise duty on goods in prescribed taking into account all relevant considerations, including its nature, pattern of consumption and use, demand and supply position and nature of consumers of such goods;

(b) and (c). The prices of detergents vary widely and they are used by large cross section of the people. For the present, the excise duty of 30% is considered as appropriate rate of duty on detergents;

(d) and (e). Goods, such as, instant coffee, pan masala, aerated water, cigarettes, chewing tobacco, snuff, white cement, cosmetics and toilet preparations, attract excise duty of 30% or higher;

(f) and (g). At present there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to reduce excise duty on detergents as this rate is considered to be appropriate for the present.

Insurance Policy

4624. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the General Insurance Corporation has issued directives to its subsidiary companies regarding cancellation and revival of insurance policy in the event of dishonour of premium cheque of the insured;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the insurance companies are authorised to revive the cancelled policy by accepting fresh premium after the loss has been reported to it and thereafter pay the claim;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of insurance policies revived and claims paid thereon by the New India Assurance Co Ltd, at Delhi during the financial year 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) to (d). The General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) have reported that under the accounting procedure followed by insurance companies when the premium cheques are dishonoured insurance policies are liable to be cancelled. Revival of such policies can be done only from the date on which fresh premium cheque is presented by the insured. Revival from a retrospective date is not permissible.

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

Tea Gardens Under T.T.C.I.

4625. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to sell out all the tea estates/gardens including Looksan Tea Garden under TTCL;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which these gardens/estates are likely to be sold out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). In view of the continuing losses incurred by the Gardens Division of the Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd., it has been decided to dispose off all five garden vested in the Corporation.

(c) Financial offers received from interested parties in respect of four tea gardens viz. Pashok, Vah Tukvar, Looksan and Potong Tea Estates are Being processed for finalisation. Offers have also been invited in respect of the fifth tea garden viz. Pathini, last date for receipt of which is 18th May, 1995.

On completion of all required formalities, action would be taken to transfer ownership of the tea estates to the successful bidders as soon as possible.

National Securities Depository System

4626. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the depository system of securities has since been brought into operation;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for its implementation; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE: (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d). NO, Sir. Operationalising a depository system would require changes in the law. Government is currently considering the introduction of separate legislation for this purpose.

Import Items

4627. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the current negative list of imports as on March 31, 1995;

(b) whether any particular item in the list has been imported during 1994-95 and if so, the quantity and value thereof, item-wise; and

(c) the details of items for which Special Import Licences were issued during 1994-95 and the quantity and value thereof, item-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). The Negative List of Imports is contained in Chapter XV of the Export and Import Policy, 1992-97 (Revised Edition; March, 1995), a copy of which is available in Parliament Library. 640 Import licences for an approximate value of Rs. 1428 crores for items listed in sectors of consumer goods, drugs and pharmaceuticals, aircraft, etc. were issued. Since the licences are issued with a specific quantity/value, quantities of import depends on the prevalent International Prices which from time to time and, therefore, no separate date is maintained of items actually imported.

[Translation]

Allocation to U.P. to Promote Tourism

4628. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the schemes submitted by the Government of Uttar Pradesh so far to promote tourism in the State during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the amount allocated for each scheme?

THE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) On the basis of complete and eligible proposals received from the State Government of U.P., the Central Department of Tourism sanctioned 30 projects/schemes at a cost of Rs. 416.44 lakhs during the first three years of Eighth Five Year Plan. The details of schemes are given in the enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT

Projects/Schemes Sanctioned during the Eighth Five Year Plan for the State of U.P.

| S. No. | Name of the Project | Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs) |
|---------|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1992-93 | | |
| 1. | Setting up of tented accommodation, Nandprayag | 6.38 |
| 2. | Setting up of nodal centre at (i) August Muni (Site shifted to Chand Nagar) | 10.36 |
| | (ii) Helang (Site shifted to Vrahl) | 10.41 |
| 3. | Yatri shed at Haridwar including Public conveniences | 20.68 |
| 4. | Improvement of Kashighat at Vrindavan | 18.00 |
| 5. | Floodlighting of Fatehpur Sikri | 15.15 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------|--|--------|
| 6. | Tented Accommodation at Vrindavan | 10.00 |
| 7. | Taj mahotsav | 5.36 |
| 8. | Nodghat festival 1993-94 | 1.00 |
| 1. | Wayside amenities at Muradnagar | 8.35 |
| 2. | Wayside amenities at Pharenda | 8.27 |
| 3. | Wayside amenities at Shahganj | 8.28 |
| 4. | Tourist Lodge at Sardhana (Meerut Distt.) | 13.48 |
| 5. | Tourist Lodge at Kandala | 10.07 |
| 6. | Tourist Lodge at Bateshwar | 13.59 |
| 7. | Improvement of Ghats at Bateshwar | 20.00 |
| 8. | Trivani Ghat at Rishikesh | 23.97 |
| 9. | Jashne Avadh | 4.70 |
| 10. | Akbar Festival | 2.88 |
| 11. | Golf Course at Noida 1994-95 | 37.45 |
| 1. | Tourist Reception Centre at Sarnath | 28.24 |
| 2. | Meditation Centre at Sarnath | 64.71 |
| 3. | Development around Chaukhandi Stupa | 3.40 |
| 4. | Floodlighting of Monument at Varanasi Ghats | 16.50 |
| 5. | Restaurant-cum-waiting hail, Sravasti | 12.26 |
| 6. | Restaurant-cum-waiting hall, Kushinagar | 12.25 |
| 7. | Restaurant-cum-waiting hail, Pallia | 12.26 |
| 8. | Publicity, Fairs and Festivals | |
| | i. Taj Mahotsav | 5.00 |
| | ii. Avadh Festival, Lucknow | 2.34 |
| | iii. Printing of Publicity literature | 11.10 |
| Total | | 416.44 |

Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council

4629. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an institution like Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council for the development of powerloom sector and giving a boost to the export of the products;

(b) if so, the time by which a decision is to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the details regarding jurisdiction of the proposed council?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The Government has decided to set up a Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council for the powerloom sector.

(c) Main objects of the new Council are to promote and support, development of powerlooms and export or powerloom fabrics and made-ups thereof and to carry out any such activity in such a manner as may be necessary or expedient in this behalf.

[English]

Licences for Poppy Cultivation

4630. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the policy adopted by the Government for issuance of licences to the poppy growers in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh during 1994-95;

(b) whether the Deputy Commissioner, Madhya Pradesh (Narcotics) has not disposed of most of the appeals so far;

(c) whether rule NDPS of the manual has been violated in the allotment of licences;

(d) whether the Government propose to conduct any enquiry in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) For the crop year 1994-95 the minimum qualifying yield for issuance of licences to the poppy growers was fixed at 43 kgs. per hectare. All those cultivators in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh who had tendered minimum yield of 43 kgs. per hectare during 1993-94 have been issued licences for the crop year 1994-95 provided they did not otherwise violate any other conditions like involvement in drug trafficking, exceeding the licensed area etc. The licences for opium poppy were also issued to new cultivators in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan only in those villages whose average yield was more than 40 kgs. per hectare during the preceding year.

(b) Many cultivators of Madhya Pradesh and an organisation named Akhil Bhartiya Afeem Utpadak Sangthan filed Writ Petition No. 1760/94 in Madhya Pradesh High Court at Indore bench regarding the increase in the qualifying yield from 40kgs. in 1993-94 to 43 kgs. per hectare for the crop year 1994-95. The Hon'ble High Court ordered that all those cultivators who had tendered a yield of 40 kgs. per hectare during the year 1993-94 should be issued licences for the year 1994-95.

The Government filed a special leave petition before the Hon'ble Supreme Court against the decision of the Hon'ble Madhya Pradesh High Court. The Hon'ble Supreme Court initially stayed the execution of the Madhya Pradesh High Court order and later remanded the matter back to the Madhya Pradesh High Court for final disposal and also ordered continuance of the stay

in the meanwhile. The Writ Petition no. 1760/94 has still not been decided by the Madhya Pradesh High Court. In view of the stay granted by the Supreme Court, the appeals filed by those cultivators who had tendered opium at the rate of more than 40 kgs. per hectare but less than 43 kgs. per hectare before the Deputy Narcotics Commissioner, Neemuch have not been decided so far. These appeals would be decided as soon as Madhya Pradesh High Court disposes off the matter.

(c) The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Rules have not been violated in allotting the licences. The licences have been issued in accordance with the general principles as laid down by the Central Government under Rule 8 of NDPS Rules 1985

(d) No enquiry is contemplated in view of (a), (b) and (c) above.

(e) Does not arise.

Foreign Exchange Reserves

4631. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state .

(a) the detailed components of the Foreign Exchange Reserves at present;

(b) the portion of these reserves which was invested by the Reserve Bank of India during the last three years, Year-wise, with details of investment; and

(c) the impact on prices on account of lack of deployment of these reserves for productive purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M V CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY)

(a) The detailed components of foreign exchange reserves, as on March 31, 1995, are given below

(US \$ million)

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Foreign Currency Assets | 20809 |
| Special Drawing Rights | 7 |
| Gold | 4370 |
| | 25186 |

(b) The reserves have been deployed in various currencies/instruments abroad in consistent with the norms of prudent reserve management. It is not in the public interest to reveal the currency composition of reserves.

(c) The foreign exchange reserves are utilised to meet the full requirements of the economy for imported inputs, capital goods, raw material etc., as well as imports of technology for greater investment and more efficient production. The reserves are also used as and when necessary, for imports of essential items to meet the domestic demand-supply gap as part of measures to maintain price stability in the economy.

[Translation]

Private Bank in Maharashtra

4632. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the banks set up in private sector during each of the last two years in Maharashtra location-wise;

(b) the banks earning profits and suffering losses out of them, separately;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India has issued any guidelines to the loss incurring banks, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY)

(a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that since the issue of its guidelines dated 22nd January, 1993, relating to setting up banks in the private sector, it has so far issued licences to Indus Ind Bank Ltd and HDFC Bank Ltd. with their registered offices at Pune and Bombay respectively to set up new banks in Maharashtra.

(b) RBI has intimated that the balance-sheets and profit and loss accounts of the above banks as on 31 3 95 have not so far been received and thus names of the bank (s) suffering losses cannot be given.

(c) and (d) Do not arise

[English]

Trade with Finland

4633. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to increase trade with Finland,

(b) if so, the areas in which Indo-Finland trade has been established;

(c) the details of new areas identified for the expansion of Indo-Finland trade; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the trade relation with that country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) . (a) It is Government's endeavour to expand bilateral trade with all its trading partners including Finland.

(b) The main items of Indian exports to Finland are processed minerals, textiles, garments, coffee and carpets. Principal imports from Finland include newsprint, paper, pulp, iron and steel, machinery and project goods.

(c) Potential sectors for exports to Finland include computer software, engineering items, food products, agricultural implements and machines for small

industries. Increased imports from Finland are possible in the area of power generation, telecommunication and energy conservation equipment.

(d) Amongst steps taken for improving trade relations with Finland are regular bilateral contacts at official and business level. These include holding the 9th Session of the Indo-Finland Joint Commission in January, 1995 and the visit of the Finnish Foreign Trade Minister at the same time, accompanied by a delegation of prominent businessmen from that country.

Consultants to IFCI

4634. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd. (IFCI) is engaging outside consultants;

(b) if so, the purpose and details thereof; and

(c) the possibilities explored so far by the IFCI itself in making it customer friendly by expanding and expediting the services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited (IFCI) has reported that it has engaged outside consultants for carrying out a study of various aspects relating to three subsidiary companies set up by it. IFCI has also selected outside consultants for advice in the areas of business strategy, organisational restructuring, compensation package and performance appraisal.

(c) IFCI has reported that it has streamlined its sanction procedure by setting up a Top Management Committee, consisting of senior executives to grant 'in principle clearance' to every proposal within a time frame. A monthly review meeting of Heads of all regional/branch offices is also held by IFCI to monitor the progress of sanctions, disbursements and recovery of dues from the assisted concerns. Prompt attention is given to complaints received from entrepreneurs.

Transgression inside of Airport

4635. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Airports Authority of India have been vested with powers to check transgression inside airports;

(b) the number of cases of transgression, especially in the apron area, in violation of the apron rules, have been detected in different International Airports in India during the last six months; and

(c) the reasons for violation of the rules?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). Yes Sir. Airports Authority of India have detected 489 cases of transgression at five international airports during the period from 1.10.1994 to 31.3.1995. The types of violation are trespassing, overspeeding/negligent driving, incorrect parking, etc.

Avoidance of Double Taxation Treaty with Philippines

4636. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India propose to sign a treaty with Philippines to avoid double taxation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely date by which the treaty will be signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
(a) to (c). A Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement between India and the Philippines has been signed on 12.2.1990. This Agreement, however, has still to be notified in the Official Gazette. The Agreement provides for the taxation of business profits of the enterprise of one country in the other only if it maintains a permanent establishment in the other country. Taxation of shipping and aircraft profits in the source country will be reduced by 40%. Dividends, royalties and interest are to be taxed at concessional rates. Exchange of information for the prevention of fraud or evasion of tax is also provided for.

Public Sector Banks in Maharashtra

4637 SHRI ANNA JOSHI . Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branches of public sector banks in Maharashtra, bank-wise;

(b) the amount deposited in these banks during the last three years;

(c) the total amount sanctioned for farmers and the amount actually disbursed to them during the above period, bank-wise;

(d) the amount recovered from the farmers during the said period;

(e) whether these banks have achieved the target of disbursing such loans; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and the corrective steps taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
(a) to (f). Information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Sub-Regional Provident Fund Offices

4638. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some Sub-Regional Provident Fund Offices in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) No, Sir.

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

Linking of Bank Branches with Satellite Network

4639. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to link the branches of some banks with satellite communication network,

(b) if so, the purpose thereof and the names of the banks proposed to be linked; and

(c) the time by which these banks are likely to be linked with the satellite communication network?

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

[English]

SSI Institutional Frame Work

4640. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he stressed the urgent need for evolving an institutional frame work to facilitate the entry of small scale sector to the capital market;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has felt that this was necessary to bridge the credit gap and to set off the problems of inadequacy of working capital;

(c) if so, whether any concrete efforts in this regard, have been worked out by the Ministry under which small units can get entry into capital market; and

(d) the details of the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
(a) to (d). Government has been encouraging various steps to provide access to the capital market for the

small scale sector. In order to facilitate the entry of the small scale sector into the capital market, Government has granted recognition to the over the Counter (OTC) Exchange of India on 23rd August, 1989 under the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956. The Exchange commenced trading in October, 1992. According to the guidelines, a company with a minimum capital of Rs. 30 lakhs is eligible for listing on the OTC Exchange as compared to Rs. 3 crores for other Stock Exchanges. Thus, the OTC Exchange allows the small scale sector to enter the capital market.

Children Working in Hotels

4641. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD :

SHRI KUNJEE LAL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the number of the children engaged in hotels throughout the country;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware that hotel owners are exploiting the children engaged in their hotels; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent the engagement of children in hotels?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):
(a) and (b). As per the 1981 census the number of main child workers working in the category of other services including hotels is 3.2 lakhs. Number of the children engaged in hotels throughout the country is not maintained.

(c) and (d). Under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, the employment of children below 14 years are prohibited in occupations and processes included in parts (A) and (B) of the Schedule of the Act. The working conditions of children are regulated in all employments which are not prohibited under the Child Labour (prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 including hotels. The Central Governments/ State Governments/UTs enforce the various provisions of the Act in their respective spheres. Violations of any regulatory provision of the Act are dealt with according to the rules.

Wage Boards for Journalists

4642. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the wage boards for the working journalists and non-journalists constituted recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time schedule has been fixed by the Government for giving its recommendations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (d). The Government constituted two Wage Boards One for Journalists and the other for Non-Journalist Newspaper and News-agency employees vide Notifications dated 2.9.1994. The two Wage Boards have a common Chairman, two common independent members and two members each representing employers' and employees' organisations. No time Schedule has been afixed for the submission of recommendations by the Wage Boards.

Howala Operatore

4643. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's efforts to check the hawala operators and smugglers who are using their money laundering operations for financing acts of terrorism have become successful;

(b) if so, the details of the achievements made in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken to check this racket along the Western coastlinn and land borders in the light of the findings of the one-man Vohra inquiry probe into the nexus between criminals and politicians?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Though cases of violation of the provisions of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 (FERA) and Customs Act, 1962 continue to be reported, some success has been achieved in curbing these violations. Foreign exchange is now flowing through official channels to a much larger extent than was the case hitherto.

(c) The report submitted by the Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Vohra is under consideration in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Joint Operation of Air India and Canadian Airlines

4644. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India propose to enter into a joint operation with Canadian Airlines to attract more tourists in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). A proposal relating to joint operation with Canadian Airlines on Vancouver/Hong Kong/Delhi sector and vice-versa was

discussed at airline level. The operation is subject to approval of the Hong Kong Authorities.

[Translation]

4645. SHRI DATTA MEGHE :
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA :
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :
SHRI KUNJEE LAL :
SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA :
SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO
GUNDEWAR :
SHRI PROBIN DEKA :
SHRI ANNA JOSHI :
SHRIMATI BHAVANA CHIKHLIA

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the projects being implemented in the country with foreign assistance at present, State-wise;

(b) the amount of foreign assistance provided by the Union Government so far for those projects and the amount provided by the respective State Governments in each case;

(c) the time and cost over run in each case and the steps taken by the Government to minimise the cost and time over run of those projects;

(d) whether the Union Government have received any more proposals from various State Government for seeking financial assistance from International agencies for certain development projects in their respective States;

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

(f) the action taken by the Union Government thereon in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (f). The information is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Loane to Unemployed SCs/STs/OBCs Youths

4646. SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI THAKORE .
DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed youths belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Backward Classes in Gujarat and U.P., separately, who have applied for bank loans to set up major, medium and small industries during the year 1993-94 and 1994-95 till date; and

(b) the amount of loan sanctioned to such applicants during the above period alongwith the number of such beneficiaries in each of the State, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) and (b). Dena Bank, the Convenor Bank of Gujarat State has reported that the number of SCs/STs/OBCs Youth who have applied for bank loans to set up major, medium and small industries in Gujarat is 1912 during 1993-94 and 1783 during 1994-95. During 1993-94, 1601 persons have been sanctioned loan amounting to Rs. 612.13 lakh and to 1547 persons amounting to Rs. 424.00 lakh during 1994-95.

The information in respect of U.P. State is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

[Translation]

Loans to Farmers in Bihar

4647. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY :
SHRI LALL BABU RAI .

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of small and marginal farmers in Bihar provided with loans for installing/boring tubewells by cooperative banks, commercial banks and regional rural banks in the State, separately, during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have received complaint against certain banks regarding irregularities committed in granting financial assistance during the above period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the efforts made by the Government to put a check on such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

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

Flying/Gliding Clubs in M.P.

4648 SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) the number of flying/gliding clubs functioning in Madhya Pradesh alongwith the locations thereof, the dates when they were established and the number of aircraft at their disposal,

(b) the amount of subsidy/assistance provided to each of these clubs during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the rank awarded by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation to each of these clubs in regard to quality of functioning of these clubs?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) 'Madhya Pradesh Flying Club' is the only one subsidised flying club in Madhya Pradesh, which was established in 1951 at Indore. A branch of this club was set up at Bhopal in 1958. At present, the Club has 5 aircraft. In addition, a

private Flying Club, named 'Udan Research and Flying Institute' started functioning at Indore in 1990. This club has six aircraft.

(b) The amounts of subsidy provided to Madhya Pradesh Flying Club by the Central Government were Rs. 7.49 lakhs in 1992-93, Rs. 11.87 lakhs in 1993-94 and Rs. 18.61 lakhs in 1994-95. No subsidy was provided to the private club.

(c) There is no system of ranking the clubs.

[English]

Loans to Handloom Weavers

4649. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA :
DR. K.D. JESWANI :
SHRI JANARDAN MISRA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance provided by the Central Government to various State Governments for providing loans to handloom weavers under the Project Package Scheme during the year 1994-95, State-wise;

(b) the financial assistance proposed to be sanctioned for the purpose during 1995-96;

(c) whether the Government propose to waive the previous loans given to handloom weavers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) A Statement showing State-wise financial assistance provided by the Central Government to various State Governments for providing loans to handloom weavers under the Project Package Scheme during the year 1994-95 is enclosed.

(b) A provision of Rs. 75.00 crores has been made in BE-1995-96 for providing financial assistance in the form of grant to various State Governments under the Project Package Scheme, which comprises Handloom Development Centre Schemes, Project Package Scheme and Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

State-wise Financial Assistance Provided by the Central Government to Various State Governments for Providing Loans to Handloom weavers under Project Package Scheme during the year 1994-95.

(Rs. in lakhs)

| S. No. | State | Amount of loan sanctioned during 1994-95 |
|--------|-------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 15.8125 |
| 2 | Arunachal Pradesh | 15.00 |
| 3 | Assam | 7.875 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------|------------------|----------|
| 4. | Bihar | 5.87125 |
| 5. | Gujarat | 6.375 |
| 6. | Haryana | 2.00 |
| 7. | Himachal Pradesh | 6.00 |
| 8. | Karnataka | 29.00 |
| 9. | Kerala | 45.175 |
| 10. | Madhya Pradesh | 3.40 |
| 11. | Maharashtra | 33.4125 |
| 12. | Manipur | 13.70 |
| 13. | Orissa | 40.39125 |
| 14. | Rajasthan | 32.9075 |
| 15. | Tamil Nadu | 23.33 |
| 16. | Tripura | 1.00 |
| 17. | Uttar Pradesh | 15.50 |
| 18. | West Bengal | 3.25 |
| Total | | 300.00 |

Recognition of Trade Unions

4650. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring forward a legislation for compulsory verification of trade union membership by secret ballot for the purpose of recognition in consonance with Supreme Court judgement in case relating to a trade union in Food Corporation of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA).

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Ban on Export of Red Sanders Wood

4651. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for one time exemption from the ban on export for the export of the 1200 MTs stock of Red Sanders Wood available at present with the forest department of Andhra Pradesh to earn valuable foreign exchange;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. As per the provisions of the current Policy, the export of Red Sanders wood in any form whether raw, processed or unprocessed, as well as any product made thereof, is prohibited.

However, on receipt of the proposal of Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh for granting permission to export Red Sanders wood in the form of logs, the matter was taken up with the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The said Ministry in their reply to the Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh have suggested that, instead of exporting the Red Sanders wood in the form of logs, they should consider making of value added items such as musical instruments, Red Sanders extract etc. out of the accumulated stock of Red Sanders wood. The export of these value added items would fetch more foreign exchange.

Sale of Assets of Sick Companies

4652. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has set up a separate agency for sale of assets of sick companies found fit for winding up;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are exploring feasibility of entrusting the task of sale of assets to private sector agencies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a group to examine the issue.

(c) and (d). The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that it had addressed in November 1994 to 12 consultancy firms (both in the public and private sector) chartered accountancy firms to ascertain their interest in taking up the task of sale of assets of sick industrial companies ordered by BIFR under Section 20 (4) of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. While one company has shown interest, there has been no response from others.

Medical Facilities for Staff of S.B.I.

4653. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of the branches of State Bank of India in Delhi equipped with the Medical Clinics for providing medical services to the staff;

(b) the number of Medical Clinics having Medical Officers on permanent basis;

(c) the number of Medical Clinics functioning without the services of permanent Medical Officers; and

(d) the number of posts of permanent Medical Officers lying vacant in the Medical Clinics as on date alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) to (d) State Bank of India has reported that 8 of its Delhi branches/offices are equipped with medical clinics. 7 of these 8 Clinics have Medical Officers on permanent basis. The vacancy for a permanent medical officer at one of the clinic has been recently created and the bank is taking steps to place an indent on the Central Recruitment Board, which recruits officers for the bank, to fill up the same. Till such time as the vacancy is filled up on regular basis, the bank is utilising the services of a Medical Officer on contract basis.

[Translation]

Export of Flowers

4654 SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR .
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up any Study Group for the development of floriculture so as to tap the productivity of the export of flowers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received the recommendations from the said Group,

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken thereon; and

(f) if not, the steps being taken by the Government for the development of floriculture including infrastructure created and system evolved for optimum exploitation and utilisation of the export potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir

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

(f) Some steps taken to enhance the exports of floriculture products include

(i) Providing financial assistance for development of infrastructure such as refrigerated/insulated vans and setting up of pre-cooling/cold storage units,

(ii) Establishing five walk-in-type cold storages for export consignments awaiting clearance;

(iii) Concessional customs duty on specified goods required for Green Houses;

(iv) Making available the benefits of duty free imports under the Export Oriented Units/ Export Processing Zones Schemes to units engaged in floriculture and permitting sale of 50% of their production in the Domestic Tariff Area;

(v) implementation of a UNDP assisted project on floriculture for enhancing production and exports of cut flowers. Some of the activities to be undertaken in this project include advising entrepreneurs on production of flowers, preparation of crop manuals, undertaking market surveys and providing market information; and

(vi) Participation in international fairs/exhibitions

[English]

Repayment of Bank Loans by States

4655. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether many State Governments have not repaid Loans taken from nationalised banks; and

(b) if so, the details of such Non-performing Assets involving State Governments and nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

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

Supervisory Board of RBI

4656. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE . Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has set up a new supervisory board; and

(b) if so, the details of the constitution and functioning of the Board along with the terms and conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) Reserve Bank of India have set up a Board for Financial Supervision in terms of the Reserve Bank of India (Board for Financial Supervision) Regulations, 1994. The Board has become operational with effect from 16th November, 1994.

(b) The Board consists of the following Members:

(i) Governor, Reserve Bank of India, who shall be the Chairman of the Board.

(ii) Deputy Governors, Reserve Bank of India - of whom one Deputy Governors, shall be nominated by the Governor as fulltime Vice Chairman.

(iii) Four Directors from the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India to be nominated by the Governor as Members.

The Board shall perform the functions and exercise the powers of supervision and inspection in under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 in relation to different sectors of the financial system such as banking companies, financial institutions and non-banking institutions. It shall also perform such other function and exercise such other powers as may be notified by the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India from time to time.

Development and Coordination Committee of JMDC

4657. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :
SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE :
SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jute Manufactures Development Council (JMDC) has set up a new Development and Coordination Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating composition of the new Committee and the functions assigned to it;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details of the main recommendations made therein; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee constituted by the JMDC Council on 28th September, 1994 has the following composition:

MEMBERS

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Joint Secretary (Jute), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, New Delhi | - Chairman |
| 2. Jute Commissioner, Government of India, Calcutta | - Co-Chairman |
| 3. Director (IFW), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, New Delhi | - Member |
| 4. Chairman, Indian Jute Mills Association, Calcutta | - Member |
| 5. Chairman, Calcutta Jute Fabrics Shippers Association, Calcutta | - Member |
| 6. Director, Indian Jute Industries' Research Association, Calcutta | - Member |
| 7. Shri Akon Boran, Tokabari, Guwahati, Assam (Representative of Jute Growers) | - Member |
| 8. Secretary, Jute Manufactures Development Council Calcutta | - Convenor |

PERMANENT INVITEES

1. Executive Director, National Centre for Jute Diversification
2. National Programme Manager (Jute), UNDP, New Delhi
3. Shri G. Sreenivas, M/s. Caricore Industries, Madras (Representative of the decentralised sector)
4. The Director, M/s. Assia Corporation, Bombay (Shipper with the highest export turnover based outside Calcutta)
5. Shri D.J. Wadhwa, M/s. Champdany Industries Ltd., Calcutta (Non-IJMA member having the highest export turnover)
6. Executive Director, Indian Jute Mills Association, Calcutta.

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE

- (a) To study various markets, production base of diversified jute products and to devise suitable market promotion strategies for fruitful inter linkages and to prepare the Annual Action Plan of the Council accordingly.
- (b) Preparation of budget of the Council according to the Annual Action Plan.
- (c) Review and monitor JMDC's activities vis-a-vis the Annual Action Plan.
- (d) Advise on product development with reference to the existing and emerging markets.
- (e) Advise on all matters relating to export promotion as well as for the maintenance and expansion of the domestic market.
- (f) Promote standardisation of jute products, particularly diversified products.
- (g) Collection, collation and dissemination of data and information.
- (h) Consideration of annual accounts.
- (i) Rules and Regulations of the Council including amendments, if required, in JMDC Act, and Rules.
- (j) Such other matters as the Council may direct from time to time.
- (k) Any other matter considered relevant by the Committee for furthering the overall objectives of the Council.

(c) to (e). Since this is a "Standing Committee" of the Council to consider, approve various policies/programmes etc., the question of its submission of report does not arise.

Loans to Farmers

4658. SHRI LALL BABU RAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of loan provided to the farmers in the country, category-wise;

(b) the estimated loss suffered by the farmers due to the negative protection provided to them as a result of the ban imposed on resources and marketing of agricultural products in domestic and international markets;

(c) whether the farmers are over burdened with the loan as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that total direct finance outstanding towards agriculture and allied activities as on the last Friday of June 1993 of all Scheduled Commercial Banks in the country was Rs. 18,287.74 crores. The break-up of the total is as follows:

| | (Rs. in crores) |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Short-Term Loans | 4,988.21 |
| Term Loan | 9,222.38 |
| Allied Activities | 4,078.15 |
| | 18,287.74 |

The purpose-wise break up of total term loans outstanding as on the last Friday of June 1993 by all Scheduled Commercial Banks to farmers was as follows:

| | (Rs. in crores) Amount Outstanding |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| (I) Minor Irrigation | 2,137.87 |
| (II) Reclamation and Land Development Schemes | 267.20 |
| (III) Tractors and Agricultural Implements and machinery | 4,328.96 |
| (IV) Plantations | 622.12 |
| (V) Other Term Loans | 1,865.23 |
| Total | 9,221.38 |

(b) to (d). No information is available on the quantum loss suffered by farmers as a result of negative protection to them on account of restriction on processing and marketing of their produce in domestic and international markets.

[English]

Portfolio Investment by IDBI

4659. DR. R. MALLU : Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the role of IDBI in future industrialisation of the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that IDBI is concentrating more on portfolio management than on industrial finance of green field industries; and

(c) the details of the portfolio investment made by IDBI in blue chip companies and private sector units having turnover of more than Rs. 1,000 crores?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) The basic role of IDBI is to support Industrial development in the country by providing medium and long term credit to the industry. In order to enable IDBI to play its role more effectively in the changing economic and industrial scenario, it has been provided greater functional autonomy and operational flexibility. IDBI has also been enabled to access the capital market through issue of equity share capital and enlarge its share holders' base.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) IDBI acquires shares of companies under normal project financing activities by way of development against under-writing assistance, direct subscription, conversion of loan, bonus and rights issue. It does not acquire shares in the secondary market. As at the end of December 1994, IDBI had investment in 11 companies having sales turnover of Rs. 1000 crore. However, in accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of Public Financial Institutions (Obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1988, the details of investments cannot be divulged.

Export Growth

4660. PROF SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage share of manufactured goods and agricultural produce on total exports during each of the last three years;

(b) the percentage share of capital goods, organic and inorganic chemicals and professional instruments on total imports during each of the last three years;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the targets if the percentage is low on imports and exports; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Percentage shares of manufactured goods and agricultural produce in total exports during each of the last three years are as under :

| | Percentage share in exports | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------|----------|
| | 1992-93 | 1993-94 | 1994-95* |
| Manufactured goods | 76.1 | 75.6 | 76.7 |
| Agricultural Products | 17.6 | 18.7 | 17.1 |

*Data relate to April-January.

(b) Percentage shares of capital goods, organic and inorganic chemicals, and professional instruments in total imports during each of the last three years are as follows :

| | Percentage share in imports | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|----------|
| | 1992-93 | 1993-94 | 1994-95* |
| Capital goods | 17.1 | 22.8 | 15.3 |
| Organic and inorganic chemicals | 6.5 | 5.9 | 7.8 |
| Professional instruments | 2.0 | 1.8 | 1.6 |

*Data relate to April-January.

(c) Government policy is to encourage exports of value added products especially manufactured. Manufactured goods have three-fourth share in exports at present. Imports comprise raw materials; spare parts; consumables; capital goods; and intermediate inputs, besides mass consumption items, such as, edible oil, sugar and other items in short supply to supplement domestic availability and contain price rise. However, no targets are set in respect of shares of the items either in exports and imports.

(d) Does not arise.

Import of Natural Rubber

4661. SHRI P.C. THOMAS :
SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given permission to import rubber during 1994-95 and 1995-96 under Open General Licence Scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons for inclusion of the import of natural rubber under OGL Scheme;

(c) whether this import will lead to decrease in price of rubber in domestic market;

(d) if so, the likely impact of import of rubber in the domestic market;

(e) whether the Government have received any representation from the rubber growers/cooperative societies/organisations against the import of rubber;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). No, Sir. As per the current EXIM Policy, rubber continues to be in the restricted list of items for import and is importable against Special Import Licence only. However, keeping in view the existing gap between demand and supply, the Government has allowed one time import of 20,000 MT of natural

rubber to the actual users/manufacturers at nil duty. It is likely to improve the domestic supply situation.

(e) to (g). Yes, Sir, Some representations have been received expressing apprehensions that such imports would adversely affect the interests of the rubber growers. Since the international price of rubber continues to be higher than the current domestic price, it is not likely to affect the interests of growers particularly when there is a gap between demand and supply.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Potential of Tourism Industry

4662. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether earning potential of tourism industry in the country is not being utilised fully;

(b) the earning of the Government by using this potential during the years 1992, 1993 and 1994, separately;

(c) whether the Government have identified the reasons for not earning money as per potential in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Within the budgetary and other constraints, Government makes allout efforts to fully utilise the earning potential of tourism industry.

(b) The estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism during 1992, 1993 and 1994 were :

| Year | Rs. Crores |
|------|------------|
| 1992 | 5886.95 |
| 1993 | 6146.81 |
| 1994 | 7103.53 |

(c) Government efforts in tapping the potential are yielding results and earnings have been increasing from year to year.

(d) Does not arise.

Air Service between India and China

4663. SHRI SATYADEO SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed to introduce airtservices between India and China recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether airtservices between the two countries have become operational; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (d). Air Services Agreement between India and China was signed on 22.12.1988. The Agreement and the related Memorandum of Understanding provide for operation of services by each side on the approved routes. However, operations between the two countries could not be started by either side owing to low traffic potential and lack of traffic rights to suitable intermediate and beyond points.

[English]

Revival of NTC Mills

4664. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI : Will the minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey for revival of NTC mills in Ahmedabad and other parts of the State of Gujarat has been undertaken; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b). The Textile Research Associations had prepared plans for modernisation and revival of NTC mills including those in Gujarat. The Labour Ministry's Special Tripartite Committee on the NTC has recommended, *inter-alia*, that the NTC mills as well as its taken over mills can be made viable by modernisation as proposed by the Textile Research Associations. A Revised Turn Around Strategy on the basis of the modernisation plan prepared by the Textile Research Associations is under consideration of the Government. Since the cases of 8 out of 9 subsidiaries including Gujarat of the NTC have been referred to the BIFR, any final scheme that may emerge would require the approval of the BIFR before implementation.

[Translation]

Unemployment Allowance

4665. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to grant unemployment allowance to the unemployed youths; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) No, Sir. Central Government is not in favour of paying unemployment allowance to any category of unemployed on account of resource constraints.

(b) Does not arise.

Hotels, Motels and Guest Houses in Rajasthan

4666. SHRI KUNJEE LAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the hotels, motels and guest houses

constructed in Rajasthan with the financial assistance provided by the Union Government;

(b) the amount of financial assistance provided by the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) the number of hotels, motels and guest houses constructed in the State by the Union Government during the year 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). On the basis of specific and complete proposals received from the State Governments, central financial assistance is extended to them for the construction of tourist complexes, tourist lodges, wayside amenities, yatrikas, yatri niwases and tourist reception centres.

During the year 1994-95 central financial assistance has been sanctioned for the following projects :

| S. No. | Name of the Scheme | Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs) |
|--------|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. | Construction of Tourist Bungalow at Hanumangarh | 18 76 |
| 2. | Construction of Wayside amenities at Bapp | 10 92 |
| 3. | Construction of Tourist Bungalow at Bhilwara | 18 76 |
| 4. | Construction of Wayside Amenities at Sanchore | 10 80 |
| 5. | Construction of Yatrika at Kaila Devi | 20 24 |
| 6. | Construction of Yatrika at Mehandipur | 15 38 |
| Total | | 89 86 |

[English]

Venture Capital Funds

4667. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA ·
SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA).
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT ·
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow foreign companies to set up venture capital funds;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c). The matter is under consideration.

[Translation]

ESI Hospitals

4668. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of hospitals/dispensaries of Employees State Insurance Corporation running at various places in Bihar;

(b) whether the Government propose to upgrade some hospitals/dispensaries out of them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of hospitals/dispensaries of Employees State Insurance Corporation functioning in the rented buildings?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RA SANGMA): (a) There are at present 6 hospitals, 53 dispensaries and one T.B. Annexe functioning under the ESI Scheme in Bihar.

(b) and (c). A proposal to upgrade the ESI hospital, Phulwarisharif from 50 beds to 200 beds has been received from the Government of Bihar.

(d) There is no ESI hospital functioning in a rented building. However, 46 ESI dispensaries are functioning in rented buildings.

Night Stay for Passengers

4669. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make arrangements for the night stay of passengers at Ahmedabad Airport;

(b) whether the Union Government held any talks with the State Government for acquiring land for the said purpose;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the arrangements made for passengers at the airport in case of inordinate delay or cancellation of flights?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) It is the responsibility of the concerned Airlines to make necessary arrangements for passengers in case of long delay in flights of their cancellation.

[English]

Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme

4670. SHRI RAMCHANDRA MAROTRAO GHANGARE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received the request from the Government of Maharashtra and

the Chief of Cotton Monopoly Purchase Scheme of Maharashtra to extend the lease of monopoly purchase of cotton in Maharashtra by 2 to 5 years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b). No Sir,

The Maharashtra Raw Cotton Monopoly procurement Scheme is to be phased out by 30th June, 1995.

[Translation]

ITPO and IIFT

4671. SHRI RATILAL VARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the total amount earned and the expenditure incurred thereon by India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) and Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) during each of the last two years; separately.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : The figures of total amount earned and the expenditure incurred by India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) and Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95 are given as under :

| | 1993-94 | | (Rs. in lakhs) 1994-95 (Provisional) | |
|------|---------|---------|---|---------|
| | Income | Exp. | Income | Exp. |
| ITPO | 4929.41 | 3887.73 | 6750.76 | 5849.55 |
| IIFT | 116.98 | 322.48 | 215.00 | 410.00 |

[English]

Tax Administration System

4672. SHRI V. SHREENIVASA PRASAD :
SHRI TARA SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise the country's tax administration system,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of bottlenecks found in the existing tax system; and

(d) The extent upto which the modernisation of tax administration system is going to boost the tax revenue collection and to unearth tax evaders:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) to (c). Matters relating to reationalisation and modernisation of tax laws and their administration were considered by the Tax Reforms Committee set up under the chairmanship of Dr. Raja J. Chslliah. Recommendations made by the Committee on technical

matters in so far as they were considered to be acceptable have been implemented through the Finance Acts, 1992, 1993 and 1994.

(d) It is expected that moderation in rates of tax, simplicity of the tax laws and strict but fair enforcement will go a long way in further increasing collection as also in discouraging tax evasion.

Development of Civil Aviation in Gujarat

4673. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes for the development of civil aviation implemented in Gujarat during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the amount granted to the State of Gujarat by the Union Government for the development of civil aviation during the Eighth Five Year Plan till date, scheme-wise; and

(c) the details of development work undertaken/ being undertaken in this field in the State during the current Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The schemes implemented during the Seventh Five Year Plan in Gujarat are as follows :

AHMEDABAD : Instrument Landing System was installed. Runway was strengthened and apron extended. Besides, VIP lounge was renovated and Departure holding area was air conditioned.

VADODARA : Installed a Very High Frequency Omni Range (VOR).

KESHOD : Resurfaced Runway

PORBANDAR : Resurfaced Runway.

JAMNAGAR : Installed X-Ray baggage Inspection System

(b) No amount is granted by the Union Government to the State Government of Gujarat for development of Civil aviation in the state.

(c) Upgradation of airport is a continuing process and is taken up in phased manner depending upon projected requirement and availability of resources. Airports Authority of India has plans to upgrade the airports at Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar, Bhuj, Porbandar, Jamnagar, Rajkot and Vadodara in Gujarat.

Loans to Small Scale Industries

4674. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Regional Rural Banks Sponsored by the State Bank of India, including Sri Visakha Gram

Bank, have prepared a plan to concentrate on high value advances and loans to small scale industries to promote industrialisation in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these loans are likely to be provided to small scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) to (c). A package of measures announced by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development in December, 1993 for improvement of viability of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) includes *inter-alia* extending the limit of advances to non-target group to the extent of 60% of their fresh loans. Accordingly each RRB has prepared Action Plans which may comprise loans for Small Scale Industries (SSI) also. As reported by State Bank of India, the sponsor bank of Sri Visakha Grammeena Bank, out of fresh advances projected for the year 1994-95 at Rs. 1650 lakhs, the advances to non-target group were projected at Rs. 990 lakhs.

Development of Airport

4675. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to assign development of new airports in future to private sector or to the public undertakings of the State Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). The Government of India has given its no objection for construction of airports of international standards at Bangalore in Karnataka with the help of private parties and at Cochin in Kerala with the funds to be mobilised from the public including Non-Resident Indians. The respective State Governments are to firm up the cost of the project and other modalities. The Airports authority of India will provide technical assistance.

Import of Silk Yarn

4676. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of silk yarn imported during 1994-95;

(b) the reasons for importing silk yarn;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation to bank the import of silk yarn; and

(d) If so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) The quantum of raw silk imported during 1994-95 (April 94 - January 95) was 4207 tonnes.

(b) In order to enable Indian silk exporters to compete effectively in international markets, they are allowed the facility to import their raw silk requirements for export production, at International prices, under the Advance Licensing Scheme (ALS)

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Indian exporters are allowed the facility to import their raw material requirements at international prices under the ALS in order to enable them to compete effectively in the international market and, as such, it may not be desirable to impose a complete ban on import of silk. However, silk cocoons have been placed in the list of Restricted items in the Negative List of Imports in the EXIM Policy w.e.f. 1.4.95. The import duty on silk cocoons is also proposed to be increased from 30% to 40% as per the budget proposals for 1995-96.

[Translation]

Assistance for Development of Tourism in Maharashtra

4677. SHRI VILASRAO NAG NATHRAO GUNDEWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals for development of tourism in Maharashtra pending with the Union Government for clearance and financial assistance;

(b) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government during the year 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(c) the details of those projects/historical places for which the above assistance has been provided; and

(d) the names of those places out of the above places which are located in the backward areas of the State?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) All the proposals received from the state Government of Maharashtra for development of tourism in the State, which were found complete in all respect have been sanctioned.

(b) to (d). On the basis of the proposal received from the State Government of Maharashtra, the Central Government sanctioned 28 projects/schemes amounting to Rs. 546.25 lakhs during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95. Details of the projects/schemes sanctioned with amount and with places are given in the enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT

Projects/Schemes Sanctioned during 1993-94

| S. No. | Name of the project | Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs) |
|--------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| MAHARASHTRA | | |
| 1. | Construction of tourist complex (sea side cottage) at Ganapatipule, dist. Ratnagiri (Konkan circuit) | 26.57 |
| 2. | Construction of tourist complex at Matheran (hill station, dist. Raigad) | 16.39 |
| 3. | Construction of tourist complex at Mahabaleshwar (hill station, dist. Satara) | 23.46 |
| 4. | Construction of tourist complex at Fardapur (dist. Aurangabad) | 24.25 |
| 5. | Construction of beach cottages at Harihareshwar, Srivardhan, dist. Raigad, Konkan circuit | 24.88 |
| 6. | Construction of tourist complex at Kunkeshwar, Taluk Deogar, Sindhudurg Dist. | 24.80 |
| 7. | Construction of lake View resort at Bhandardara, Akola Taluk, Ahmednagar dist. | 27.00 |
| 8. | Construction of wayside facilities at Mahed, Raigad dist., Konkan circuit | 7.33 |
| 9. | Upgradation of Golf Course, Bombay | 35.61 |
| 10. | Upgradation of Golf Course, Pune | 48.00 |
| 11. | Purchase of 6 nos. of water scooters alongwith 10 HP CBMS (20+35) | 4.67 |
| 12. | Purchase of 1000 nos. of self-contained tents for Shiroda and Mathpur | 12.80 |
| 13. | Purchase of water sports equipment | 20.54 |
| 14. | Ganesh Festival | 7.33 |
| 15. | Publicity support for Ajanta, Ellora Guide Book | 5.48 |
| Total | | 309.11 |

Projects/Schemes Sanctioned during 1994-95

| S. No. | Name of the project | Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs) |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| MAHARASHTRA | | |
| 1. | Tourist Complex at Gaganbawda | 25.02 |
| 2. | Wayside amenities at Kudal | 6.85 |
| 3. | Tourist complex at Panhala | 25.02 |
| 4. | Tourist complex at Tarkarli | 23.21 |
| 5. | Tourist complex at Vijaydurg | 23.21 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|--------|
| 6. Tourist complex at Washim | | 23.65 |
| 7. Purchase of boats | | 27.13 |
| 8. Purchase of Caravan | | 32.40 |
| 9. Purchase of Two seater Hover Craft | | 27.00 |
| 10. Purchase of Five seater Hover Craft | | 10.80 |
| 11. Assistance for Ganesh Festival | | 5.00 |
| 12. Elephanta Festival | | 2.37 |
| 13. Publicity support | | 5.48 |
| Total | | 237.14 |

Loans to Enterprenurs

4678 SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the number of the entrepreneurs in Andhra Pradesh provided with bank loans during the last three years;

(b) the number of educated unemployed persons recommended by the district industrial centres to whom loans have not been provided so far and the reasons therefor, and

(c) the time by which the loans are likely to be provided to all the eligible persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY). (a) to (c). Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to the loans sanctioned by banks under the Scheme for providing Self Employment to the Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) and the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) which was launched on 2nd October, 1993 is aimed at providing employment to the educated unemployed youth. SEEUY has since been subsumed in PMRY with effect from 1st April, 1994. The information about the number of application received and sanctioned under PMRY in the State of Andhra Pradesh as furnished by Andhra Bank, Convenor, State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) for the State of Andhra Pradesh, for the years 1993-94 and 1994-95 is indicated below

| Year | Number of Applications Recommended by the DICs | Number of Applications sanctioned loans |
|----------|--|---|
| 1993-94 | 6340 | 3466 |
| 1994-95* | 37874 | 19541 |

*Data Provisional

The banks are under instructions to dispose of loan application upto a credit limit of Rs 25,000/- within a fortnight and those for over Rs. 25,000/- within 8 to 9 weeks Reserve Bank of India/Government have advised the banks to dispose of the applications within the prescribed time limits.

Value Added Tax System

4679. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) :
SHRI RAM KAPSE :
SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Committee of State Finance Ministers has submitted its report regarding introduction of Value Added Tax System in the States;

(b) if so, the recommendation made by the Committee in this regard; and

(c) if not, the time by which the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY).

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has granted extension of time upto 30.6.1995 to the State Finance Ministers Committee on Tax Reforms for submission of its Report.

[English]

Housing Scheme for EPF Subscribers

4680 SHRI VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR . Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce PF Linked Housing Scheme in the country;

(b) if so, the time by which this scheme will be introduced;

(c) the number of workers are likely to be benefited by the aforesaid scheme;

(d) whether the above scheme covers employees in private sector also, and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA). (a) to (e). The Central Board of Trustees, EPF had recommended for setting up of a Housing Finance Fund for all the EPF subscribers including those in the private sector so as to make provisions for grant of loan assistance for acquisition of house, flat etc. The recommendations of the Board were examined and the EPF Organisation was asked to furnish the financial implecation and other details of the proposal. Now, the EPF Organisation has reported that in view of the changed liberalised economic environment, the proposal relating to the Housing Finance Fund needs to be re-looked. As the EPF Organisation has not taken a decision in the matter, it is difficult to indicate the time by which the scheme will be introduced.

Handloom Sector

4681. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government received any complaints that the guidelines on reservation of certain items to the handloom sector are being violated;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the action taken by the Govt. thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATA SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Complaints from time to time have been received and these are attended to by the officials of Central/State Governments.

[Translation]

Investment in Industrial Sector

4662. DR. P.R. GANGWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

the total amount invested by the nationalised banks and commercial banks in industrial sector during the year 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), outstanding credit of Scheduled Commercial banks to medium, large and small Scale Industries as at the end of March 1994 (latest available) is provisionally placed at Rs. 80492 crores.

[English]

Seizure of Gold Biscuits

4683. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some gold-biscuits were seized from a passenger on Madras Airport on February 22, 1995.

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

(c) the amount of gold seized by Customs and revenue and other enforcement agencies, giving details of the seizures during 1994-95; and

(d) whether any gangs of smugglers operating in gold smuggling have been unearthed in connection therewith?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). On 21.2.1995, officers of Air Intelligence Unit, Madras International Airport, intercepted a passenger holding Netherlands Passport No.E 401884. He had arrived from Colombo by flight UL 121. On personal search of the passenger, 22 gold bars each weighing 10 tolas were recovered concealed around his waist wrapped in adhesive tape, 19 Gold bars each weighing 10 tolas were recovered from each of his shoes. Thus, in all, 60 Gold bars weighing 6990 gms were recovered. The passenger was arrested on 21.2.1995 and remanded to judicial custody.

(c) 1186 Kgs of gold valued at Rs. 55.41 crores was seized during 1994-95. (Figures are provisional).

(d) Anti-Smuggling agencies under the Ministry of Finance are aware of gangs involved in attempts to smuggle gold into the country. All efforts are made to detect and prevent such organized attempts to smuggle gold into the country.

National Handloom Development Corporation

4684. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL :

SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU JANTYE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to restructure National Handloom Development Corporation on sound professional lines to solve the problems being faced by handloom weavers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b). Government does not propose to restructure the National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd. as it has already been constituted on sound professional lines as per the guidelines of the Government. Corporation functions under the supervision and control of Board of Directors which consists of both official and non-official Directors who have adequate professional expertise in the handloom field to solve the problems faced by handloom weavers.

[Translation]

Rejected Claims of Exports

4685. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provide compensation for rejected claims of export;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the amount of compensation paid by the Union Government is recovered from the exporters later on,

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the source from which foreign exchange is obtained by the exporters for the repayment of compensation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e) No, Sir. However, the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India provides insurance and guarantees covers to exporters against payment default by the foreign buyer and for situations arising out of non-externalisation of payment from that country. In case an exporter takes insurance cover from ECGC, then the claim is submitted by the

exporter on the occurrence of the contingency for which the cover was issued. The ECGC processes and settles such claims in Indian rupees in accordance with the rules. Thereafter, ECGC takes appropriate action to recover the amount from the foreign buyer/country.

[English]

Export Targets

4686. SHRI M.G. REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have fixed any targets for exports by the year 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). No targets have been fixed by Government for exports by the year 2000. The Eighth Plan, 1992-97 envisages export target of 13.6% per annum, in volume terms (at 1991-92 prices), during the Plan period. This implies that exports 1996-97 are expected to attain a value of US \$ 33.7 billion at 1991-92 prices and exchange rates.

(c) Export promotion is a continuous process and steps are taken to boost exports in consultation with trade, industry and other relevant interests. The Government is striving to make the environment of policies and procedures more export friendly. The measures include grant of income tax exemption on export profits, access to cheaper export credit designated in convertible currency, and assistance to Export Promotion Councils for export market development. It is expected that in the export-friendly environment provided by the Government and with the efforts of trade and industry, the targets are likely to be achieved.

Custodial Fee

4687. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether foreign banks in the country have increased the custodial fees.

(b) if so, the details of such increment; and

(c) the reasons for increasing the custodial fees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Bank Branches in Assam

4688. SHRI NURUL ISIAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of bank branches functioning in Assam, location-wise; and

(b) the details of places where the sanctioned bank branches have not been established in the State so far along with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

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

Mutual Fund Scheme of I.D.B.I.

4689. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has launched roadshows to mobilise funds for its proposed Mutual Fund Scheme; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) and (b). The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that its wholly owned subsidiary viz., IDBI Investment Management Company Limited, in association with an advertising agency, has conducted about 150 road shows in different parts of the country with the following basic objectives:

(i) to create awareness about Mutual Funds.

(ii) to ascertain views of investors regarding mutual funds schemes with stress on their needs and current problem being faced by them.

(iii) to talk about IDBI Mutual Fund's maiden scheme-its features and how some of their current problems are likely to be mitigated because of unique features of the scheme.

(iv) to enroll local agents for marketing the scheme.

Reserved Allotment to NRIs, OCBs and FIEs

4690. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has given permission to few Companies for full repatriation on the reserved allotment to Non-Resident Indians, Overseas Corporate Bodies and Foreign Institutional Investors;

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

(c) whether such permission has ever been granted to any other company in the past;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there are any guidelines issued by the RBI in this respect;

(f) if so, the details thereof and whether they have ever been amended; and

(g) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Permission to Companies has been accorded by the Reserve Bank of India for allotment of shares with repatriation benefits to Non-resident Indians (NRIs), Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs) and Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) in terms of the Portfolio Investment Scheme which includes reservations out of public issues by Indian Companies.

(c) and (d). Yes Sir. The Reserve Bank of India has, till 21.3.1995, granted similar permission in the case of 72 companies.

(e) to (g). These approvals have hitherto been operated under the existing provisions of the Portfolio Investment Scheme for NRIs/OCBs and FIIs and the October 1993 guidelines issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India on reservations out of public issues.

Setting up of Finance Corporation

4691. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a finance corporation exclusively for the National Capital Region (NCR);

(b) if so, the suggestions received from the State Governments under NCR; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) No such proposal is under consideration in the Ministry of Finance.

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

[Translation]

Hub and Spoke Service in Air India

4692. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced Hub and Spoke service in international services of Air India to connect Ahmedabad to Delhi and Bombay;

(b) if so, the salient features of this service; and

(c) the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). Hub and spoke operations of Air India with Indian Airlines aircraft commenced in February 1994; the service on Bombay-Ahmedabad-Bombay route is operated on Saturdays and on Delhi-Ahmedabad-Delhi route on Wednesdays. These flights function as extensions of international flights of Air India and offer direct connections from/to Air India's international flights by way of seamless transfer, as customs and immigration formalities are completed at Ahmedabad.

[English]

ILO Recommendations

4693. SHRI M.V.S. MURTHY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Labour Organisation in its World Employment Report, 1995, has urged for increased direct State support for small farmers and labour-intensive public work projects to provide income supplement and create productive proposals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has recently released a report titled "World Employment 1995". The Government has taken note of the observations in the report which has *inter-alia* expressed apprehension over the reduction in public credit and extension services which are likely to weaken the productive capacity of small farmers, and complimented the successful implementation of the employment guarantee scheme in Maharashtra, aimed at reducing poverty, inequality and building productive assets.

Economic reforms over the last three and half years have improved the relative profitability of agriculture. Government's resolve to improve the economic viability of small farmers, alleviate poverty and enhance employment generation is reflected in higher public sector outlays for agriculture and allied activities, substantial increase in farm credit and stepping up Central Plan allocations for anti-poverty and employment generation programmes.

Ground Handling Facilities

4694. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to privatise ground handling facilities at airports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) and (b). An Inter-Ministerial group has *inter-alia* recommended that

Ground handling activities may be reserved for private participation. The Government will take a decision on the recommendation in due course.

[Translation]

Silk Labourers

4695. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the condition of silk labourers in the country is pathetic;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor, and

(c) the special measures taken by the Government for upliftment of the labourers engaged in this industry and to increase the production of silk produces?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c). Silk Industry covers various activities like mulberry cultivation, silkworm rearing, reeling, dyeing, waving, printing, finishing etc., which are spread over in different sectors like agriculture, SSI, handloom, powerloom etc. These activities are largely undertaken by individuals in the private/decentralised sector and labours engaged by them from time to time do not come within the purview of the Central Silk Board.

However, the labourers engaged in the units of the Central Silk Board are considered for grant of various facilities like conversion as Time Scale Labourer, grant of dearness allowance, medical allowance, festival advance, payment of gratuity, bonus and absorption to Grade D posts etc. subject to fulfilment of prescribed requirements.

In order to increase the production of silk products, the Central Silk Board has established a country-wide network of units for extending necessary R&D, extension, infrastructural and training support for the development of sericulture in the country. Besides, a World Bank/Swiss Development Cooperation assisted National Sericulture Project is being implemented in 17 States of the country.

[English]

Cooperative Banks

4696 SHRI PROBEN DEKA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the cooperative banks in Assam running in losses and the amount of losses suffered by them separately during each of the last three years; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to reduce the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

have reported that in Assam, under the short term credit structure, there is a State Cooperative Bank at the apex level which is a profit making bank. There are primary level co-operative credit societies at village level, under the Sibsagar District Central Co-operative Bank (DCCS). The Sibsagar DCCB has incurred a loss of Rs.23.23 lakhs, Rs.9.93 lakhs and Rs.28.46 lakhs during the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 respectively.

Assam State Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank (ASSCARDDB) which caters to long term investment credit requirement in the State has been incurring losses for the last three years as detailed below :

| Year | (Rs. in lakhs) | |
|---------|-----------------|--------------------|
| | Losses incurred | Accumulated losses |
| 1991-92 | 41.34 | 40.98 |
| 1992-93 | 59.62 | 100.60 |
| 1993-94 | 290.40 * | 391.00 * |

* Estimated

With a view to improve the financial viability, operational efficiency and managerial competence of the ASSCARDDB, a Development Action Plan (DAP) has been prepared. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the NABARD and the Assam State Cooperative Bank.

Project for Export of Agro-based Products

4697. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided any incentives for the export of agricultural/agro-based products and its projects engaged in public and private sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have approved or under consideration any joint-venture and the total investment involved therein;

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

(f) the time by which these ventures are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Exporters of Agricultural commodities can take advantage of incentives provided in schemes being implemented by Export promotion bodies such as the Agricultural and processed Food products Export Development Authority (APEEDA) and the Spices/Tobacco Boards. Units, whether in the public or private sector, engaged in the manufacture of agro-based products are eligible for all benefits available under the Duty Exemption, Export promotion Capital Goods and the Export-Oriented Units (EOUs) Export Processing Zones

(EPZs) Schemes. In the case of the EDU/EPZ units, agro products are in addition eligible for enhanced access to the domestic market to the extent of 50% of their production.

(d) to (f). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Stoppage by International Airlines

4698. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the major international airlines which do not have any halt at any place in India;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure providing for halt at a place in India for the airlines belonging to the international airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Of the 25 top International Airlines of the world ranked on the basis of Revenue Passenger Kilometers in 1993, the following 13 are not operating scheduled services to India :

1 United Airlines 2 American Airlines 3. Northwest Airlines 4 Continental 5. US Air 6. Japan Airlines 7. Qantas 8 Trans World Airlines 9. All Nippon 10 Southwest Airlines 11 Iberia 12 Varig 13. Canadian Airlines International

(b) and (c). Out of the 13 airlines mentioned above, 12 airlines belong to countries which have air Services Agreements with India. Decisions on operation of air services are taken by airlines based on their own perception of commercial and operational viability.

Employment Assistance Centres

4699. SHRI P. KUMARASAMI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up some employment assistance centres in the country;

(b) if so, the objectives thereof and the locations thereof; and

(c) the amount allocated for the purpose during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) (a) to (c). The National Renewal Fund, *inter alia*, provides for assistance to cover the costs of re-training and redeployment, of workers, rationalised as a result of industrial restructuring. The scheme for workers' counselling, retraining and redeployment under the NRF was approved on 9.9.1993. Five pilot schemes have been operationalised through Employee Assistance Centres set up by different agencies at Ahmedabad, Bombay Calcutta, Indore and Kanpur. 48 additional locations have been identified for workers' retraining/redeployment schemes of the NRF (a statement indicating States and locations covered under the workers, retraining/redeployment schemes of the NRF is given the enclosed Statement. These centres are broadly expected to undertake retraining programmes to equip rationalised workers to re-enter the job market or take up self employment ventures. They would also act as facilitators for providing access to credit, raw materials, marketing and business advice. Ministry of Labour is also making retraining facilities available for rationalised workers in 15 Industrial Training Institutes and 6 Advanced Training Institutes. During the year 1994.-95 an amount of Rs. 48 crores was allocated for the purpose of workers' retraining/redeployment and Area Regeneration Schemes.

STATEMENT

| S.No | Name of the State | Locations |
|------|-------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | (1) Hyderabad (2) Ramagundam (3) Vishakhapatnam (4) Warangal |
| 2. | Assam | (1) Namrup |
| 3. | Bihar | (1) Bokaro (2) Patna (3) Ranchi (4) Sindri |
| 4. | Delhi | (1) Delhi |
| 5. | Gujarat | (1) Ahmedabad/Gandhinagar (2) Baroda (3) Kalol (4) Navsari (5) Bhavnagar (6) Petlad (7) Porbandar (8) Cambay (9) Surendranagar (10) Viramgaum (1) Ambala |
| 6. | Haryana | (1) Cochin (2) Trivendrum |
| 7. | Kerala | |
| 8. | Karnataka | (1) Bangalore (2) Mysore (3) Ooraum |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | |
|-------|----------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 9. | Madhya Pradesh | (1) Bhopal (4) Korba | (2) Indore (5) Nepanagar (3) Jabalpur |
| 10. | Maharashtra | (1) Bombay | (2) Pune |
| 11. | Orissa | (1) Cuttak | |
| 12. | Punjab | (1) Ludhiana | |
| 13. | Rajasathan | (1) Beawar | (2) Jodhpur (3) Kota |
| 14. | Tamil Nadu | (1) Colmbatore | (2) Indunagar (3) Madras |
| 15. | Uttar Pradesh | (1) Gorakhpur | (2) Kanpur (3) Saharanpur |
| 16. | West Bengal | (1) Calcutta (4) Hooghly | (2) Durgapur (3) Howarh |
| Total | | 48 | |

Smuggling of Sandal Wood Oil

4700. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large quantities of Sandalwood oil is being smuggled from Calicut Airport; and

(b) if so, the details of the sandalwood oil seized from Calicut airport during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY). (a) and (b). There have been no seizure of sandalwood oil at Calicut Airport during last three years. Available reports do not indicate smuggling of sandalwood oil from Calicut Airport

Production of Opium

4701. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the opium production during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government are aware that a large quantity of opium is being diverted to illicit channels as reported by the Narcotics Control Bureau in its report for the year 1994;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDERASHEKHARA MURTHY). (a) Production of opium in the country during the last three years was as follows :

| Year | Opium produced/collected at 70C (In metric tonnes) |
|---------|--|
| 1991-92 | 63.5 |
| 1992-93 | 444 |
| 1993-94 | 546 |
| Total | 1625 |

(b) and (c). Government are aware that some unknown quantity of opium is getting diverted.

(d) A number of steps have been taken to curb diversion of licit opium. Some of these are :

- (1) The preventive set up of Central Bureau of Narcotics has been strengthened and reorganised.
- (2) The enforcement activities have been intensified in and around the growing areas. Additional communication facilities and motor vehicles have been provided to improve the effectiveness of law enforcement. Two sniffer dogs have also been deployed.
- (3) Government has been raising the minimum qualifying yield to be tendered by cultivators from year to year to ensure that the cultivators tender all yield to the Government and do not divert opium into illicit channels.
- (4) Collection and storage of opium is now done in specially designed plastic containers only instead of traditional vats.
- (5) Measurement of cultivators' fields are done under supervision of senior officers.

[Translation]

Refund of Income-Tax

4702. SHRI RAM PAL SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received several complaints regarding the delay in the refund of income-tax;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into this matter;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against the persons found guilty in this regard;

(d) whether the Government propose to formulate any such policy under which the refund of income-tax be made in a stipulated time; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). Some complaints have been received regarding the delay in granting of refunds under the Income-tax Act. After examining such complaints and also taking into account the factors contributing to the delays the following instructions have been issued :

- (i) as it was found that delays mainly occur due to the requirement of verification of arrears for the purpose of adjustment against the refunds due, prior verification of arrears has been dispensed with for issue of refunds upto Rs. 5000; only post-refund checks shall be carried out in such cases;
- (ii) the refund vouchers should be sent alongwith the orders giving rise to the refunds;
- (iii) surprise inspections should be carried out by the superior officers to ensure refunds are promptly granted; and
- (iv) strict action must be taken if any lapses are noticed.

(d) and (e). While, under the provisions of section 143 (1) (a) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, the returns of income should be mandatorily processed within two years from the end of the relevant assessment year and the refunds if any arising therefrom granted, the Annual Action Plan targets formulated by the Income-tax Department stipulate that 90 per cent of the returns should be so processed within the relevant assessment year itself. Further, instructions also exist to the effect that refunds should be issued within 10 days of passing of the order giving rise to the refund.

[English]

Bank Dacoities in Bihar

4703. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH . Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the incidents of bank dacoity in Bihar are increasing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;
- (c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to check these incidents as well as for rewarding the citizens who are risking their lives to prevent such incidents; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The details of incidents of banks robberies and dacoities in Bihar reported by

public sector banks to Reserve bank of India (RBI) are as follows :

| Year | Number of incidents | Amount involved (Rs. in lakhs) |
|------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1992 | 44+2 * | 120.71 |
| 1993 | 46 | 78.55 |
| 1994 | 43 | 52.37 |

* Attempted
(Data provisional)

(c) and (d). Depending on the risk factor involved, such as location, cash handled, law and order situation, banks have taken several measures to strengthen security at their branches like provision of armed guards, installation of alarm systems etc. In order to motivate employees, police and general public to resist robberies/ dacoities, a scheme for giving reward is in operation under which cash rewards upto Rs.50,000/- can be given to those who actively resist bank robberies/ dacoities.

Performance of I.A. and A.I.

4704. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the performance of Indian Airlines and Air India has declined during the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government have formulated and implemented any scheme to improve the performance of both the airlines; and
- (c) if so, the details alongwith the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) During the period 1992-93 to 1994-95, profit/loss of Air India/Indian Airlines was as under :

| Year | Air India | Indian Airlines |
|---------|--|-------------------------|
| 1992-93 | Rs. 333.14 crores (Profit) | Rs.195.16 crores (Loss) |
| 1993-94 | Rs.201.90 crores (Profit) | Rs.258.46 crores (Loss) |
| 1994-95 | Rs.26.49 crores (Provisional) (Profit) | Rs.234.55 crores (Loss) |

(b) and (c). To meet the challenge due to reduction in market share, both airlines have taken steps for improvement of their functioning. Fleet of Air India is being modernised progressively. New destinations in South Africa, Indonesia and Australia have been added. Attention is also being given by the airlines for providing better facilities to passengers both on ground and in the air. Fare concession have been announced as well as introduction of promotional schemes.

Amendment in The Industrial Disputes Act

4705. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to hold the Indian Labour Conference to discuss the proposed amendments to be the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947;

(b) if so, whether trade union representatives have expressed reservations over the Government's failure to consult the unions over the legislation proposals;

(c) if so, whether any final decision has been taken in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Sub-standard Food in Air India.

4706. DR SAKSHIJI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding sub-standard food and non-availability of vegetarian food in the flights of Air India, and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) During the last six months Air India has received 85 complaints regarding quality of food served on board and non-availability of vegetarian meals. While all efforts are made to maintain the quality of food by monitoring of menus and sample checks, it is not possible to satisfy all passengers. Efforts are also made to meet the demand of vegetarian meals on all flights; however if there is shortage of vegetarian meals on one sector, message is sent to the next meal uplift station to increase the number of vegetarian meals for the next segment of the flight

[English]

Nav of Mutual Fund Units

4707. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India has delayed the finalisation of the report recommending norms for the standardisation of net asset value calculation of mutual fund units;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the report is likely to be finalised and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The Committee set up by SEBI to look into the computation of NAV by the mutual funds had to examine the procedures being followed by mutual funds internationally as well as in India for calculation of NAV. This involved collection of data on international practices and norms resulting in a delay in the finalisation of the report.

(c) The draft report has since been finalised and has been circulated to the Members of the expert committee for their comments.

Campus Recruitment in Public Sector Banks

4708. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the public sector banks are contemplating campus recruitment for certain category of officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the pay scales of the campus recruited personnel are likely to be different from the usual pay scales of the directly recruited personnel;

(d) the likely procedure to be followed in such campus level recruitment; and

(e) the manner in which the reservation percentage is likely to be ensured in such recruitment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Development of Tourist Spots

4709. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Governments have sought financial assistance from the union Government during 1994-95 for the development of tourist spots;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the assistance provided, State-wise and the details of the projects for which the said assistance was provided; and

(c) the extent of amount utilised by each State so far and details of the progress made in respect of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Twenty States and Five Union Territories sought central financial assistance from the Union Government during 1994-95 for the

development of Tourism in their State/Union Territories.

(b) and (c). The details of the central assistance sanctioned Statewise and projectwise are given in the Statement enclosed.

STATEMENT

Projects/Schemes Sanctioned for Development of Tourism for Various States/Union Territories during 1994-95

| State | Yatri Niwas/ Yatrikas | Tourist Bungalow/ Complex Lodges Cafeteria | Wayside Amentities/ TRC/Fast Food/ Sel | Adventure Sports/ Tented Accommodation/ | Total No. of projects sanctioned | Amount Sanctioned |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|--|--|----------------------|
| | | | | | | (Rs. in lakhs) |
| 1. Andhra Pradesh | 5 | - | - | 5 | - | 171.99 |
| 2. Assam | - | 2 | - | - | 2 | 52.99 |
| 3. Arunachal Pradesh | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 4. Bihar | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 103.16 |
| 5. Goa | - | 1 | - | 3 | 4 | 76.74 |
| 6. Gujarat | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 14.50 |
| 7. Haryana | - | 4 | 4 | - | 8 | 173.98 |
| 8. Himachal Pradesh | 2 | 9 | - | 1 | 12 | 297.90 |
| 9. Jammu & Kashmir | - | 4 | - | 3 | 7 | 143.47 |
| 10. Karnataka | 2 | 5 | - | - | 7 | 229.96 |
| 11. Kerala | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 287.05 |
| 12. Madhya Pradesh | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 13. Maharashtra | - | 4 | 1 | 6 | 11 | 207.39 |
| 14. Manipur | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15. Maghalaya | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 16. Mizoram | - | 2 | - | 3 | 5 | 56.49 |
| 17. Nagaland | - | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | 23.08 |
| 18. Orissa | - | 4 | - | 1 | 5 | 164.60 |
| 19. Punjab | - | 4 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 113.93 |
| 20. Rajasthan | 2 | 2 | 2 | - | 6 | 94.86 |
| 21. Sikkim | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 22. Tamil Nadu | 1 | 1 | 3 | - | 5 | 132.45 |
| 23. Tripura | - | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 46.61 |
| 24. Uttar Pradesh | - | - | 6 | 1 | 7 | 149.62 |
| 25. West Bengal | 1 | 4 | - | 7 | - | 164.87 |
| 26. Andaman & Nicobar | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 27. Chandigarh | - | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | 21.38 |
| 28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 23.62 |
| 29. Delhi | - | - | - | 4 | 4 | 44.29 |
| 30. Daman & Diu | - | - | - | 2 | 3 | 37.41 |
| 31. Lakshadweep | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 19.95 |
| 32. Pondicherry | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 17 | 53 | 27 | 34 | 131 | 2842.29 |

[English]

Reduction in Fares by Air India

4710. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have given its approval to the Air India's proposal to substantially reduce the fare on its Delhi-Moscow-Delhi and Delhi-London-Delhi routes;

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

(c) whether Air India also contemplates reduction in its fares on some of the other international routes;

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

(e) whether Air India suffered a substantial loss in passenger traffic and finances due to the 'price-war' indulged in the foreign airlines belonging to the U.K., France, USA and some other countries;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the reduction in air fares below the tariff limit fixed by the IATA amounts to violation of the IATA Rules and Regulations; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Air India's proposal for reduction in fare on these sectors has been approved by the Government. The reduced fare to Moscow was not implemented as the same was not approved by the Russian Government. The reduction in fare to London to the extent of 35% in First class, 25% in club class and 15% in economy class has been implemented from 23rd November, 1994. The lowering of fare on India-London sector was to match competition from European carriers.

(c) and (d). Discounts ranging from 14% to 35% have also been implemented in fares from India to USA, Canada, Italy, Switzerland, France and Germany to match the fares of US/Canadian/European carriers.

(e) and (f). Tariff competition was one of the factors responsible for the fall in the passenger load factors of Air India during the last 2 years. The passenger load factors during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 were 64.6%, 59.6% 59.7% respectively.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Beedi Workers

4711. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Beedi workers in Maharashtra;

(b) the details of the hospitals and dispensaries being run with the assistance of beedi workers welfare fund in Maharashtra;

(c) the places where additional facilities are proposed to be provided by the Government during the current year; and

(d) the number of beedi workers likely to be benefited by these facilities?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) According to information available from the State Government/Welfare Commissioner, Nagpur, there are about 2.56 lakhs beedi workers in Maharashtra.

(b) A list of dispensaries set up under the Beedi workers Welfare Fund in the State of Maharashtra is enclosed as Statement.

(c) and (d). It has been recently decided to set up one Ayurvedic dispensary at Brahampuri in Chandarpur District which will benefit about 2000 beedi workers, and also to convert the static dispensary for beedi workers at Sholapur into Static-cum-Mobile Dispensary, which will benefit about 20,000 beedi workers.

STATEMENT

NAGPUR REGION MAHARASHTRA

1. Static-cum-Mobile Dispensary, Tumsar, Distt Bhandara.
2. Static-cum-Mobile Dispensary, Amgaon, Distt. Bhandara.
3. Static-cum-Mobile Dispensary, Tirora, Distt. Bhandara.
4. Static-cum-Mobile Dispensary, Lakhani, Distt. Bhandara.
5. Static-cum-Mobile Dispensary, Bhandara Distt. Bhandara.
6. Static-cum-Mobile Dispensary, Gondia Distt. Bhandara.
7. Static-cum-Mobile Dispensary, Sinner Distt. Nasik.
8. Static-cum-Mobile Dispensary, Ahemednagar Distt. Ahmednagar.
9. Static-cum-Mobile Dispensary, Sangamner Distt. Ahmednagar.
10. Static-cum-Mobile Dispensary, Pune Distt. Pune.
11. Static-cum-Mobile Dispensary, Sangli Distt. Sangli.
12. Static-cum-Mobile Dispensary, Khar Distt. Nagpur.
13. Static Dispensary, Kamptee Distt. Nagpur.
14. Static Dispensary, Sholapur Distt. Sholapur.
15. Static Dispensary, Jalna Distt. Jalna.
16. Ayurvedic Dispensary, Nanded Distt. Nanded.

Cultivation of Opium

4712. DR. LAXMINARAYAN RANDEYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the licences have been issued to produce more opium under the foreign contract;

(b) if so, the name of the countries with which the contract has been signed;

(c) whether the supply of opium will be made accordingly;

(d) whether the Government are aware that this year opium farming is affected by a new disease;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) Licences to opium growers are issued every year by the organisation of the Narcotics Commissioner. India's annual requirement of opium during a particular year depends upon its export commitment and domestic requirement of opium for production of opiate alkaloids. During the crop year 1994-95, the area under poppy cultivation was increased to meet the above requirement. It is expected that during the current financial year about 850 tonnes of opium at 90 degree C may be required for export purposes.

(b) For the financial year 1995-96, no fresh contracts have been signed with any of the foreign buyers for export of opium. In 1994-95, opium was exported to U.S.A., Japan and France.

(c) Export contracts for supply of opium to foreign buyers shall be signed in 1995-96 after ascertaining the quantity of fresh opium tendered by the cultivators during the current crop year. The opium weighing operation conducted by the Department is currently in progress. The quantity of opium contracted for export would depend upon quantity available with the opium factories this year after meeting the domestic requirement.

(d) No new disease to opium crops has been brought to the notice of the Department this year.

(e) and (f). Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Tribunal for Tax Cases

4713. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a continuous increase in the cases relating to direct taxes.

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

(c) whether the Government propose to constitute a National Tribunal or Court of Direct Taxes for quick disposal of such cases;

(d) if so, the objectives thereof; and

(e) the time by which this decision is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) and (b). There has been an increase in the backlog of cases with the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal. The details thereof for the last three years are as under :

| Year | Pendency |
|---------|----------|
| 1991-92 | 2,22,513 |
| 1992-93 | 2,45,855 |
| 1993-94 | 2,66,605 |

(c) to (e). A proposal for constitution of the National Tribunal of Direct Taxes is under consideration of the Government. The Tribunal was proposed to be constituted under Article 323B of the Constitution. As an appeal is pending before the Supreme Court of India on the question of interpretation of Article 323B of the Constitution, the Law Commission has advised that the outcome of the appeal before the Supreme Court may be awaited as the decision of the Supreme Court will have far reaching implications on the working of the proposed Tribunal.

Production of Cotton

4714. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) The quantity of cotton produced and the quantity of cotton consumed in Madhya Pradesh State during the last three years;

(b) the number of cotton ginning and pressing units functioning in the State;

(c) The number of Units among them which are sick; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to revive these units?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Estimates of quantity of cotton produced and the quantity of cotton consumed in Madhya Pradesh State during the last three years are as under :

| Year | Production of cotton in MP in lakh bales (As per CAB) | Consumption of cotton in MP in lakh bales (Approx) |
|---------|---|--|
| 1991-92 | 8.94 | 0.90 |
| 1992-93 | 8.50 | 1.30 |
| 1993-94 | 14.50 | 1.60 |

(b) and (c). Ginning and Pressing Units functioning in the State are as under :

| No. of Ginning factories | No. of pressing factories |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 246 | 64 |

No. of units among them which are sick-21.

(d) Most of these Units are sick due to financial problems which is taken care by the Financial Institutions.

[English]

Export to Russia

4715. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA . Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Russia has requested for changes in the present law which bar the export of products with more than 50% import component against Rupee earnings; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Russian Government has represented that the value addition norm for exports under the debt repayment route i.e., rupee trade should be brought in line with the value addition norm of 33-1/3% as applicable for exports in freely convertible currencies.

(b) However, as per the provisions of Paragraphs 21 (d) and 61 of the EXIM Policy (amended upto 31 March, 1995), and Appendix XIII of the Hand Book of Procedures, Volume I, (amended upto 30 April, 1995), the following value addition norms are currently applicable for exports to Russia :

- (i) For the trade taking place in freely convertible currency, the value addition norms will be the same as applicable to exports to GCA countries;
- (ii) For the exports from India against liquidation of rupee balances to the credit of erstwhile RPA countries, the value addition norms shall be 100% or the percentage of value addition indicated in the Handbook of Procedures (Volume 2), 1992-97, whichever is higher; and
- (iii) For exports to Russian Federation against India's repayments of State credits granted by the former USSR, the value addition norms shall be 100% or the percentage of

value addition indicated in the Handbook of Procedures (Volume 2), 1992-97, whichever is higher.

Loss/Profit of Banks in Gujarat

4716. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of profits earned and loss suffered by various nationalised and co-operative banks in Gujarat during 1993-94; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to make the loss making branches profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has intimated that its data reporting system does not generate State-wise position of loss/profit of banks.

(b) Government and RBI have been impressing upon the banks the need to strengthen the credit appraisal machinery and exercise close supervision and control over advances. Targets for recovery/reduction of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) have been fixed by RBI. Banks have also set up recovery cells at their headquarters under the charge of their General Managers to exclusively monitor the recovery of NPAs. Branchwise targets have been fixed for recovery of NPAs and the performance of branches in recovery is to be monitored at head office level on a monthly basis by the Chief Executives. The Board of Directors are also required to be kept informed about the progress in recovery at quarterly intervals. Emphasis has also been laid on reduction of expenses.

Regional Rural Banks

4717. SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Industrial Tribunal under the Chairmanship of Justice S. Obul Reddi, a retired Chief Justice of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh had given an award on April, 30 in regard to the salaries and other allowances and benefits payable to the employees of the Regional Rural Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the award has been implemented;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Regional Rural Banks have since been made Associate member of the IBA as recommended by the working group constituted by NABARD; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The Tribunal in its Award, *inter-alia*, held that officers and other employees of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) be entitled to pay scales, allowances and other benefits on par with the officers and other employees of comparable level in corresponding posts of sponsor banks with effect from 1.9.1987. The employees of the RRBs are being paid revised salary with effect from January, 1991. The arrears due to them for the period prior to 1.1.1991, however, have not been paid due to weak financial position of most of the RRBs. The matter is now sub-judice before the Supreme Court.

(e) and (f). No decision has been taken yet.

Shares of ICICI in Private Banks

4718. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) is buying significant shareholdings in various private banks;

(b) if so, the purpose of such an entry into already established financial and banking companies;

(c) whether ICICI has reduced its role in promoting new companies;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
(a) and (b). Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Limited (ICICI) has reported that it has invested in the equity capital of two private sector banks. The purpose of investment was by way of alliance to utilise their existing branch network.

(c) ICICI has reported that it provides finance to commercially viable projects and due consideration is given to proposals from new companies.

(d) Does not arise.

Taxing Consequence

4719. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Income Tax Department conducts investigations to assess the extent of expenditure on ostentations events and functions as reported in the Hindustan Times dated March 29, 1995;

(b) if so, the norms being followed in this regard;

(c) the details of such investigations made by the Income Tax Department during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the total amount of tax recovered through assessment of such expenditures during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
(a) and (b). Yes Sir, Section 133A (5) of the Income Tax Act provides that where, having regard to the nature and scale of expenditure incurred by an assessee, in connection with any function, ceremony or event, the income-tax authority is of the opinion that it is necessary or expedient so to do, he may, at any time after such function, ceremony or event, require the assessee by whom such expenditure has been incurred or any person who, in the opinion of the income-tax authority, is likely to possess information as respects the expenditure incurred, to furnish such information as he may require as to any matter which may be useful for, or relevant to, any proceeding under this Act and may have the statements of the assessee or any other person recorded and any statement so recorded may thereafter be used in evidence in any proceeding under this Act.

(c) Details of surveys conducted u/s 133A (5) during the last three years are as under :

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| 1992-93 | 664 |
| 1993-94 | 487 |
| 1994-95 (upto Feb', 95) | 226* |

(*provisional)

(d) Such statistics are not being maintained.

[Translation]

Testing Laboratories Under N.T.H.

4720. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to establish additional testing laboratories of the National Test House to meet increased work;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) A Regional Testing Laboratory of National Test House is being established at Guwahati to cater to the Testing facility needs of the various small, medium and village industries located in North Eastern States.

(b) The Testing Centre, Guwahati will have a Civil Laboratory, a Rubber, Plastic and Textile Laboratory and a Chemical Laboratory. The approved outlay of the Testing Centre is Rs. 1.85 crores.

(c) Possession of premises, made available by the Government of Assam for the proposed Testing Centre, has been taken and necessary renovation work will be started shortly. Further, in the wake of Plan Allocation

to the tune of Rs. 50 lakhs for the year 1995-96, steps are being taken to effect purchases of Stores and Equipments to make the Testing Centre operational at the earliest.

Non Payment to Suppliers

4721. SHRI LALL BABU RAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Supply has not made payment to their suppliers,

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the amount of payments withheld as on February 28, 1995;

(d) if so, the reasons for withholding the payments; and

(e) The action taken by Government to make the payment in respect of pending bills within a stipulated period

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. Payment due and admissible are made to the suppliers if their bills are in order with requisite documents. However, in a few cases, payments to suppliers have been kept pending mainly on account of reasons such as recovery advised by purchaser/indentors/consignees, litigation, non-availability of documents/records etc

(c) and (d). As on 28.2.1995, a total of 10,356 bills amounting to Rs. 10 crores (approximately) could not be paid due to reasons given against (a) and (b) parts of the question

(e) The pending bills are reviewed periodically with a view to ensure that as soon as reason for pendency is removed the pending bill is paid.

[English]

State Finance Ministers Conference

4722. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY .

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Finance Ministers Conference was held in the month of September, 1994;

(b) if so, the subjects discussed and decisions arrived at in the conference; and

(c) the steps being taken to implement the decisions particularly the new economic policy in the States;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) No, Sir. However, a Conference of Finance Ministers of States and Union Territories was held on 27th May, 1994.

(b) The Conference discussed the report of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, commissioned by the Union Government, on domestic trade taxes reform, the implications of introducing a Value Added Tax, levy of consignment tax, harmonisation of sales tax rates and inclusion of more items in the list of declared goods.

(c) In the Conference it was resolved to constitute a Committee of State Finance Ministers to examine all aspects of tax reforms including introduction of Value Added Tax. The Committee has since been constituted.

Plantation Crop Boards

4723. DR. R. MALLU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the statutory bodies under his Ministry dealing with various plantation crops like tobacco are over consulted before formulation of fiscal policies;

(b) if so, whether Tobacco Board has been consulted at any stage by the Government in the pre-budget exercises done;

(c) the details of such pre-budget exercises involving Boards and Bodies like the Tobacco Board; and

(d) if not, the role of such bodies in policy formulation severely affecting plantation crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Besides continuous interaction between Commodity Boards/Councils and the Government, it is the normal procedure, as a part of the pre-budget exercise, to obtain their inputs which are taken into consideration while formulating the Ministry's budget-related suggestions for transmission to the Ministry of Finance. These are also discussed, where necessary, with that Ministry at appropriate level.

Agricultural and Construction Workers

4724. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of agriculture and construction workers in the country with average income, state-wise;

(b) the steps taken to protect them from several forms of exploitation;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring forward legislation for the welfare of the agricultural and construction workers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) The number of agricultural and construction workers and average wage/salary earning of agricultural and non-agricultural labourers and enclosed at Statement-I and Statement-II, respectively.

(b) The Government of India have enacted several laws such as the Minimum Wages Act, the Payment of Wages Act, the Equal Remuneration Act, the payment of Gratuity Act, the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act etc. for protection of Labour, including identified categories of unorganised labour. Enforcement of these laws is reviewed at the State Labour Ministers' Conference.

Under the 8th Plan, emphasis has been laid on the improvement of quality of employment in the unorganised sector units in terms of earnings, conditions of work and social security.

(c) and (d). No final decision has so far been taken regarding legislation for agricultural workers. The Building and other Construction Workers Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in 1988 but its consideration was deferred on the recommendation of the Lok Sabha Committee on Petitions to consider the proposals of the National Campaign Committee.

STATEMENT-I

Number of Agricultural and Construction Workers (State-wise)

| S.No. | State/U.T. | No. of Agricultural Labourers (1991 Census) | No. of Cultivators (1991 Census) | No. of Construction Workers (1991 Census) |
|-------|-------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | India | 74,597,744 (Excluding J&K) | 110,702,346 | 5,543,205 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 11,625,159 | 7,891,167 | 470,668 |
| 2. | Assam | 844,964 | 3,559,117 | 109,607 |
| 3. | Bihar | 9,512,892 | 11,164,519 | 162,230 |
| 4. | Gujarat | 3,230,547 | 4,703,628 | 282,822 |
| 5. | Haryana | 896,782 | 1,829,530 | 123,476 |
| 6. | Himachal Pradesh | 58,668 | 1,125,311 | 86,246 |
| 7. | Jammu and Kashmir | - | - | - |
| 8. | Karnataka | 4,999,959 | 5,915,633 | 427,972 |
| 9. | Kerala | 2,120,452 | 1,015,983 | 332,340 |
| 10. | Madhya Pradesh | 5,863,029 | 12,904,121 | 388,425 |
| 11. | Maharashtra | 8,313,223 | 10,172,108 | 801,735 |
| 12. | Manipur | 47,350 | 437,499 | 10,971 |
| 13. | Meghalaya | 89,492 | 395,804 | 11,349 |
| 14. | Nagaland | 7,233 | 371,597 | 9,032 |
| 15. | Orissa | 2,976,750 | 4,598,500 | 90,315 |
| 16. | Punjab | 1,452,828 | 1,917,210 | 156,045 |
| 17. | Rajasthan | 1,391,670 | 8,181,512 | 337,033 |
| 18. | Sikkim | 12,851 | 95,078 | 11,655 |
| 19. | Tamil Nadu | 7,896,295 | 5,664,080 | 489,270 |
| 20. | Tripura | 187,538 | 305,523 | 11,752 |
| 21. | Uttar Pradesh | 7,833,258 | 22,031,181 | 510,520 |
| 22. | West Bengal | 5,055,478 | 5,844,993 | 381,317 |
| 23. | A and N Islands | 4,989 | 14,525 | 12,449 |
| 24. | Arunachal Pradesh | 20,054 | 235,987 | 23,392 |
| 25. | Chandigarh | 1,642 | 2,302 | 22,098 |
| 26. | D and N Haveli | 6,233 | 36,278 | 1,736 |
| 27. | Delhi | 25,195 | 33,296 | 231,571 |
| 28. | Goa | 35,284 | 56,528 | 25,037 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----|---------------|--------|---------|--------|
| 29. | Daman and Diu | 1,199 | 3,266 | 1,960 |
| 30 | Lakshdweep | - | - | 1,916 |
| 31. | Mizoram | 9,527 | 178,101 | 7,158 |
| 32. | Pondicherry | 77,203 | 17,959 | 11,108 |

STATEMENT-II

Average Wage/Salary Earning of Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Labourers (State-wise) in 1987-88

Rupees per day

| State | Agricultural Male | Labourer Female | Non-agricultural Male | Labourer Female |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Andhra Pradesh | 11.54 | 9.99 | 31.72 | 23.39 |
| Bihar | 10.94 | 9.29 | 33.88 | 33.37 |
| Gujarat | 11.94 | 10.40 | 37.82 | 30.64 |
| Haryana | 16.32 | 16.76 | 36.78 | 14.41 |
| Karnataka | 11.92 | 7.71 | 35.03 | 22.84 |
| Kerala | 28.58 | 24.58 | 40.34 | 32.97 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 8.42 | 6.87 | 29.84 | 17.42 |
| Maharashtra | 14.97 | 8.23 | 33.90 | 23.79 |
| Orrissa | 10.54 | 6.41 | 30.87 | 19.43 |
| Punjab | 17.29 | 10.81 | 33.36 | 29.36 |
| Rajasthan | 12.96 | 11.51 | 33.26 | 19.64 |
| Tamil Nadu | 10.83 | 6.53 | 26.30 | 13.91 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 11.81 | 6.85 | 31.86 | 21.72 |
| West Bengal | 12.78 | 13.81 | 35.19 | 15.20 |
| All India | 14.58 | 10.65 | 34.90 | 26.28 |

Source : National Sample Survey's (43rd) Round figures obtained from Central Statistical Organisation

[Translation]

Tax Service Department

4725. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Tax Service Department to facilitate the new taxpayers;

(b) if so, the main features and the purposes thereof as well as the number of beneficiaries therefrom;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to simplify and computerise the whole procedure of tax payment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It has been decided to computerise entire tax accounting system for Direct Taxes, under which individual taxpayers accounts will be maintained, which will facilitate prompt credit for taxes already paid and prompt of refunds. The new computerised tax accounting system is presently being introduced in Delhi, Bombay and Madras.

[English]

Stock Exchanges

4726. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any reservation has been made for the handicapped and disabled persons in stock exchanges in the country for appointment as brokers, sub-brokers, jobber etc.;

(b) if so, the criteria laid down for this purpose; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not following the Government policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Stock Exchanges are non-Government organisations which have their own rules relating to the admission of member-brokers. Sub-brokers, in turn, do business with brokers. Jobbers are either member-brokers or their employees. Accordingly, the Exchanges would need to take their own decisions in these matters. Finally, brokers, sub-brokers and jobbers are conducting businesses and are not employees of the Exchanges.

[Translation]

Per Capita Bank Loan

4727. SHRI KUNJEE LAL ·
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :
SHRI PROBIN DEKA :
SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG :
SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE :
SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the per capita amount of bank loan provided State-wise during the last three years vis-a-vis the per capita bank loan provided in the country during the same period; and

(b) the steps taken to increase the per capita amount of bank loan in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

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

[English]

Bank Branches in Orissa

4728. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branches of the Syndicate Bank and the Bank of Maharashtra working in Orissa presently;

(b) whether the Government propose to open some more branches of these banks in Orissa during 1995-96; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the places selected therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that 27 branches of Syndicate Bank are functioning in Orissa at present. Bank of Maharashtra have no branch in Orissa.

(b) and (c). RBI have reported that the banks have not yet submitted their branch expansion plans for 1995-96.

Powerloom Service Centres

4729. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the places where powerloom service centres have been set up during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the places where these centres are proposed to be set up during 1995-96, State-wise; and

(c) the financial assistance provided or likely to be provided by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) The places where powerloom service centres have been sanctioned during the last three years, State-wise are as under :

| | Year | Location | State |
|------|---------|---------------|----------------|
| (1) | 1992-93 | Komarapalayam | Tamil Nadu |
| (2) | 1992-93 | Dhoika | Gujarat |
| (3) | 1993-94 | Betagiri | Karnataka |
| (4) | 1993-94 | Huzurabad | Andhra Pradesh |
| (5) | 1993-94 | Bhiwandi | Maharashtra |
| (6) | 1993-94 | Sachin | Gujarat |
| (7) | 1994-95 | Salem | Tamil Nadu |
| (8) | 1994-95 | Pandesara | Gujarat |
| (9) | 1994-95 | Alwar | Rajasthan |
| (10) | 1994-95 | Somanur | Tamil Nadu |

(b) and (c). Places for setting up of Powerloom Service Centres are selected on the basis of proposals received from the State Government and areas of powerloom concentration. For the establishment of a Powerloom Service Centre a one time capital grant of Rs. 3 lakhs and a recurring annual expenditure of Rs 4.5 lakhs is provided by the Central Government.

[Translation]

RRBs in Maharashtra

4730. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the location-wise details of the Regional Rural Banks functioning in Maharashtra at present;

(b) the main objectives of these banks and the achievements made by these banks during the last two years;

(c) whether some of these banks are facing financial crises;

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

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the financial position of these banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) The names of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and their Headquarters in the State of Maharashtra are given below :

| S. No. | Name of Regional Rural Bank | Headquarters |
|--------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Marathwada Gramin Bank | Nanded |
| 2 | Aurangabad Jalna Gramin Bank | Aurangabad |
| 3 | Chandrapur Gadchiroli Gramin Bank | Chandrapur |
| 4 | Akola Gramin Bank | Akola |
| 5 | Ratnagiri Sindhudurg Gramin Bank | Ratnagiri |
| 6 | Solapur Gramin Bank | Solapur |
| 7 | Bhandara Gramin Bank | Bhandara |
| 8 | Yavatmal Gramin Bank | Yavatmal |
| 9 | Buldhana Gramin Bank | Buldhana |
| 10 | Thane Gramin Bank | Thane |

(b) The main objective of the RRBs are to take the banking services to the door steps of rural masses particularly in hitherto unbanked areas, to make available institutional credit to the weaker sections of the society, to mobilise rural savings and channelise them for supporting productive activities in the rural areas, to create supplementary channel for flow of credit from the central money market to the rural areas through refinance, to generate employment opportunities in rural areas. As at the end of March, 1993 the total deposits of all RRBs in Maharashtra was Rs. 16,513.78 lakhs and the advances (Outstanding) was Rs. 22,512.75 lakhs as at the end of March, 1994 the total deposits of all RRBs in Maharashtra was Rs. 14,496.72 lakhs and the advances (Outstanding) was Rs. 16,756.96 lakhs.

(c) and (d) In the process of reaching to the weaker sections and fulfilling the broad socio-economic objectives, these RRBs have suffered financially. Poor recovery performance of the RRBs in the State has compounded the problem of liquidity.

The reasons for incurring losses by Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are attributable to several factors like restriction on the clientele, limited area of operation, low interest margins, mounting establishment costs particularly after implementation of the award of the National Industrial Tribunal etc.

(e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have taken measures to strengthen the RRBs and a package of measures were announced in December, 1993 and

subsequently, 49 RRBs out of total of 196 RRBs in the country have been identified for comprehensive restructuring during 1994-95. Experience with these 49 RRBs will guide the approach in later years to other RRBs. The objective is to transform the presently weak and ailing RRBs into financially viable and effective instruments of decentralised rural banker. Further RBI has allowed in January, 1995, RRBs to make investment of their non-SLR surplus funds in specified profitable avenues including the credit portfolio of their sponsor banks through non-risk sharing participation certificate to be issued by the latter.

The 49 RRBs taken up for comprehensive restructuring in the country include two RRBs from Maharashtra. An amount of Rs. 294.76 lakhs has been released by Central Government as its share towards additional equity and a liquidity component for these two RRBs.

[English]

Foreign Equity Investment

4731. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total value of foreign equity invested by the country as on March 31, 1993 and March, 1994 with break-up by country of origin in the economic sector,

(b) total inflow/outflow of foreign capital during 1992-93 and 1993-94, inclusive of equity capital, profits, dividends, royalty and technical fees; and

(c) the net inflow during each year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

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

Export of Cotton

4732. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of cotton in other countries have suffered setback this year;

(b) whether the Government intend to export more quantity of cotton and yarn to earn more foreign exchange this year; and

(c) if so, the details of the quota released for export during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes Sir, During the 1994-95 cotton season, production of cotton has suffered a setback in other countries also.

(b) and (c). Keeping in view the domestic situation, Government has so far released only 1 lakh bales Bengal Deshi and 0.05 lakh bales of Assam Comilla varieties

of cotton. As regard exports of cotton yarn, Government have prescribed a ceiling of 75 million kgs. for export of cottons yarn of counts 1 - 40s for 1995. Cotton yarn of counts 41s and above are not subject to ceiling restrictions.

Air India Office at Dubai

4733. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India had called back the entire Indian staff based at its office in Dubai in September, 1994;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the steps taken to improve the working conditions of the Dubai office?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Consequent upon the seizure of gold by Customs on Air India flight AI-744 of 29th August, 1994 on Dubai-Bombay sector, the Government had decided to recall Air India staff handling flight operations at Dubai. Accordingly, the concerned staff was recalled in phases from October, 1994 to February 1995 by Air India.

(c) Engineering personnel have been instructed to check the avionics compartment on all departures. The security arrangements are reviewed periodically and surprise checks are undertaken to ensure that the system is working properly.

Anti-Dumping Legislation

4734. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL :
SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Financial Express on April 4, 1995 under captioned "Experts call for improved anti-dumping legislation";

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to the observations made therein and the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken for dealing with anti-dumping cases with the growing globalisation process and magnitude of the problem; and

(d) if so, the details of dumping cases received, investigated and disposed of during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Anti-dumping investigations in India are governed by the provisions of Section 9, 9A and 9B of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and the Customs Tariff (Identification, Assessment and Collection of Anti-

dumping Duty on Dumped Articles for Determination of Injury) Rules, 1995. The above legislation is modelled on Article VI of the W.T.O. Agreement dealing with anti-dumping investigations and is, therefore, at par with the legislation of other countries on the subject.

(c) Yes, Sir. An Officer of the Ministry of Commerce acts as the Designated Authority for dealing with anti-dumping cases. The officer is assisted by suitable staff in the Anti-dumping division for dealing with such cases.

(d) The details of dumping cases investigated and disposed of during the last three years is given below:

| Year | Item | Country | Action Taken |
|---------|---------------------------|---|--|
| 1992-93 | Bisphenol-A | Japan | Final finding made and anti-dumping duty imposed |
| | PVC Resins | Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, South Korea & U.S.A. | -do- |
| 1993-94 | Isobutyl Benzene | People's Republic of China (PRC) | Preliminary finding made and provisional anti-dumping duty imposed |
| 1994-95 | Theophylline and Caffeine | PRC | -do- |
| | 3,4,5, TMBA | PRC | -do- |
| | Bisphenol-A | Russia and Brazil | Investigation in progress |
| | KMNO-4 | PRC | -do- |
| | NBR | Japan | -do- |

[Translation]

Minimum Wages Act, 1948

4735. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Union Government have finalised the proposal for amending the Minimum Wages Act, 1948;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Union Government to strengthen the above Act and to increase the wage rates?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). The proposals to amend the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 are under consideration of the Government.

(c) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Central as well as State Governments are the appropriate Governments for the implementation and enforcement of the Act for the scheduled employments under their respective jurisdictions. The Central Government has been impressing upon the State Governments from time to time to take various measures to effectively implement the Act. These include strengthening of the enforcement machinery, revision of minimum wages every two years unless there is a provision of variable dearness allowance linked to Consumer Price Index Numbers, and giving wide publicity to the provisions of the Act. The State Governments have also been requested to fix the minimum wages for the rural workers at not less than Rs. 20/- per day on the basis of prices prevailing during December 1990 as recommended by the National Commission on Rural Labour.

[English]

London-Delhi-London Fare

4736 SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to revise air fare on Delhi-London-Delhi sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). Air fares between destinations are fixed by the airlines concerned on the basis of their commercial judgement and with the approval of the Director General of Civil Aviation.

Bonus Act

4737 SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH
DR. P VALLAL PERUMAN

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state .

- (a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to amend the Bonus Act to raise the salary limit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various Trade Unions in the country given any representation to the Union Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (d). Government have received a large number of representations from various trade unions and other organisations for amending the payment of Bonus Act, 1965. A proposal for enhancing the eligibility and computation ceilings under the Payment of Bonus Act is under the active consideration of the Government.

Export of Alcoholic Beverages

4738. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL . Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

- (a) whether the demand for alcoholic beverages has increased in the Gulf countries;
- (b) if so, the details of alcoholic beverages exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise; and
- (c) the steps being proposed to be taken by the Government to boost the export of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The value of alcoholic beverages exported to the Gulf countries during 1991-92, 1992-93, and 1993-94 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The steps being taken to boost the export agro-based products including alcoholic beverages, *inter-alla*, include

- (i) permitting joint ventures with foreign companies for introduction of better technology and quality upgradation; and
- (ii) providing financial assistance to exporters for export promotion and market development, improved packaging and quality control.

STATEMENT

Value of Alcoholic Beverages Exports during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94

(Rs. in lakhs)

| | Year | Beer | Wine | Whisky | Brandy | Liqueurs | Other Alcohols | Total |
|-----|---------|------|------|--------|--------|----------|----------------|-------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| UAE | 1991-92 | 5 | 3 | 1044 | 23 | 129 | 63 | 1267 |
| | 1992-93 | 4 | 4 | 1403 | 17 | 80 | 63 | 1571 |
| | 1993-94 | 14 | - | 1750 | 27 | 141 | 68 | 2000 |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-----------|---------|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| UMAN | 1991-92 | - | - | 40 | - | 6 | 5 | 51 |
| | 1992-93 | 3 | 3 | 54 | - | 12 | 9 | 81 |
| | 1993-94 | 2 | - | 63 | 11 | 5 | 7 | 88 |
| S. ARABIA | 1991-92 | - | - | 6 | - | - | - | 6 |
| | 1992-93 | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | 3 |
| | 1993-94 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| KUWAIT | 1991-92 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | 1992-93 | - | - | 3 | - | - | - | 3 |
| | 1993-94 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| BAHRAIN | 1991-92 | - | - | 31 | - | 25 | 14 | 70 |
| | 1992-93 | - | - | 60 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 70 |
| | 1993-94 | - | - | 28 | 3 | - | - | 31 |
| QATAR | 1991-92 | - | - | - | - | - | 5 | 5 |
| | 1992-93 | - | - | 4 | - | - | 4 | 8 |
| | 1993-94 | - | - | 4 | - | - | - | 4 |

(Source Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority)

Welfare Schemes for Leather Workers And Weavers

4739. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government have prepared a welfare scheme for leather workers and weavers;

(b) if so, whether that Union Government have been urged to provide funds to the State Government to meet the above plan; and

(c) if so, the funds provided by the Union Government to the Andhra Pradesh Government for the above scheme during 1994-95 and 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Air Service on Delhi-Trivandrum Sector

4740. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether air passengers are facing inconvenience on Delhi-Goa-Cochin-Trivandrum sector;

(b) whether the Government propose to ply late evening air service on this sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to improve the performance on this sector?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). Indian Airlines is operating a daily B-737 service on Delhi-Goa-Cochin-

Trivandrum and *vice versa* route with effect from 19th February, 1995. Indian Airlines has no proposal to operate any late evening flight in this sector.

Textilee Nagar at Hubli

4741. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sought the approval for the setting up of Textile Nagar at Hubli;

(b) if so, whether an Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme has also been submitted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the amount of assistance sought for this purpose; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Case Against Harehad Mehta and Others

4742. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news item captioned "Harshad siphoned off D.D.A. funds, says CBI" appeared in the "Times of India" dated March 6, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps being taken to expedite the process of prosecution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A sum of Rs. 15, 80, 87,037/- was allegedly transferred illegally from the account of DDA (Slum-Wing) to the account of Shri Harshad S Mehta

(c) and (d). Searches were conducted at 4 places in New Delhi at the offices and residential premises of the concerned bank officials. Cases have been registered on 11.11.94 against a Manager and a Chief Manager of the State Bank of Patiala, an Assistant Manager of UCO Bank, Bombay and Shri Harshad S. Mehta in this connection. The Slum and JJ Department of MCD (it was earlier with DDA) have since received back the amounts deposited in the banks together with interest

Agreement between Management and IPG

4743. PROF. K.V THOMAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between the Management and Indian Pilots Guild (IPG) which enhances the emoluments of pilots exorbitantly compared to the other sections of Air India;

(b) whether there is a disparity in the emoluments of pilots, flight engineers and other sections of Air India;

(c) whether Air India management is taking any steps to settle the issues with the different sections amicably; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) A settlement was reached by the Air India management with the Indian Pilots Guild (IPG) on 26.9.94 on the revised rates of hourly payment to Commanders/Co-pilots

(b) to (d). Air India management is examining the issue/demands raised by the various associations representing Flight Engineers, Aircraft Engineers, Technical Officers as a result of the settlement with the IPG.

Target for Development of Tourism

4744. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE :
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state .

(a) whether any target was set up for the development of tourism during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the achievements made so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The National Action Plan for Tourism has stipulated the strategy for achieving targets in tourist arrivals, foreign exchange earnings and employment through tourism. The terminal year target for tourist arrivals and foreign exchange earnings from tourism for Eighth Five Year Plan are 2.57 million tourists and Rs. 7000 crores of foreign exchange respectively.

(b) The tourist arrivals and foreign exchange earnings for the first three years of the Eighth Five Year Plan are as follows :

| Year | Arrivals (million) | Foreign exchange earnings (Rs. in crores) |
|---------|--------------------|--|
| 1992-93 | 1.82 | 6060 |
| 1993-94 | 1.87 | 6509 Provisional |
| 1994-95 | 1.90 | 7365 Provisional |

Bonded Labour

4745. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has asked several voluntary organisations and advocates in 13 States to make enquiries regarding bonded labour;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments in their affidavits before the apex court have claimed that they have eradicated this evil;

(c) whether these voluntary organisations have submitted their reports to the apex court;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the present position of bonded labour in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). In pursuance of the directions of the Supreme Court, the State Governments concerned have filed affidavits pertaining to the measures taken by each of the State Governments to identify and check the practice of bonded labour and to rehabilitate those who are the victims of this practice.

(c) and (d). The Supreme Court have directed an Advocate of the Court and General Secretary, Bandhua Mukti Morcha to coordinate the efforts of the advocate and voluntary organisations appointed by the Court and submit a report to the Hon'ble Supreme Court within six months from the date of the order dated 6.3.1995.

(e) The Government attach the highest priority to the total eradication of bonded labour system. As reported by the State Governments, out of 2,51,424 bonded labour identified and released till 31.3.1993, there are only about 6,000 bonded labourers still awaiting rehabilitation.

Development of Tourism in Orissa

4746. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether a comprehensive Master Plan has been prepared by the Government for the development of tourism in Orissa;

(b) if so, the amount required for implementing the Master Plan and the areas proposed for development in this regard; and

(c) the fund allocated by the Union Government for implementing the Master Plan?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No comprehensive Master Plan has been submitted by Orissa Government. However, the State Government had Commissioned the Tata Consultancy Services to prepare a plan for the Development of Tourism in Orissa. The Report identifies only the following 4 circuits :

- (i) Buddhist Circuit
 - (ii) Bhubaneswar-Puri-Konark.
 - (iii) Simlipal-Chandipur-Panchalingeswar.
 - (iv) Chilka Lake
- (b) and (c). Does not arise.

Shape of Coins

4747. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :
SHRI TARA SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take steps to rationalise the shapes and sizes of various coins and currency to remove confusion;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received a large number of complaints/representations in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be brought out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d). The Government is considering a proposal for replacement of existing currency/bank notes by an altogether new design of notes. Based on some complaints received from public as well as suggestions made by RBI proposal for changing shape and size of some coins is also under examination.

[Translation]

New Airport

4748. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up new airports during the current financial year;

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

(c) the names of the existing airports which are proposed to be expanded?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). It is proposed to set up new airports at Kargil in Jammu and Kashmir, Lengpui in Mizoram and Tura in Meghalaya.

(c) The Airports Authority of India has plans to upgrade airports at Agartala, Aurangabad, Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Calicut, Dimapur, Goa, Guwahati, Kangra, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Lucknow, Leh, Nagpur, Patna, Port Blair, Silchar, Shimla, Tezpur, Tirupati and Vadodara.

Income Tax Collection in Goa

4749. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of income-tax payers in Goa and income-tax collection made during the last three years, year-wise and the share of income-tax received by the State Government during this period; and

(b) the total number of pending income-tax cases and amount in default and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to clear them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The total number of income-tax payers in Goa, income-tax collection made during the last three years in Goa and the share of income-tax received by the State Government during this period is as under :

| Fin. Year | Number of tax payers | Income-tax collection (Including corporation tax) | Share of Income-tax received by the State Govt. |
|-----------|----------------------|---|---|
| | | (Rupees in Crores) | |
| 1992-93 | 30,891 | 78.64 | 6.52 |
| 1993-94 | 35,380 | 102.30 | 9.45 |
| 1994-95 | 48,174 | 105.66 | 9.42 |
| | | (Provisional) | |

(b) The total number of cases in which arrears are outstanding is 19,433 and the amount in default as on 31.3.95 is Rs. 10.57 crores.

Several steps have been taken to clear of the outstanding demand, including steps such as the levy of penalty, attachment of Bank Account u/s 226 (3) of the income-tax Act, tax recovery officers' attachment of both movable and immovable properties etc.

Leather Development Fee

4750. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH .

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have introduced leather development fee for finished leather exports;

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

(c) whether the Government have received any representation from the leather exporters against the fee levied on such exporters;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the reaction of the Government in this regard and the steps being taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of these exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) . (a) and (b). A development fee for exports of finished leather has been introduced by the Council for Leather Exports. The proceeds are to be used, *inter-alia*, for meeting emergent needs of the leather tanning industry specially for undertaking statutory obligations to meet the pollution control standards and assisting the producers in complying with international requirements for eco-friendly leather.

(c) to (e). Yes, Sir. The Tamil Nadu Leather Tanners Exporters and Importers Association and All India Small Scale Tanners and Exporters Association have filed Write in the High Court of Madras, challenging the collection of the leather development fee. The matter is sub-judice.

[English]

Development of Andhra Pradesh for Tourism

4751. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU . Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are developing Andhra Pradesh for tourist attraction;

(b) if so, the assistance provided for developing infrastructure in this regard,

(c) whether the Government have formulated any action plan in this regard, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) . (a) and (b) The development of Tourism in the State is primarily the responsibility of the State Government and the Department of Tourism, Government of India extends financial assistance on the basis of specific proposals received from the State Government based on their merit, inter-se priority and availability of funds. Based on the proposals, received from the State Government

of Andhra Pradesh, the Central Government sanctioned five projects amounting to Rs. 171.99 lakhs during 1994-95 for development of tourism infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d). The State Government of Andhra Pradesh have formulated a Tourism Policy for development of tourism in the State, which includes a package of incentives for promotion of tourism.

[Translation]

Opium Production

4752. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Narcotics Control Board has expressed concern over inaccurate reporting by India of opium production during 1994 as reported in the "Hindustan Times" dated March 6, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) and (b). The INCB Report for the year 1994 had expressed concern about the fact that in 1994 there was considerable decrease in the availability of opium in India. It was also mentioned in the report that, according to the Government of India, the decrease in availability of opium was a result of the combined effects of increased opium exports since 1990, two consecutive poor harvests in 1993 and 1994 and the fact that opium stocks in India were actually lower than previously reported by Government of India to the INCB. The concern of the Board was further heightened by the fact that India was the only country that licitly produces opium for export

(c) It has already been explained to the INCB that the figures of stocks reported to the Board were of book stocks and not of actual physical stocks of opium. The book stocks figures depict the quantities of opium received in the factories over the years, and do not take into account the wastages/losses which arose from year to year on account of storage, handling, manufacturing etc., of opium which was being stored in large open kiosks known as vats. Physical stock taking of opium in vats was very difficult. Therefore, the reporting of the figures of book stocks by India led to a misunderstanding as regards the correct stock position held by India. On account of practical difficulties in physical weighing of opium stocks stored in huge open stone vats which was an age old practice followed for almost 200 years the figures of physical stocks of opium could not be determined on an yearly basis in respect of several earlier years. The old system of storage of opium has been replaced since 1993-94 with a new system in which opium is stored in durable plastic containers of uniform size. The exercise for computing and writing off

the wastages/losses for the earlier period is currently in progress. Accurate physical inventory of stocks would be maintained thereafter. The INCB has been informed accordingly.

Balance of Trade with Russia

4753. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
DR SAKSHIJI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the balance of trade, in terms of Dollars, with Russia during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) whether there is any trade deficit at present with Russia;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the hurdles in increasing trade with Russia and the steps being taken by the Government to remove them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Balance of trade between India and Russia during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95 was as under :

(in million US Dollars)

| | Exports | Imports | Balance of trade |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|------------------|
| 1993-94 | 639 | 258 | 381 |
| 1994-95 (upto Jan.'95) | 630 | 381 | 249 |

(Note : Rate of exchange used to convert DGCIS figures in Rs. crores into US dollars:

For 1993-94 - Rs. 31.36 = US \$ 1

For 1994-95 - Rs. 31.37 = US \$ 1

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The hurdles in increasing the trade with Russia relate mainly to the transitional problems being faced by Russia in its shift from a centralised to a market economy, and the absence of a proper infrastructure for trade in form of effective banking, insurance, warehousing and transportation facilities.

Various measures for promoting bilateral trade have been undertaken by the Government - which include :

- promotion of dialogue with the Russian side including at the highest level.
- activation of the Joint Commission mechanism with its nine working groups and several sub-groups which have met separately to discuss the entire gamut of bilateral economic relations.

- signing of various agreements to provide a climate for increased trade; these include agreements on tourism, bilateral investment protection and merchant shipping.
- facilitating through bilateral consultations, the rapid utilisation of debt owed to Russia in the form of exports of goods; a separate agreement on long-term purchase of specific goods has been signed.
- promotion of direct business contacts through exchange of delegations, holding of exhibitions, participation in fairs, buyer-seller meets, etc.
- encouragement to initiatives to ensure that infrastructure is quickly created for trade in areas such as banking, warehousing and transportation (through the Russian Black Sea port of Novorossisk).

[English]

Foreign Airlines

4754. SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the profits earned by the various foreign airlines, airline-wise during each of the last three years; and

(b) the details of the amount repatriated, airline-wise, during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Profit/loss of foreign airlines is not monitored by the Government. Remittances by foreign airline companies during the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94, as furnished by the Reserve Bank of India, are indicated in the enclosed Statement. Airline-wise remittance figures for the year 1994-95 have not yet been compiled.

STATEMENT

Remittance Allowed to Foreign Airlines Companies
Year-wise and Airline-wise

(Amount in Rs. lakhs)

| S. No. | Airline Company | 1991-92 | 1992-93 | 1993-94 |
|--------|------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Air Canada | 28 | 191 | 135 |
| 2. | Air France | 4,794 | 9,541 | 9,329 |
| 3. | Air Hong Kong | - | - | 324 |
| 4. | Air Lanka | 638 | 1,107 | 2,242 |
| 5. | Air Link | - | - | 29 |
| 6. | Alitalia | 2,552 | 4,240 | 4,513 |
| 7. | Biman Bangladesh | - | 112 | 392 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|----|---------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| 8 | British Airways | 8,461 | 17,720 | 14,913 |
| 9 | Cathay Pacific | 3,891 | 6,234 | 7,970 |
| 10 | Carglux Airlines | - | - | 148 |
| 11 | Delta Airlines | 2,053 | 5,026 | 6,483 |
| 12 | ELAL | - | - | 53 |
| 13 | Emirates | 6,958 | 9,875 | 12,380 |
| 14 | Egypt Air | 280 | 787 | 921 |
| 15 | Ethiopian | 1,167 | 1,885 | 1,974 |
| 16 | Finn Air | - | - | 32 |
| 17 | Gulf Air | 11,261 | 16,907 | 21,138 |
| 18 | Japan Airlines | 4,229 | 2,591 | 667 |
| 19 | Kenya Airways | - | 448 | 1,043 |
| 20 | Korean Airways | 13 | - | 1,240 |
| 21 | KLM | 3,994 | 8,123 | 13,531 |
| 22 | Kuwait Airways | 5,572 | 11,310 | 11,862 |
| 23 | Libyan Airlines | 24 | - | - |
| 24 | Lufthansa | 26,309 | 27,524 | 30,791 |
| 25 | Malaysia Airlines | 2,537 | 4,662 | 3,137 |
| 26 | Pakistan International Airlines | 1,438 | 2,325 | 3,804 |
| 27 | Panama World Airways | - | - | 494 |
| 28 | Oriental Airlink | - | - | 291 |
| 29 | Qantas | 971 | 1,848 | 1,991 |
| 30 | Royal Jordaniam | 1,143 | 1,928 | 3,087 |
| 31 | Royal Nepal Airlines | - | - | 985 |
| 32 | Sabina Belgium Airlines | 69 | 3 | - |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|----|-----------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| 33 | Scandinavian Airline System | 194 | 435 | 340 |
| 34 | Saudia | 9,194 | 14,190 | 16,986 |
| 35 | Singapore Airlines | 8,923 | 15,191 | 18,319 |
| 36 | Sovem Air | - | - | 3 |
| 37 | Swiss Air | 2,133 | 5,257 | 5,605 |
| 38 | Syrian Air | - | - | 471 |
| 39 | Thai Airways | 2,158 | 5,413 | 3,723 |
| 40 | Trans World Airlines | 912 | 418 | 11 |
| 41 | Transmediterranean Airlines | 239 | 329 | 170 |
| 42 | Turkish Airlines | - | - | 6,868 |
| 43 | United Airlines | - | - | 3,173 |
| 44 | Uzbekistan Airlines | - | - | 1,495 |
| 45 | Yugoslavia Airlines | 3 | 4 | - |

**STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO US Q NO
2674 DATED 23.12.94 REGARDING INCOME TAX
PAID BY NATIONALISED BANK**

In the reply to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No 2674 given on 23 12 94, a statement was annexed in reply to part (a) & (b) of the question, furnishing the information relating to nationalised banks, State Bank of India and Associate Banks

It is regretted that some errors have been noticed in the information relating to Punjab and Sind Bank and Oriental Bank of Commerce. The revised information is furnished in the annexed statement.

STATEMENT

Statement by the Minister of State for Finance in Relation to the Reply given to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2674 on 23.12.94

| Question | Original Reply [Parts (a) & (b)] | | | | Revised Reply | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| | Name of the nationalised Bank | Financial Year | Assessment Year | Income assessed | Tax demanded | Tax Paid | Financial Year | Assessment Year | Income assessed | Tax Demanded | Tax Paid | |
| (a) Whether nationalised banks are up-to-date in paying income tax to the Government; | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (b) If so, the details of income assessed, tax demanded and tax paid be each of the twenty nationalised banks, associate banks and SBI for each of the last three years; and | | | | (Figures in Crores of Rupees) | | | | | (Figures in Crores of Rupees) | | | |
| | Punjab & Sind Bank | 1991-92 1992-93 1993-94 | 1992-93 1993-94 1994-95 | 69.85 * 79.12 * 14.75 | 36.78 NIL NIL | 56.30 8.60 14.24 | 1991-92 1992-93 1993-94 | 1992-93 1993-94 1994-95 | 6.99 * 79.12 * 14.65 | 3.68 NIL NIL | 5.63 8.60 14.24 | |
| | Oriental Bank of Commerce | 1991-92 1992-93 1993-94 | 1992-93 1993-94 1994-95 | 15.52 * 32.05 * 10.33 * | 28.73 16.58 5.34 | 30.91 32.04 45.33 | 1991-92 1992-93 1993-94 | 1992-93 1993-94 1994-95 | 55.52 * 32.05 * 10.33 | 28.73 16.58 5.34 | 30.91 32.04 45.33 | |

* Regular assessments pending. The figure represents returned income after prima facie adjustments.

(c) If not, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to recover the income tax from the defaulter banks?

12.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thousands of *Anganwadi* workers, helpers and *Balwadi* workers led by six different all India trade unions including the Federation of *Anganwadi* and *Balwadi* workers, of which I am the working President, are having a *march* and *dharna* today in Delhi for the redressal of their grievances by the Central Government.

The main demands of the *Anganwadi* workers are regularisation of them, as Government employees, pending that guaranteeing minimum wages for them, no privatisation of ICDS schemes and increase of the present insignificant sum given to them as their travel allowance and fuel charge for cooking for the beneficiaries.

The *Balwadi* workers' economic situation is even worse. They got a pittance as allowance. Moreover, under different educational authorities, they get different sums as allowances. There are no uniform guidelines.

This morning, we saw the H.R.D. Minister. He could not, at all, assure us of anything.

The miserable situation of *Anganwadi* and *Balwadi* workers were raised many times in the House and it was found that the demands of these workers enjoy a very wide support.

Sir, keeping this in mind, through you, I appeal to the Government to take positive steps to fulfil the demands of these workers.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur) : Sir, I also support this issue because the *Anganwadi* workers have been fighting for their demands for a long time and we have been raising this continually in this House.

MR. SPEAKER : If you say that you have endorsed it, that will be enough.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA : But so far, very little has been done. So, I would request the Government, through you, to look into the matter and to see that the demands of the *Anganwadis* are regarded with sympathy...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur) : Mr. Speaker Sir, this issue has been raised so many times in the House. It had come up in the form of a question also. The Hon. Minister in his reply to the question had told that the Government was considering to increase their salaries. But today, when the representatives of the employees of the *Aaganwaris* met the hon. Minister, they were not given any assurance. They returned disappointed from there.

Sir, wherever it is evaluated on the national or the international level, it is said that it is an important work.

The problems of the rural development and the problems of the rural people specially, are concerned mainly with the health and family welfare. But such people engaged in this work are being neglected in such a manner that their poverty, helplessness and unemployment is being exploited continuously. Today, these thousands of women workers have come to Delhi with their complaints. The hon. Minister has disappointed them. He should reconsider it and take some positive step in this direction.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Sir, these thousands of women workers have not come once but various times before the Parliament. They work very well. Everywhere there is some disorder but these women work hard among the people. Their wages in less I think that they have come for the fifth time before the Parliament in thousands to put forth their grievances.

Mr. Speaker Sir, my submission is that the Government must give some reply on this issue and some way out should be found to solve this problem...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pall) : We support it ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down, now. I have called her name. Let her speak.

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI (Sikkim) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the problems faced by the farmers of Sikkim. In many parts of Sikkim, farmers are facing hardship due to drought-like situation. Though Sikkim is called Denzong or 'The Valley of Rice', the mainstay of farmers in Sikkim is the cultivation of maize. But due to lack of rainfall, the farmers are suffering. Plants did not grow at all and whatever plants could grow, those too dried up due to lack of rain. The farmers cannot go for second sowing because of the topographical and climatic conditions. This amounts to a total loss of crop for the farmers and they may have to suffer even starvation. Relief is to be given in a big way to save the farmers from starvation. The State Government alone cannot provide sufficient funds for relief work of this magnitude. I urge upon the Government to come forward and extend help to the State Government by allocating sufficient funds for the relief work, Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the Government should have given some assurance to *anganbadi* employees, we would be able to convey them as we are going to attend their meeting.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is an assurance given by the Minister on the floor of the House. It should be more than sufficient.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Today the Government must speak something on this subject, otherwise what will we say in their meeting? Therefore, something must be stated in this august House on behalf of the Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Government has assured on the floor. I was sitting in the Chair. It is stated that they are thinking of increasing the salaries.

[Translation]

Then tell us that you will leave no stone unturned in providing them some sort of help.

SHRI D.J. TANDEL (Daman and Diu) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the fishermen all over India have been staying dharna; since the 2nd instant in protest against the permission of fishing given to foreign companies by the Government of India. A Dharna is also being staged at Jantar Mantar in Delhi. This issue was raised by hon. Members in this august House on 2nd also but no assurance has been given so far by the Government to resolve the problems of fishermen.

12.07 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the chair)

The fishermen are staging dharna at Porbandar also and we are getting lengthy telegrams everyday in this connection but no statement has been given so far by the Government in this regard. The Government claims that foreign companies are allowed for fishing upto a particular distance. But, it is not true. The foreign companies are fishing in India and violating our laws. Today fishermen are worried everywhere i.e. in Orissa, Maharashtra, Karnataka etc. The Government should make a statement in this regard, give assurance to fishermen staging dharna so that their problems may be solved at the earliest. If the Government fails to take any step immediately, the fishermen are ready to go to the Prime Minister's residence and demonstrate there because the Government has not expressed any concern over their plight.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Dwarakanath Das please.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : I may please be allowed to speak.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Naik, if every one wants to speak, those whose name is in the list will be denied their opportunity. It is also true that if every one wants to speak on the same issue, it will be a general discussion.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I have also given notice.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : When your turn comes, I shall definitely call you. Now, I shall call Shri Dwarakanath Das.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur) : Please allow me to say just a few words Sir. As mentioned by the hon. Member, the issue regarding these fishermen's problems was raised twice in this House. They are on hunger strike, but the Government is callous.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Ministers are here. They are hearing what the Members are saying. You please sit down.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : I demand that this matter should be taken up immediately. The Government must respond now. They are issuing licences to every body and it is causing a lot of problems... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have called Shri Dwarakanath Das. You please sit down.

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (Karimganj) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there is a huge backlog of SC/STs in C & D categories of services in North-East Frontier Railways. Government assurance on the floor of the House of wiping out of backlog in a phased manner was simply a paper solution, and till date has borne no fruit. Due to de-casualisation, the names of SC/ST casual labourers were struck off from the live Register, but subsequently they were not enrolled. Moreover, this backlog in C & D categories is due to non-recruitment of SC/STs as agreed upon as well as for depriving promotions to them.

So, I urge upon the Government to look into the matter and to wipe out the backlog of SC/STs through recruitment and allow promotions in services due to them... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This unscheduled programme goes on upto 1 O'clock. Therefore, it is upto you to accommodate some of your friends. Do not deny them the opportunity to speak. Everybody gives notice two or three days before, since some of their names come in the and, they are denied of the opportunity. There is a lot of unrest among some of the hon. Members. Kindly cooperate and help the other friends also to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Next time, with the permission of the House, we shall call the names from the end of the list.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there is a project called the Heavy Water Plant at Talcher which is under my Parliamentary constituency in Orissa. For the last, more than two years it is under closure. Heavy water, as you know, is very much essential for our defence preparedness. That is a defence requirement. Thus, this project assures

a great deal of significance. Moreover, this project is linked with the functioning, the working of the Talcher Fertilizer Plant. This plant (Heavy Water) draws its inputs from the Talcher Fertilizer Plant and the by-products of the Talcher Fertilizer Plant are needed for keeping this Heavy Water Plant in operation.

Sir, I draw your attention to the fact that this Talcher Fertilizer Plant has coal based technology which has come from Germany. We adopted this kind of a technology in two of our plants - one, at Talchar and another one at Ramagundam, Andhra Pradesh. Now, because of different kinds of problems in the fertilizer sector - there was a lot of debate about that these two plants together with other fertilizer plants, on account of their becoming sick units, were referred to BIFR. However, it is heartening to note that the Government of India have decided to revamp all these fertilizer plants. Now also the Talcher Fertilizer Plant is in operation and the Government have also decided to revamp these units.

Thus, Sir, there is no need, no necessity and no compelling situation for closing down the Heavy Water Project. More than 300 employees are working in it and they are uncertain about its future

Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government to see that this project...

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER Shri Panigrahi, you were also denied of speaking for one or two days because your name was at the end of the list. Kindly see to it that other friends are also being accommodated.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, I am concluding. There is a conspiracy to see that this Heavy Water Plant does not resume working. The opinions of the bureaucrats and the technocrats are divided. An ..

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Thank You. Shri Prem Dhumal.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is not going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very important issue For MPs...

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I may once again make it very clear that the names of the Members are before me. I will call their names one-by-one. The Members need not raise their hands.

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a provision of fund for MP's local Area Development Scheme under which we are making recommendations. In certain constituencies where the hon. MPs belong to the party other than the ruling party in the States are not getting the cooperation of local authorities. In some of the cases new terms and conditions are being laid. I would like to prove it by citing an example. I announced to provide Rs. One lakh for a road construction in my area. But the Deputy Commissioner wrote that 50 per cent amount should be spent on the purchase of materials and 50 per cent should be kept for labourers. Now official bottleneck is coming in the way of allocating 50 per cent amount for purchasing essential materials for digging roads. The local officials are deliberately creating new problems in this regard and therefore, the work is not being completed. Besides this funds already sanctioned are sometimes raised and sometimes reduced arbitrarily.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want that all State Government should be instructed clearly that the work recommended by an hon. Member of Parliament should be performed as per his recommendations. If there is at all any problem to perform the work the State Government should write to the MP that it is impossible to follow his recommendations. Though it has been clearly mentioned in instructions, yet the local officials are bringing about changes on their own. Letters are being issued after 4 months have lapsed since the funds were sanctioned and on many occasions particular amount is being demanded for service charges. All the works being done under this scheme are being performed smoothly but the work is being hindered deliberately. I want that Government should issue clear-cut instruction from here. I hope all hon. Members here will agree with me.

MANY HON. MEMBERS : Yes, it is a serious matter.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the State Governments should be issued clear-cut instructions that work should be done there as per recommendations made by the local MP. The hon. Minister is sitting here. He is requested to give us assurance that action will be taken against the local officials obstructing the works recommended by MPs. They are not implementing this scheme. They demand commissions. Therefore, the benefits which were expected to reach the common people are not reaching. Therefore, action should be taken promptly in this connection.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Minister will give specific instructions to the concerned persons.

[Translation]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a serious matter. They say that the amount of Rs. one crore should be spent first and only then the next sanction will be made... This amount virtually lapses...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is not correct. It is for the current year. You talk to the concerned Minister. He will solve your problem.

[Translation]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a serious matter. I would like to know whether the Government will allocate further fund after the amount of Rs. one crore would be spent...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : The Government must respond.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a question as to who will reply here as the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs are also not present here. At least an hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs must be present here.

[English]

You may call the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is just the contempt of Parliament.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : There are seven Ministers sitting here. What else do they want?...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : They are just gossiping. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should be here.

[English]

You please call the Ministers...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are half a dozen Ministers sitting here. It is collective responsibility of the Council of Ministers. Therefore, I request you to kindly resume your seats.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : They are so much engrossed in their gossip that they are bent upon committing the contempt of the august House from now itself...(Interruptions)

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : They commit the contempt of the august House. Yesterday this issue was raised in Rajya Sabha also.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Joshi Ji, please sit down. It is the normal etiquette that the hon. Members should observe when the Presiding Officer is on his legs. The hon. Members are very much requested to adorn their seats.

[Translation]

Your are also requested...(Interruptions)

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : Mr. Deputy speaker, Sir, but the Government must respond to it...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Instruct the Government.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. It is the collective responsibility of the Council of Ministers. You are raising your issues; they are listening to them and they will pass them on to various Ministers. I request the Ministers also to respond to the requests that are made by the Members on the floor of the House. They should not be pious statements. You should be ready with the information. Let us proceed now.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Rural Development is there...

[Translation]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : Virtually the entire scheme has been ruined...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Justice, why do you violate the norms? So far as MPs Fund is concerned, if there are any doubts, if the executive authorities of different districts are not going by the directions given by the Government, you can write to the hon. Minister and the Minister will certainly clarify. If there are any further doubts, you can sit with the hon. Speaker and those could be cleared.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Gangwar, since your matter has been replied to by the hon. Minister by making a statement on the floor of the House, there is no need to raise it again.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : It is an important issue. The reply by the hon. Minister is not resolving the problem. At present diesel is required in the country for farmers that...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Gangwar, I think you have clearly heard me. Your issue regarding shortage of diesel was taken up yesterday by the hon. Minister and he made an elaborate statement. Therefore, the question of raising the same issue again does not arise.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I want normalcy to prevail in the House because we are closing at one o'clock. Do not snatch the opportunity of other Members also.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is not going on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, it seems I shall have to call the names from the bottom of the list so that those who have got an opportunity to speak for the past three days will have an opportunity to do so. Those who regularly get opportunity should cut short their speeches.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (Sasaram) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today lakhs of handloom weavers are on the verge of starvation due to the wrong policy of the Government. Unemployment is increasing very rapidly among them. There is acute shortage of cotton and cotton yarn. They remain jobless for 15 days in a month. The sale of handloom cloths has come to a standstill. Even the weaker and poor section of the society is not prepared to purchase it. The Government treats them in a step-motherly and discriminatory manner. The Government is promoting powerloom and big cloth mills. That is why powerloom and big mills are ruining weavers. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I demand that there should be a permanent solution for the problems of lakhs of weavers of the country. The Government merely gives assurances and does not take any concrete action. I, therefore, suggest to set up a permanent fund of Rs. 10 crore for the welfare of weavers.
... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Santosh Gangwar, you know the rules of the House. It is very bad that you are violating the rules which you have framed and which have accepted. It is not fair on your part to do so.

[Translation]

DR. CHATRAPAL SINGH (Bulandshahr) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue which is being raised by me concerns weavers. Loans upto Rs. 10,000 of the weavers of Uttar Pradesh were waived off in 1989. The Central Government provided to the Government of Uttar Pradesh a sum of Rs. 2400 crores for the purpose but the Uttar Pradesh Government has not implemented the loan waiver scheme for the weavers so far and instead diverted that amount to other heads of expenditure. The

* Not recorded

condition of weavers is bad and forcible recovery is being made from them. They are being imprisoned if they fail to repay even a loan of Rs. 5-6 thousand. I would like to urge upon the Government of Uttar Pradesh by the Central Government for the purpose of waiver of the loans of the weavers upto Rs. 10,000 should be spent under the same head and the loans of the weavers of Uttar Pradesh be waived off.

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI (Bobertsganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards district Sonbhadra of Uttar Pradesh which is infested with heavy pollution due to limestone kilns, the stone crushers, hightech carbon emitted by Dala cement factory, Churak cement factory, Hindalco, Renusagar power plant of NTPC, NCL etc. Sir, during my two day visit of the area I saw enormous smoke and dust floating in the atmosphere in Anpara, Sonbhadra, Dala area so much so that the flora of the area is drying up. After two days of thorough inspection I found that the trees and plants are withering due to pollution. In this connection, I wrote many times to the hon. Minister of Environment but he is paying no attention to it. The local inhabitants are worst effected by the Dala cement factory due to which they fall prey to many diseases. If you go there you will hardly see any green tree there because cement dust has accumulated on trees. The entire flora of Hindalco area is getting degenerated due to hightech carbon. Renusagar and all other thermal power plants are situated around Pant sagar in which they drain all their effluents. An end of S dam also touches it. Therefore, through you, I would urge the hon. Minister to take action on it forthwith. Arrangements for saving the jungles of the area from the onslaught of pollution should be made forthwith.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on 2nd May I had raised the question on the permission granted to the foreign travelers for deep sea fishing as a result of which Shri Thomas Kochery, the National convener of the Action Committee of National Fisheries Forum, went on an indefinite hunger strike at Porbandar. When I said here that the hon. Minister is not taking note of it, I meant that even after the matter was raised by me on 2nd May his hunger strike has entered the third day. In a telephonic conversation, I was told from Porbandar that his condition has become serious due to three days' fasting. It is the Summer season and Porbandar is comparatively hotter. The 70 lakh odd fishermen of the whole country are perplexed. The Parliament will be adjourned for the ensuing two days, i.e. Saturday and Sunday. What will be the face of the situation if the hon. Minister and the Government does not send for him for negotiations or hold consultations with the Members of Parliament and, them, there is no central or state Minister present here. Therefore I demand that orders should be issued immediately to call the convener to Delhi and hold negotiations with him. Otherwise it will be a cause for embarrassment for

the whole country if anything untoward happens to him due to this hunger strike. It is a question of 70 lakh fisherman. Therefore, I wish, demand and urge upon you to direct the Government to hold talks with him immediately.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am aware that you do not like the intervention of any Member like this and I myself do not like to speak like this but this but the situation is such as warrants such intervention. The question of fishermen is not an issue of party politics, but a national issue. The economic reforms initiated by the Government bring to the fore an aspect which is naturally a source of concern for us. Will the small fishermen be deprived of their livelihood? Will they be compelled to starve? This issue has been raised many a times in the House. Shri Tarun Gogoi is not present here at the moment and I do not know how much attention is being paid to the proceedings of the House by the other hon. Ministers present in the House. The leaders of the fishermen have been observing hunger strike for three days and there will be no sitting of the House for the next two days. We want to know the policy of the Government in this regard. The Government says that it has granted the permission of deep sea fishing to the foreign trawlers and in case the trawlers go for fishing in the deep sea, the fishes will not move towards the coastal waters making it impossible for the small fishermen to catch fishes. This question deserves immediate attention. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like you to do something about it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Mallikarjun, could you say something on this? The people are on hunger strike. This is a very serious matter. You kindly come with some information.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : I also take it seriously, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is on his legs.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : I also take it seriously, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is on his legs. Please hear him.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : I also take it seriously. I will convey it to the Minister concerned. He would decide what possible steps and measures could be taken by the Government.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is better the Government should come with some information to the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, the Minister has explained you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Mallikarjun will have a talk with him and convey the feelings of the House. Let us see. Let him come back with some information.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He will convey the feelings of the House to the concerned hon. Minister and the hon. Minister will come back to this House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : The hon. Minister should at least give an assurance here that he would call the representatives of the fishermen for talks here because they have been observing a hunger strike for the last three days and the Parliament is going to observe two days' holiday. He should state that their leaders will be called for talks...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : The House would like the Hon. Minister of State for Defence to make his assurance explicit clear. Does his assurance mean that the representatives of the association/organisation of the fishermen observing the hunger strike will be called to the negotiating table. There is a recognised organisation but the Government is not ready to talk to them. Is it either because they are small fishermen or because the Minister would like to talk to the owners of the foreign travelers only. A clarification should be given in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Sir, hon. Vajpayeeji knows that I am not that competent to give assurance on behalf of some other Minister and I will certainly communicate the sentiments expressed by Vajpayeeji and other Members to the Minister concerned. So much so that whatever approach he will take, he will take.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are not satisfied with this reply and are, thus, walking out of the House in protest.

[English]

12.35 hrs.

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and some other Hon. Members left the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are also not satisfied with the reply given by the hon. Minister. We are walking out

12.35½ hrs.

(At the stage, Shri P.G. Narayanan and some other hon. Members left the House.)

[Translation]

SHRI HARI KAWAL PRASAD (Salempur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a very serious issue. A resident of a village under police station Bhimpura of my Lok Sabha constituency. Shri Atal Bihari Mishra, alongwith his younger brother Shri Gyan Prakash Mishra who is a student of Benaras Hindu University, was on his way to his village on 8th of the month. As there is no transport facility available during night for a traveller who disembarks at Kirihapur railway station, the two brothers proceeded ahead towards their village on foot at 11 O'clock in the night. When they reached near the village Primary school, they were confronted by the policemen of Bhimpura police station who enquired from them as to where were they going at night. Mishra brothers replied that they were going to their village with a letter of Shri Babban Yadav, a contestant for the post of village Pradhan in their village. At this, the policemen caught Atal Bihari Mishra whereas his younger brother managed to run away to his home. The police raided and ransacked his house and tortured Atal Bihari Mishra at Bhimpura police station ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is a matter pertaining to the State. Who is to answer it on the floor of this House?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please do not take it down.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia). Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue raised by Shri Hari Kewal Prasad is of immense significance. This boy lived in a village which is one and a half kilometers away from my village. He had been a topper right from High School to B.A. and was a student of M.A. It is said that somebody had hurled a bomb at the S.H.O. The police had run amuck searching for the culprits. The poor fellow alongwith his brother were going to their home on foot after boarding down at the station. Their house is located near my village. The policemen stopped them and asked whether they had hurled the bomb. On hearing the word 'bomb', the elder brother ran away and the police caught this boy who was affiliated to the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh and the B.J.P. There would be no other example in the History, I suppose, parallel to the way the boy was caught, tortured, beaten and murdered in the most pitiable, barbaric and inhuman manner.

Sir, I have recently visited that village. That boy belonged to my neighbouring village. I am acquainted with his family. I met his family members. His father is lecturer in an Intermediate college. That family is not

even remotely concerned with any violence or manufacture of bombs etc. I know him and his family well. That boy was brutally murdered and no action followed for ensuing ten days. The Government did not file any report of murder even after the students of Benaras University launched an agitation in Benaras. I came to know about it after many days because it was a matter related to a village one and a half kilometers away from my village. I wrote to the police and district administration people to conduct an inquiry into it but nothing was done. Coincidentally, I had been to Devaria and the police filed a report of the matter the day I visited my village. A forged case was prepared against the family of the boy on the basis of false accusations.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I know that it is a matter related to the State Government but it is a question of human rights as well. It will not be in the fitness of things that such incidents should take place and avoided for reasons of party politics. What can be more gruesome than that? I don't find words to condemn this act, though I do not want to use hard and sharp language coming upto my lips. As I have said it through media, I would, through you, like to urge upon the Government of Uttar Pradesh to conduct a probe into it. We are not satisfied with the present investigation.

To my mind an inquiry should definitely be conducted into this incident if the Human Rights Commission has some meaning in its existence, because the people who knew that boy and the whole Banaras Hindu University have expressed their fierce reaction to it. I am myself unable to forget it since I saw his family members wailing and lamenting his death. After killing him, the police arrested all his family members so as to prevent them from supplication for justice. Even the boys dead body was not handed over to his family members. Nobody's voice was heard.. *(Interruptions)* Mere crying shame will not do

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I understand that it is such an issue on which the Government of India should try to take stringent measures. I am not asking you to issue directions to the Government of Uttar Pradesh. I only want you to ask them to conduct an inquiry into this incident

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Atal ji has last week said what Hari Kewal Prasad ji and Chandra Shekar ji stated today. He had demanded that the Central Government should at least collect all the facts of the incident and put them forth before the House. Chandra Shekhar ji has repeated the other demand made by Atal ji that after collecting all the facts, the Central Government should, on its own initiative hand the matter over to the Human Rights Commission for its inquiry and place its findings before the House. There is some difficulty in it. Hon'ble Atal ji has come. He had raised this issue last week only. We don't want to make any comments on the Government of Uttar

* Not recorded.

Pradesh because this incident in itself in the greatest comment on its abominable deed. Hon. Atal Ji had demanded that the House should be informed about all its facts.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it seems from what Hari Kewal Prasad Ji and Chandra Shekhar Ji narrated before the House that it is a very serious issue. We have been supporting the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The increasing police barbarism and the shape this incident is taking are not new to Uttar Pradesh. Last year, the police shot dead two Dalit youth- Bittu and Rishpal in Sher gail for their fault of guarding the statue of Baba Saheb Ambedkar which was later installed by the same Government. The women are paraded naked there. It is a very serious incident if there is truth in it. The House should positively be informed about it. It is not a matter related to the state but to the Human Rights. No Government has the right to deprive innocent people of their right to life.

[English]

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to bring to the notice of this House and through you, Sir, to the Government of a serious development.

Sir, even after the Joint Parliamentary Committee Report on the securities scam and the Action Taken Report, serious inadequacies in the matter of RBI supervision of funds loan have come to light. I have with me, in fact a report, which has over 5,000 entries in it, which shows that nearly a sum of Rs.30,000 crore, a little more than Rs.30,000 crore, has been identified as 'bad debts' and the defaulters have been clearly named. The RBI issued a Circular to the banks and to the financial institutions saying that these individuals, firms and institutions should not be given any further loan...(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SHINGH (Chittorgarh) : Please give some illustrative names. (Interruptions)

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): In fact, among them, there are those who are identified also as part of the scam brokers. About 82 of them are actually brokers who are involved in the scam. Big names are involved. I do not want to drop names of the people who are not here. But what really matters is that, after that RBI gives instruction saying, 'Do not give loans,' another Rs.45,000 crores has been loaned to the same party by the banks and financial institutions and when it comes to a matter of recovery...(Interruptions). The list is there. If you want I will place it on the Table. I will certify it. What is the most important point which is relevant is that, after that the RBI once again stops stocktaking saying that, 'Recover the loan'. Now they have started a system of saying that, 'We will now take. Suppose, Rs.5,000 crore is loaned and the defaulted amount is Rs.5,000 crore,

they pay Rs. 100 crore and then say they are no longer defaulters because they have paid back a small amount of money. Now they are using back-door techniques. A cover up job is there. I think it is necessary for the Government to come out with a statement. After all what was originally the RBI's Supervision Department has now been reduced to a 'offside' Department. In other words, the RBI now will not go into the bank of sit and supervise the accounts directly of all the financial institutions. Now they will accept the Auditor's Reports and the Independent Chartered Accountants, if they claim and unless they suspect in specific cases, they will not go. so actually inspection and supervision is weakening and this goes directly against the ATR which was given to us in this House. I would like the Government to take serious note of this because this is an amount of Rs.75,000 crore.

When I talk of food subsidy in a couple of Rs.1000 crore, they say there is no money. But when it comes to loaning money to these huge people with lots of money in their hands, then they have no hesitation. I would like the Government definitely to respond on this matter.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : I have got that list. Let me submit.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You are right. My request is if you are allowed, I think, other Members would also like to participate. Then it becomes a general discussion and there are also important issues to be raised by other Members and they will not be given a chance to speak.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I am just drawing your attention to the mode of operation. One company - Dallwade and Others, one individual - takes a loan and does not pay. Then another individual of the same organization takes loan in advance in his favour and he again defaults. Then another individual takes the loan, he also defaults. This is how the default list keeps increasing. For each company, there are about 10-15 or sometimes four or five persons listed there. This is a total failure of the Department of Supervision, a newly created one of the RBI. I have drawn attention earlier also. If some Rs.70,000 crore of default is there and that is collected, the budgetary provisions of two years of some Rs.13,000 crore and Rs. 850 crore this year for capital adequacy would not have been required at all. Therefore, the Budget deficit and fiscal deficit would have come down. This is the kind of thing with the non-supervision and I suspect collusion is leading the economy into...

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have given again. I understand that it has been refused on the ground that a question very nearly to it is pending and is likely to come up. I request you, if possible, to bring it to the notice of the Speaker because this is important enough for us to have Calling Attention to clear the air, at least.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yesterday also, some important subjects were about to be reached but they were denied of the opportunity, because earlier speakers, in spite of repeated request, have not taken the request seriously to their gracious hearts. We have just hardly got some 10 minutes at our disposal. Be gracious. Speak very less. Names are before me. I will call one by one. I do not deviate at all. Wherever I deviate it, I write and apologise under extraordinary circumstance.

DR N. MURUGESAN (Karur) : It is with immense pleasure that I would like to inform this august House that Dr. Shivaji Ganeshan, a veteran national artiste and a former Member of Parliament was recently honoured by the French Government with the conferment of the prestigious 'Chavallier' Award. The international community has recognised his outstanding contribution to the field of Cinema. At a time when France is celebrating the Centenary of Cinema, it has chosen to honour Dr Shivaji Ganeshan, who was honoured as early as in 1962 in Cairo by the then President of Egypt, Nasser, as the Lion of Asia. That was immediately after his performing the lead role in *Veerapandia Kattabomman*, and *Kappalotia Thamizhan*, the movies that depicted the great Tamil freedom fighters, who stood against the Britishers in India.

On 22nd April, 1995, 'Shivaji' who got the title after the great Maratha King, was conferred the title "Chavallier", in a grand function held in Madras. Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Prudhvi Thalavil, presided over the function and his Excellency the Ambassador of France conferred the prestigious honour from France, the world capital of art and culture

From *Prasakthi* to *Pasumpon* Dr. Shivaji Ganeshan has acted in about 200 films and his character depiction in every movie used to be a distinct improvisation over the other. His is a household name in Tamil Nadu and a role model to many great Indian cine artistes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is the problem? What is your suggestion? You just state it in four or five lines.

DR. N. MURUGESAN : I am pained to point out here that the Government of India has yet to give him due recognition. Our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has made an appeal that the great veteran actor should be honoured with the Dada Saheb Phalke Award. I want this august House to congratulate the Dr. Shivaji Ganeshan, the eminent artiste par excellence paying rich tributes in a fitting manner.

(interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER . It does not go on record. Now Shri Balraj Passi.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAJ PASSI (Nainital) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir Tarai and 'Bhabhar' are facing acute problem of

drinking water and irrigation water. Jamrani Dam Project has been pending with the Central Government for years together and crores of rupees have been spent on it and several canals and over bridges have been constructed, the work on the Jamrani Dam project still remains incomplete. In order to tide over this crisis it is essential that the said project is completed. It is being said that the construction work has been suspended for environmental reasons. The Forest Department has objected to it. Though the tract of land equal to that which is covered under this project has already been provided in Hardoi. Even then the construction work has been suspended.

I submit that the work of Jamrani Dam Project should immediately be resumed so that people of Haldwani, Terai and Bhabhar are provided water for drinking and irrigation purposes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Ramashray Prasad Singh ji, please be brief and to the point.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the criminalisation of politics. In the recently-concluded Assembly elections in Bihar the services of criminals were openly utilised. This election has seen the use of arms and criminals I have never been a witness to such a chaotic system before. In this context I have to mention here that in Ghoshi Legislative Assembly Constituency incidences of violence and booth-capturing took place at 246 Polling Stations, but the administration and constitutional machinery remained mute spectator to that. Shri Jai Prakash Yadav, the State-level leader of our party had been sent to this area as an observer but the Congress supported hooligans ... (Interruptions) Shot him dead.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please, conclude. Let him also speak.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : I am concluding. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to say that though a case was filed against the killers of Shri Jai Prakash Yadav but those criminals are yet to be arrested. Through you, I demand from the Government to get the case investigated by the CBI so as the put a check on such crimes

SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI (Gazipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government that the people of adivasi areas, of Madhya Pradesh especially, Bastar, are demanding that the rights provided in the Sixth Schedule should be provided to those adivasis also as is has been done in other states thereby protecting their rights... (Interruptions)

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH (Buxar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Central Government have decided to construct embankment from Buxar to Koyatabar. There are only two months for the rains to come. I am distressed to say that the construction work of dam is yet to be completed. The dam at Saiya, Marchalya gave

* Not recorded.

way in the last year's heavy floods and 120 villages of Shahpur were badly affected by the flooded Ganga. Its work is still incomplete. Though, the Bihar Government has given an assurance to repair the said dam in Salya, Marchaiya, yet the dam which caved in Aara side is yet to be completed. I would like to demand from the Central Government to get the construction work of this dam completed by providing funds...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is not going on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You should try to cooperate. I have been repeatedly telling this point.

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the Directive Principles of State Policy provided in Article 48 of the constitution regarding steps which should be taken for protecting cows. The donation given to Cow-Byres should be exempted from income-tax. The Cow-Byres should be completely exempted from income-tax, but the export tax to be charged on the export of leather goods should continue to be imposed, because mostly calf leather is exported which is made out of killing young calf. The cows make the spine of our economy and withdrawing excise-tax would encourage killing of cow. Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to take immediate steps for the protection of cows...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is not going on record Mr. Hannan Molliah, I will send this list of names to you. If there are any deviations, you can pinpoint.

[Translation]

SHRI SAIFFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa) : Mr. Deputy Sepaker, Sir, I want to raise a question regarding interests of the labourers. The Uttar Pradesh Government has issued a notice, regarding those houses which had been constructed with central assistance for labourers in the decade of 1950-1960, that the labourers are to buy those houses at market rates. If they do not buy these houses then these will be sold to rich people. It is causing a lot of resentment among poor people. It will render labourers homeless. I would like to submit that the Central Government should hold talks with the Uttar Pradesh Government and ensure that injustice is not meted out to the labourers.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : I thank your very much for giving me an opportunity to speak. The hon. Minister is also here.

* Not recorded.

Bizarre things are happening at the Calcutta Airport. Sometime back the National Anthem was sung in a wrong manner and nobody was penalised.

Only day before yesterday, there was a report that a cat has bitten a passenger and some Rs. 10 lakh of damages have to be paid. However, I am on a different point and that is about Ex-Servicemen to which a touching reference was made by the hon. Prime Minister. A sum of Rs. 12,000 was given to the widows for remarriage. However, these Ex-Servicemen who are employed as contract labourers in the Airport are getting only Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 per month. I have drawn the attention of the hon. Minister without being successful in getting a sympathetic consideration. They are also being dismissed. Four security guards who were on contract labour were dismissed and were not reabsorbed. Now, new permanent recruitment is taking place bypassing these contract labourers. This is despite the fact that there is a Contract Labour act under which minimum wages are to be paid. These Ex-Servicemen are not getting even the minimum wages paid by the State Governments which other contractor's labourers are getting.

I am drawing attention to this, so that an early redressal is there.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Sir, due to inaction of BIFR, non-cooperation of Banks and Financial Institutions and indiscriminate looting by unscrupulous promoter, one of the most modern cotton mills in my constituency, called Bauria Cotton Mill, has been closed down recently under the cover of suspension of work.

The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction after several sittings approved one scheme to be implemented within one month. But the promoter failed to bring adequate fund. The Allahabad Bank, failed to provide money on the flimsy plea that other Banks like the City Bank, Grindlays Bank, Indian Overseas Bank have not given their shares. The Industrial Development Bank of India did not participate on the plea that Banks are not giving money. The workers suffered the most. Many were retrenched and only 2100 workers were to be taken as per the scheme. However, most of them were not taken and finally the mill was closed.

I have written to the BIFR, hon. Minister of Finance, hon. Minister of Labour and hon. Minister of Textiles. So far no action has been taken.

I would urge upon the Government to intervene and see that the mill is reopened in the interest of thousands of workers.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : When I called the name of Shri Rampal Singh, he was not present. Now, he is requesting for a chance to speak. His name figures at serial number three in the list. I think, I can call his name and his will be the last name. Now, Shri Rampal Singh to speak.

(Interruption)

13.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH (Domariaganj) : The districte Sidharthnagar of my constituency is facing an acute crisis of drinking water. This area is adjacent to Nepal border. The wells have dried in this area and the construction work of Sarayu canal, which has been going on for 15 years, is without water even though the land has been acquired. There is drinking water problem both for humans and animals as well I, therefore, demand of the Central Government to expedite the completion work of Sarayu canal to enable the local people to have drinking water.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER . Now papers to be laid on the Table.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

13.01 hrs.

Review on the working of and Annual Report of British India Corporation Ltd., Kanpur for 1993-94 and Andited Accounts and comments of the comptroller and Auditor General thereon etc.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI HARJIBHAI PATEL) : Sir, on behalf of Shri G. Venkat Swamy, I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the British India Corporation Limited, Kanpur, for the year 1993-94.

(ii) Annual Report of the British India Corporation Limited Kanpur, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor general thereon.

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Jute Manufactures Corporation Limited Calcutta, for the year 1992-93

[Placed in Library See No LT 7489/95]

(ii) Annual Report of the National Jute Manufactures Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1992-93, alongwith audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Two Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the cotton Textiles Export promotion Council, Bomaby, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council. Bombay, for the year 1993-94.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No LT 7491/95]

[English]

Consolidation Annual Accounts of the Employees Provident Fund organisation, New Delhi for 1993-94

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) Sir, on behalf of Shri P.A Sangma. I beg to lay on the Table :

A copy of the Consolidated Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' Provident Fund Oganisation, New Delhi, for the Year 1993-94 of section 5A of the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act. 1'952.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7492/95]

Annual Report, Annual Accounts and Review on the working of Marine Products Export Development Authority, Kochi for 1993-94 and statement for delay in laying these papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : I beg to lay on the Table

(1) (i) A copy of the annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Marine Products Export Development Authroity. Kochi, for the year 1993-94.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Marine Products Exports Development Authority, Kochi, for the year 1993-94, together with Audit Report thereon

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the Marine Products Export Development (Authority, Kochi, for the year 1993-94.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7493/95]

Notifications Under Customs Act, 1962 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs act, 1962 :

- (i) G.S.R. 11 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 208-81-Cus. dated the 22nd September, 1981.
- (ii) G.S.R. 30 (E) Published in Gazette of India dated the 16th January, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 73/94-Cus. dated the 1st March 1994.
- (iii) G.S.R.85 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd February, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in certain notifications mentioned therein.
- (iv) G.S.R. 110 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th March, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to goods specified in the notification when imported into India from the Union of Myanmar from so much of that portion of the duty of customs leviable thereon as is in excess of 5 per cent *ad valorem* subject to certain conditions.
- (v) G.S.R. 318 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in certain notifications mentioned therein.
- (vi) The Imported Goods (Conditions of Transshipment) Amendment regulations, 1994 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 884 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th December, 1994, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (vii) S.O. 203 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th March, 1995 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.
- (viii) S.O. 204 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th March, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding

revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency of *vice versa* for purposes of assessment of imports.

- (ix) S.O. 277 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th March, 1995 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.
- (x) S.O. 278 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th March, 1995 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.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7494/95]

(2) 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, 1994:

- (i) G.S.R. (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt from excise duty to specified goods procured by 100 per cent Export Oriented Undertakings. Units in Electronics Hardware Technology Park or Software Technology Parks scheme from units in Domestic Tariff Area subject to certain conditions.
- (ii) G.S.R. 9 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe rate of duty applicable to DTA sales and extent to which DTA sale is permissible for units in 100 per cent EOUs, EPZ, Electronic Hardware Technology Park Units or software Technology Parks units.
- (iii) G.S.R. 10 (e) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding four notifications mentioned therein.
- (iv) G.S.R. 86 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd February, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification N. 212/87-CE dated the 11th September, 1987.
- (v) G.S.R. 87 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to fully exempt

specified goods from basic and additional duties of excise leviable under additional duties of excise procured by an aquaculture farm registered as a 100 percent EOU from the units in Domestic Tariff area, subject to certain conditions

- (vi) The Central Excise (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 1995 published in notification No G S R 280(e) in Gazette of India dated the 20th March, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum
- (vii) G S R 35 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th April 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No 32/94 CE dated the 4th July 1994
- (viii) The Central Excise (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 1995 published in Notification No G S R 335 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th April 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum

[Placed in Library See No LT 7495/95]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income Tax Act 1961

- (i) S O 444 published in Gazette of India dated the 18th February 1995 regarding exemption to The Child Relief and You (CRY) Bombay under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax act 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1994-95 to 1996-97 subject to certain conditions
- (ii) S O 445 published in Gazette of India dated the 18th February 1995 regarding exemption to The National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions
- (iii) S O 446 published in Gazette of India dated the 18th February 1995 regarding exemption to The Indian Silk Export Promotion Council Bombay under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions
- (iv) S O 447 published in Gazette of India dated the 18th February 1995 regarding exemption to 'The Tribune Trust, Chandigarh' under section 10(23C) of the

Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-94 to 1994-95 subject to certain conditions

- (v) S O 448 published in Gazette of India dated the 18th February 1995 regarding exemption to 'The Hamdard Dawakhana (Wakf), Delhi, under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions
- (vi) S O 449 published in Gazette of India dated the 18th February, 1995 regarding exemption to 'The Hamdard Dawakhana (Wakf) Delhi under section 10(23c) of the Income-tax act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1993-94 to 1994-95 subject to certain conditions
- (vii) S O 450 published in Gazette of India dated the 18th February 1995 regarding exemption to 'The Arya Vaidyasala Kottakkal Kerala, under section 10(23C) of Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions
- (viii) S O 451 published in Gazette of India dated the 18th February 1995 regarding exemption to 'The Arya Vaidyasala Kottakkal, Kerala' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-94 and 1994-95 subject to certain conditions
- (ix) S O 452 published in Gazette of India dated the 18th February 1995 regarding exemption to 'The Centre for Research in Rural & Industrial Development Chandigarh under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1994-95 subject to certain conditions
- (x) S O 453 published in Gazette of India dated the 18th February, 1995 regarding exemption to 'The Delhi Society for the Welfare of Mentally Retarded Children New Delhi' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-94 and 1994-95 subject to certain conditions
- (xi) S O 454 published in Gazette of India dated the 18th February, 1995 regarding exemption of 'The Nai Talim Samithi Savagram, Wardha (Maharashtra)' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 194-95 and 1995-96 subject to certain conditions

- (xvi) S.O.455 published in Gazette of India dated the 18th February, 1995 regarding exemption to 'The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, New Delhi' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions.
- (xvii) S.O. 456 published in Gazette of India dated the 18th February, 1995 regarding exemption to 'The Jnana Prabodhini Sansodhan Sanstha, Pune' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1994-95 subject to certain conditions.
- (xviii) S.O. 457 published in Gazette of India dated the 18th February, 1995 regarding exemption to 'The Mysore Resettlement and Development Agency, Bangalore' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 subject to certain conditions.
- (xix) S.O. 458 published in Gazette of India dated the 18th February, 1995 regarding exemption to 'The Oil Coordination Committee, New Delhi' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-94 to 1994-95 subject to certain conditions.
- (xx) S.O. 459 published in Gazette of India dated the 18th February, 1995 regarding exemption to 'The Maratha Mandir, Bombay' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxi) S.O. 460 published in Gazette of India dated the 18th February, 1995 regarding exemption to 'The Amalgamated Tamil Nadu Shares of Post-War Services Reconstruction Fund and Special Fund for Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Ex-serviceman Fund, Madras' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-94 to 1994-95 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxii) S.O. 461 published in Gazette of India dated the 18th February, 1995 regarding exemption to 'The Tata Agricultural and Rural Training Centre for the Blind, Bombay' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-94 to 1994-95 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxiii) S.O. 462 published in Gazette of India dated the 18th February, 1995 regarding exemption to 'The Haryana State Council for Child Welfare, Chandigarh' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1991-1992 to 1993-94 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxiv) S.O. 463 published in Gazette of India dated the 18th February, 1995 regarding exemption to 'The Vivekananda Nidhi, Calcutta' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-94 to 1994-95 subject to certain conditions.

[Placed in Library. See No. 7496/95]

Annual Report of Institute of Hotel Management Catering and Nutrition, New Delhi for 1993-94 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM) (SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (a) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. Lt 7497/95]

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bombay, for the Year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. Lt 7498/95]

- (iii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English version) of the Institute of Hotel Management, catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Madras, for the Year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7499/95]

- (iv) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Goa, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7500/95]

- (v) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Calcutta for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No Lt 7501/95]

- (vi) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bangalore, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.
[Placed In Library. See No. LT 7502/95]
- (vii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Lucknow, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.
[Placed In Library. See No. LT 7503/95]
- (viii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Hyderabad, for the Year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts
[Placed In Library. See No. LT 7504/95]
- (ix) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Ahmedabad, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Account/
[Placed In Library. See No. LT 7505/95]
- (x) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bhubaneswar for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.
[Placed In Library. See No. LT 7506/95]
- (xi) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Jaipur, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.
[Placed In Library. See No LT 7507/95]
- (xii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bhopal, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts.
[Placed In Library. See No. Lt 7508/95]
- (xiii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, and Catering Technology, Gwalior, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7509/95]
- (xiv) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, and Catering Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7510/95]
- (xv) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Chandigarh, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.
[Placed In Library. See No. LT 7511/95]
- (xvi) A copy of the Annual report (Hindi and English versions) of the Food Craft Institute, Udaipur, for the year 1993-94, alongwith audited Accounts.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7512/95]
- (xvii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Food Craft Institute, Faridabad, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.
[Placed In Library. See No. LT 7513/95]
- (xviii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Food Craft Institute, Darjeeling, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accouts.
[Placed in Library See No. LT 7514/95]
- (xix) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Food Craft Institute, Gangtok, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.
[Placed in Library See No LT 7515/95]
- (xx) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pondicherry Institute of Hospitality Crafts, Pondicherry, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.
[Placed in Library. See No. 7516/95]
- (xxi) A copy of the annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7517/95]
- (b) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institutes of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition at New Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Goa, Calcutta, Bangalore, Lucknow, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Jaipur, Bhopal, Gwalior, Thiruvananthapuram, Chandigarh and Food Craft Institutes at Udaipur, Faridabad, Darjeeling, Gangtok and Pondicherry and National Council of Hotel Management and Catering Technology, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7518/95]

13.02 hra.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND WELFARE

**Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth
Reports and Minutes**

[English]

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS (Mysore) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare and the Minutes of the Sitzings of the Committee relating thereto :

- (1) Ninth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendation contained in the Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on 'Demands for Grants (1994-95)' of the Ministry of Welfare.
- (2) Tenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on 'Demands for Grants (1994-95)' of the Ministry of Labour.
- (3) Eleventh Report on demands for Grants (1995-96) of the Ministry of Labour.
- (4) Twelfth Report on Demands for Grants (1995-96) of the Ministry of Welfare.

13.03 hra.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to release water to Madhya Pradesh under Lower Jonk Project.**

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN DIWAN (Mahaaamund) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Lower Jonk Project had been set up with the World Bank aid to provide irrigation facility to Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. As per agreement Madhya Pradesh and Orissa were to get irrigation facility. Orissa has started getting its share of water but Madhya Pradesh is yet to receive it which is causing an adverse impact on the backward areas of for want of irrigation facilities.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to immediately provide irrigation facility to Madhya Pradesh under the said irrigation project.

- (ii) **Need to set up agriculture based industry/ heavy industry in Balaghat area in Madhya Pradesh.**

SHRI VISHWESHWAR BHAGAT (Balaghat) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my constituency, Balaghat, which is an adivasi-dominated area, is very backward from industry point of view. Proper attention has not been given to the industrialisation of this area making people to migrate to other states in search of employment. There is not a single heavy industry in this area.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to immediately set up agro-based industries and one heavy industry in the interest of the people for the development of this backward area.

- (iii) **Need to Open More Post Offices in Bulandshahr District in Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI CHATRAPAL SINGH (Bulandshahr) : Sir, there are only a few post offices in my Parliamentary constituency Bulandshahr district. There is no post office even in the villages having a population of 400, as a result of which timely delivery of 'dak' is adversely affected. Letters do not reach the addresses even after 15-20 days, as a result of which many unemployed youth are deprived of jobs. The criterion of the Government for opening post offices is that there should be a post office after every 3 kms. distance. However, this criterion has not been followed in my Parliamentary constituency. In this connection I would like to point out one thing more that the persons entrusted with running post offices in villages often tamper with the saving accounts and therefore, the choice of people has shifted from post offices to Banks. The irregularities being committed in post offices should be examined.

Therefore, the Central Government is requested to open at least 100 new post offices in my Constituency without delay in order to provide relief to the people.

- (iv) **Need to Declare Sasaram-Chausa-Azamgarh Road as National Highway**

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Bikramganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House to this very important issue under Rule 377.

There is a very important road in Bihar State which links Sasaram, the district headquarters of Rohtas district Ballia and Azamgarh via Konar, Kargaha, Kochal, Chausa, Buxar. This road links four districts and three historical towns viz. Sasaram, Buxar and Wazirpur. All heavy vehicles like buses and trucks coming from Calcutta pass through this road on their way to Uttar Pradesh. This road has its own importance from commercial and industrial point of view. The condition of this single lane road is very pitiable. Very often trucks, buses and light four wheelers vehicles meet with serious accidents on this crowded road. The number of casualties on this road is very large.

Therefore, the Central Government is requested to declare this road as a national highway and provide funds for this work in this financial year itself in order to provide relief to the people.

(v) Need to Ensure That The Proposed Development Council Being Set up in Western Orissa Focus on Equitable Economic Development of The Area

[English]

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK (Bolangir) : Sir, we congratulate the hon. Prime Minister for his directives to the Government of Orissa to set up a Development Council for expeditious development in Western part of Orissa. This will, no doubt, usher a new era of prosperity, a hope for the suffering masses and downtrodden people of Orissa. The proposed Development Council should focus on equitable economic development and equal distribution of resources and all-round development of the underdeveloped areas.

(vi) Need to Start Vayudoot Service from Dehradun, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Vayudoot service to Dehradun was discontinued about one and a half year back as a result of which not only the people of this area are facing difficulties but it is causing a great loss to the tourism also.

There are a large number of big Government establishments and tourist spots in Dehradun and Mussoorie. There are very famous tourist spots like Badrinath, Gangotri, Jammunotri, Hem Kund Sahed and Valley of Flowers etc in that region and a large number of tourists including foreign tourists come to visit these places.

In the absence of air service, the tourists inflow is decreasing and heavy loss is being caused to tourism. The officers of Dehradun and Mussoorie who are entitled to use air service first reach Delhi by private taxis and cars in which a huge quantity of petrol is consumed. The Uttar Pradesh Government had also made an attempt to start air service between Delhi and Dehradun but could not succeed.

I, therefore, strongly request the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism to immediately start air service between Delhi and Dehradun so that tourism may not suffer and local people may also get this facility.

(vii) Need To Start Development Work at Vijayawada Airport, Andhra Pradesh

[English]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARE RAO VADDE (Vijayawada) : Sir, Vijayawada is a very important place, next to Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh. It has an airport

established long back. With a view to strengthen and expand the run-way and improve other infrastructural facilities, an estimate has already been prepared. This will enable operation of Boeing aircraft at Vijayawada airport. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has agreed to provide Rs. 8 crore as interest-free loan to the National Airport Authority of India for development of vijayawada airport. The State Government has already allocated Rs. 4 crore this year to National Airport Authority of India.

I urge upon the Ministry of Civil Aviation to take immediate steps to start the work of development of Vijayawada airport, particularly strengthening and expansion of the run-way.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.15 p.m.

13.11 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fifteen Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

14.15 hrs.

(As 1415 hours quorum bell was rung. No quorum was made. At 1418 hours quorum bell was rung again and no quorum was made. At 1421 hours once again quorum bell was rung and no quorum was made. Thereafter the Secretary-General made the following announcement.)

14.27 hrs.

Announcement re: Postponement of the sitting of the House upto 14.45 hrs for want of quorum.

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : There is no quorum the House, therefore, cannot meet, and we may not start the House till there is quorum. Hon. Deputy-Speaker has directed that the House should re-assemble at forty-five past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.27½ hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Forty Five Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.48 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Forty-Eight Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair]

GENERAL BUDGET 1995-96 - DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

Ministry of Defence — Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Before we take up Item No. 10 in today's Order paper, I have to inform the House that a list indicating the serial numbers of cut motions moved by the hon. Members yesterday has been put up on the Notice Board. Hon. Members who were present in the House and who could not move their cut motions yesterday may move their cut motions by sending slip at the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial number of cut motions they would like to move. Those cut motions only will be treated as moved.

A second list showing the serial numbers of cut motions treated as moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly. In case, any Member and any discrepancy in the list, he may kindly bring it to the notice of the officer at the Table immediately.

The time allotted for this subject is eight hours. Congress - 3 hours 45 minutes, BJP 1 hour 43 minutes, CPI(M) 32 minutes, Janata Dal 20 minutes.

Now Shri Jaswant Singh

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I must say that this discussion is starting on a note that does not cheer me. In the last five years the Demands for Grants for Defence have been taken up only twice. After a gap we finally got an opportunity here to consider Defence. It was slated for yesterday. I need to say all this to take it out of my system. Defence, having been nudged out because of other parliamentary business - I shall not comment on that other parliamentary business - today, we are unable to commence the discussion at the appointed time. While I was sitting here and reflecting on it, I wondered why it is that we did not either take up Defence, or were unable to commence Defence discussion on time. It is because in Defence there are no votes, or consideration of matters relating to Defence directly does not influence anybody's vote? If that be the attitude that we bring to bear on as vital a subject of national survival, not just simply national good, as Defence, and then if we treat as casually as we are treating Defence, then please permit me to say that this lack of concern is bordering on irresponsibility.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum) : It is only Friday's mood.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I do not think I am reaching the hon. Members if they are still talking about Friday moods. If we do not demonstrate, if we do not display the required commitment to this national cause, if we in Parliament do not provide the leadership, then I do ask of all of us here, how do we expect our Armed Force to actually lay down their lives, to die? Here we are unable to give up our Friday ease. I find it necessary to

say all this. I am not singling out any other person than the Minister for Defence. I do believe that after a gap of time - with due respect to his seniority, his years, his status, the fact that he is the Leader of the House, I give due regard to all that; but having done all that I do charge that - If the Leader of the House, the Minister of Defence, finds it inconvenient to be present in the House, the Minister of Defence, finds it inconvenient to be present in the House when the Demands for grants of the Ministry of Defence are to be taken up, then we will have such neglect and we will continue to have it. Then will not as Members of Parliament, be subserving the purpose which we are required to subserve, which is to provide guidance and leadership and direction to the executive.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT (Rajapur) : At the current moment the Prime Minister is attending the Chief Ministers' Conference on TADA.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : This is really begging the question. If it is Chief Ministers' Conference, why are discussing this? Tell us that Defence is not on your priority. However, of what good my saying all this? If I were to point out to my good friend, the hon. member from Maharashtra, Shri Sudhir Sawant that this Conference is actually over, it will be too small a point it will be belittling the issue. I do not wish to score small debating points on this particularly.

Let me proceed. I wish to make a submission to you, Sir. This discussion on Ministry of Defence has been very badly fractured. We have been inserted, as a matter of convenience or inconvenience, between a fixed time limit of Private Members' Business. This is Friday afternoon. We are unable even to put across our view point in the time available. We will be fractured again. Please tell us, are we to continue at 5 o'clock or are we to continue on Monday because accordingly I will tailor my submission or intervention that I have to make.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can continue.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I want to know whether the debate will continue hereafter because at 3.30 p.m. the House will have to give up all its business to take up Private Members' Business. Are we thereafter going to continue at 5 o'clock or are we going to continue on Monday? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI A. CHARLES : 35 minutes are still left and the whole time allotted to BJP is 40 or 45 minutes.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No. It is on hour.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, when we take up Defence Demands for Grants, I tell myself that this subject is coming up after a gap of time; therefore, it merits an approach and it merits my applying myself to what our continuing worries are and what are some of the additional worries. What we are engaged in currently when we are examining the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence is, I think, essentially an old point which gets repeated every time.

We are engaged in examining that central core of concept and policy around which the entire structure of the Defence Ministry's Demands for Grants have been created. Secondly, we are also engaged in considering the implementation of that policy or that concept. If there is not to be a policy, or if there is not any concept, then, necessarily the implementation would be faulted from the very beginning. Thirdly, thereafter only, we are considering the wherewithals, of this Defence of the country, of its implementation. And the wherewithals actually are the Demands for Grants. Still we are in essence discussing national security.

I will revert in a moment to what national security is all about. But even as we do so, I am persuaded to think that this examination of the Ministry of Defence is an examination, to my mind, of seven critical deficiencies in the Ministry, and the consequences of these seven critical deficiencies. I do believe and hold that there is a deficiency of policy and concept. The first deficiency is about concepts; the second is about policy of national defence, policy for manpower and policy for equipment. The third deficiency, to my mind, is the deficiency of leadership, of morale and of direction. The fourth deficiency, which is a demonstrated empirically measured deficiency, and has been so demonstrated over the past almost six years now, is this deficiency of budgetary support to national defence. The fifth, is the deficiency of the combat and deficiency in the combat support systems of the armed forces proper. The next deficiency is about clearly and sufficiently encouraging support to research and development in defence. And finally, the seventh deficiency is the deficiency in missile and nuclear policies and their execution.

Now, if I were to elaborate on all these, I know that I will not have time. So, I have distilled out of these seven deficiencies some particular aspects. I will concentrate on them.

I will broadly and very briefly treat the question of concept and national security. I will thereafter examine defence expenditure. And in defence expenditure, I will explain what is it in essence that we are examining. Thirdly, I will address myself to defence manpower policy or absence of policy in the management of that manpower, including training and welfare.

15.00 hrs.

Then I will take up the deficiencies of the four defence support elements, defence equipment policy, missiles in national defence and the nuclear question in national defence. Thereafter I will share some views that I have, about an elaboration of the national security environment.

in considering national security which I do not have to elaborate too much we are examining much larger, protean concept, much more holistic than simple national defence. When we examine national security, we must accept that firstly, in today's world, aggression takes many forms which are not simply of military aggression. The absence of military aggression should not delude us into thinking that so far as the security of the nation is concerned, the ability or the will or the intent to cause harm to the nation is also absent. This is the common-enough difficulty and fallacy that we harbour. Often in national security, broadly I say that there are what I call the political aspects, the politicized aspects and what I treat as the 'completely apolitical aspects. Economic, industrial, internal aspects and the Ministry of Home all contribute to national security. But in each of these, there can be a political input, a political view point; and indeed that is how all nations function. But when it comes to the Ministry, of Defence and the Armed Forces and the contribution of Ministry of Defence or Armed forces to the totality of national security, then that has only one criterion of judgment, and it is 'national good'. It is not a partisan political consideration that governs the examination of our Ministry of Defence, the Armed Forces or their contribution to the totality of national security. The only yardstick to apply in examining the effectiveness of the Ministry of Defence is, 'are they able to preserve the infallibility of India's honour, India's good name and India's prestige internationally'. To reduce it simply to the guarding of a geographically finite and a defined border, to my mind, is to reduce the totality of a very noble task that the Armed Forces perform.

I am rushing the points, Sir, because I know that my time has got greatly compressed. It is here that I submit after due consideration that because there is an absence of policy, even in this apolitical aspect of national security in the Ministry of Defence, what follows out of that, is not simply avoid; I submit that what follows is not a hollow, what follows because of an absence of a policy is in fact, 'confusion'. I do not wish to cite, I do not wish to quote anything from it, I simply refer.

I had the distinction and honour of chairing the Committee on Estimates which examined defence force levels; and it is now a matter of record in that Committee's report, where the then Defence Secretary himself has clearly and unequivocally said that there was an absence of defence policy; there is an absence of sufficient discussion on that defence policy and if there is that absence of defence policy, it is a matter of that Committee's report that needs to be read; and only the first few chapters or first few pages of it will suffice. Why am I labouring on this point? It is because I submit

that unless we are clear that in the preservation of national security, there is a component of national will and in the boosting of, the creation of or the inspiring of it, lies the function of national leadership. And all this inextricably linked with nationalism and I submit four propositions, therefore, to you. And I request the hon. Members to reflect deeply on these four propositions. Firstly there be divergent concept of nationalism, there will inevitably be conflicting notions about patriotism. Secondly, as moral is to the physical, so it is 3 : 1, therefore, national morale, in consequence, will suffer and we are currently the victims of it. Thirdly, this, in turn, will result in an enfeebling of national will and if national will be weak, then with what spirit shall we meet the national challenges? There are consequences of this great lacuna. From national security, I am coming back to national defence. Please recognise that for national defence, the consequences of all this are direct and damaging. Our uniformed fraternity, the Armed forces are confused by your vacillation; they are confused by your partisanship. The turbulence that we generate politically transfers itself directly to them and this worthy fraternity, then has to bear the consequence of it, even if they do not speak of it. And much more damagingly, as I said briefly earlier, when there is a void of policies or concepts or of leadership where policy or percepts are to be, what follows is not simply adhocism but what follows is disorder, lack of direction and a lack of purpose. and when you combine disorder and lack of direction and purpose with the requirements of national defense, then you can cogitate for yourself what the consequences will be.

Now, Sir, from this, I go to Defence expenditure I told myself early that I could go into Defence expenditure at various levels of examination. I could do an arithmetical examination of defence expenditure, or I could try and share my views with this House. When we consider Defence Expenditure, about what is it that we are really addressing ourselves to? At one level, of course because that too is an important aspect - we are examining a constant downward incline of the graph of Defence expenditure. so, Defence expenditure actuals of 1988-89 became the Budget estimates in 1993-94, that is, roughly about Rs. 19,00 and odd crores. This has registered an annual average growth rate of around 8.2 per cent. At 8.2 per cent, it was lower than the inflation growth rate. Simultaneously, there was a decline in rupee value. Therefore, in totality, the Defence actuals and the gross Defence allocation have a downward incline. You can use any of these three yardsticks. The consequences will be the same. As a proportion of the Central Government expenditure, the outlay on Defence reduced, in the same period from 16.3 per cent to 13

per cent, further Defence expenditure has reduced from roughly 2.8 per cent of our GDP to around 2 per cent of our GDP now. Now, you can argue this statistically one way or another. I am not going to elaborate this point because facts stare at me. What are the consequences of this? There is one major and, to my mind, unacceptable consequence which has an adverse effect on the combat effectiveness of our armed forces.

I will elaborate this subsequently. For the present, let me state that force level have been constant. Security challenge are variable, but increasing. This decline in budgetary allocations can only affect adversely. And that too, affect adversely, firstly, combat effectiveness; secondly, modernisation; thirdly, training and fourthly, the welfare of the Armed force.

Now, having said this, it is equally important to recognise that at another level when we examine defence expenditure, we are seeking out of this defence expenditure, at least, three criteria. First is accountability of that expenditure. You have failed us on that account and you repeatedly continue to fail us. Secondly, it is the cost effectiveness of what we spend on defence. I am not convinced that what we are spending on defence is cost effective. I will elaborate this point very shortly. Thirdly, efficiency in expenditure. I charge you that you are today failing even in maintaining efficiency and I will explain, how and why. But before doing that, indeed for doing that, I find it necessary to explain briefly. In defence expenditure, firstly, we are seized of the aspect of quantum. All this time we have been of the quantum only of defence expenditure. It has a certain size. Now, this quantum is subject to two influences. One is internal influence. The economy of the country does not permit the quantum that we require. This is the objective reality of the country, as it is. So, quantum is the demand. Quantum is not a fixed demand. Quantum is not something that I can send a bearer and say, "No, this ought to be. This will have to be the quantum of the Budget." I recognise the reality. There are also external influences just as there are internal influences on quantum. You may deny it. But the evidence is on the ground the evidence is with us, here. There are external influences. The World Bank, the IMF and the entire global community are crying, "Cut down your defence, cut down your defence." That is an external influence. The ability of the Government to stand up against this external influence is a matter of your moral authority, your political authority, your ability to stand up for the country.

So, let us leave quantum aside for the moment and let us come to the quantity of defence expenditure, because quantum is something that, as I have just

pointed out, the essentiality about variables. What is quality of defence expenditure? How are we spending the quantum that we have? This is my query; this is not an audit enquiry. Is every rupee getting us the 100 paise worth? I might be wanting thousand. But I get only 500. Am I spending that 500 exactly for the 500 worth, not as an auditor, not as a Comptroller and Auditor General but in the quality of that expenditure. It is therefore, when I say this, I am talking about fundamentals; I am talking about approach and I believe and say this with great sadness that I can here consider this whole business of quality of expenditure either as expenditure by the Defence Ministry component of the Ministry of Defence or as expenditure by the Armed forces proper. All these years, we have been concentrating on expenditure by the Defence Ministry proper.

I think, it is time to apply ourselves to see that if we need accountability, if we need efficiency, if we need cost effectiveness what is happening in the fraternity of the Armed forces.

Because of this cohabitation with the insidious influence that is pervading the country, has their approach also got corroded? This is a very serious issue and if we do not address ourselves to it, we will not get the quality of expenditure, that were seeking. I say this in great sadness that our approach to expenditure in matters connected with the Ministry of Defence, is now permissive. We are witnessing repeated phenomena of laxity and casual waste and I will give specific example.

I would give one particular example, because it is topical and it explains itself from the point of view of quality of expenditure. It is really not a worthy debate and to my mind it is fruitless and it goes by various names. It goes by the name 'teeth versus tail', or it goes in the name of 'fat versus lean' and so on. I prefer to call it 'combat element in the Armed Forces versus support element of the Armed Forces'. I think the whole explanation of 'teeth versus tail' is a misnomer. It is outdated and we should have put it away five years ago. Any way, if you persist with it, that is the only reason why repeat it. In combat versus support, in any case, the example of the Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy are not really the examples to take. The example that has to be taken is the example of the Indian Army. I do not have access to the latest figures. On rough estimates, I think the Indian Army is roughly two-third combat and one-third support. I think it varies between 68 to 70 per cent — 68 per cent combat and 32 per cent support or you can round it off and say that the Indian Army has 70 per cent combat element and 30 per cent

of support element. I don't think the problem lies there. I think it is an excellent ratio. And there are very few Armed Forces in the world that have this kind of a ratio of two-thirds combat and one-third support elements. But the question really is this. In these combat versus support elements of the Army, of this 68 or 70 per cent of the combat component, I leave it for your consideration, hon. Minister of State, you have to apply yourself and see in this two-thirds, whether there is waste of manpower, whether waste of expenditure is there, whether there is misemployment of manpower, whether they are wrongly employed or ineffectively employed. I do not wish to elaborate this point and I leave it at that.

Why is this happening? I think the attitude in the Armed Forces has become flabby. It is being corroded by the cohabitation to which the Armed Forces have been subjected to. I think the purity of spirit of the Armed Forces is slowly being sullied by the corrosive consequences of the highly politicised and political civil service. A great many in the Civil Service are men of great distinction and great ability. But the present spirit of the Armed Forces is such that is very saddening to see what is happening. Sir, if we permit this to continue, a lot of things suffer. In the quality of expenditure, training suffers, housing suffers and even routine modernisation suffers.

I do not wish to give small examples. But when I had the privilege of wearing uniform, it was unheard of that an officer's wife would be able to take a car and go away where she liked to go. Today, when I travel in Delhi, when I come to work here, I see such things so often. It is a small point. But it is a distressing aspect of the laxity that seems to have come into the Armed Forces. Where has this laxity come from? When I say these things, I say it not with any great anger but I say it much more in sadness. This laxity has come because of the permissiveness of the rest in the Civil Service and in the political class. That permissiveness has crept into the Armed Forces, too.

I consider it my duty to point this out. If we do not wake up and recognise the deleterious consequences of this permissiveness, we will do ourselves a great wrong.

The next point that I would like to refer to is manpower. I recognise that we do not have a national manpower policy. I do not expect a national manpower policy, from you. I do not expect that you would be able to formulate a national manpower policy, and certainly not on the basis of the report which yet again, I had the distinction of preparing on behalf of the Estimates Committee, but really as a vital necessity, a need in this national security mix, we do not have a national manpower policy. Let me just illustrate what I am saying

when I say national security mix. Earlier, I started by saying that national security mix is a much larger mix. The Minister of Home provides BSF and CRPF and various other para military force. The Ministry of Finance provides financial support. The Ministry of Industry and other Ministries provide telecommunications and so on. The whole endeavour of the nation goes towards national security.

Let me give examples to illustrate what I mean by an absence of manpower policy in this national security mix, covering only the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Home. Firstly though for the Armed Forces. It is, by now well enough known — and I do not have to elaborate the point or even illustrate it — that we are currently afflicted with the problem of low intake particularly in the officer ranks. After the low intake in the officers rank, what distresses me even more greatly is that the preference of these newly commissioned young officers is not for the combat element of the Army, but it is for the support element! If it is not for the combat element and it is for the support element, then somewhere there is something rotten, somewhere there is a moral decline, and some where something is very wrong. And if we do not address ourselves to the root of that wrong, we are not raising a Force that will answer the challenge to the nation in the manner and fashion that it ought to and with the required spirit. This is another worrisome aspect of it.

I do not have the statistics at the moment. There was a period of my parliamentary career, when I used to try and obtain all these statistics. Now, I have given up! I do not have the statistics on the high number of statutory and non-statutory complaints in the Armed Forces. I am alarmed at that high number. I am alarmed at the high number of court cases that we are witnessing today in the Armed forces and from the Armed Forces to the civilian courts and challenges against court martial and so on. And it is not simply that, there are even challenges against promotions and that too, promotions of very senior ranks. Something is really very wrong somewhere. When I say something is very wrong, this one aspect always comes to my mind.

The second aspect as to why there is no national manpower policy in the Armed Forces is because each of the components of the national security mix adopts an isolated and independent manpower policy

Each component then adopts its own style. Each begins to do so competitively and that reduces itself to absurdities. The BSF begins to ape the uniforms of the Army and the Army does not know where to go.

Sir, I believe, this is an aside and at times I have shared it with a number of very senior officers in the Army and I had said seriously, the more colourful the

Austro-hungarian armies became, the less their fighting spirit became. These days when I see a variety of peacock hued *kamarbandhs* and all kinds of things that are being worn, I do, at time, stand still and reflect : Is all this finery being put on really to replace something which is lacking? This competitive adornment, I find it abhorrent. The greatest adornment of a soldier is simplicity. Where has simplicity gone? Why is all this happening?

Take the example of BSF. When I say it is competitive, I also say it is independent. I am illustrating my point. I am given to understand - it does not matter whether my figure is entirely accurate or not accurate - the BSF is now a 200 plus battalion organisation. 200 plus battalion! They are an integral of the national security mix. They have their own manpower policy. BSF have now got an artillery, they have got an Air wing; I am informed, they also want a Naval wing!

The CRPF has gone up from, roughly 90 to 180 battalions. It has doubled. What are we doing?

Sir, take the third example.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT : They are creating their own Army.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : This is precisely what I am saying. When there is no manpower policy related to national security; you do not have a national manpower policy. I know that this Government has not the ability for it. But at least for national security, for Heaven's sake - if not for Haven's sake but for the nation's sake - have a national policy, have a manpower policy. When you do not have it, this is what you have: Poposki's private armies are springing up everywhere; BSF is multiplying to 200 battalions, CRPF is multiplying from 90 to 180 battalions. I do not know, what we are doing?

Sir, I do wish to dwell a little on Rashtriya Rifles. But I do not think, I have time now.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Private Members Bill shall have to start at 3.30 P.M.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Then, perhaps now is the time for me to stop. I will continue on Monday.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can continue for two-three minutes more.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I was saying something about Rashtriya Rifles. Though I had no executive authority, those who had were for good enough, when the concept of Rashtriya Rifles first came up, indeed, some of the distinguished civil servants who are now present in very high office in the defence Ministry and earlier did consult me on this. I gave my view.

Sir, I have to apologise to my distinguished colleague and my senior who is currently the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Defence that I disagree with his report on the Rashtriya Rifles. This I do not say in disrespect. I say it because I genuinely disagree. The original concept of Rashtriya Rifles was altogether different. There is now, therefore, taking place a fracture between the concept and the execution. It was originally conceived that when you constitute - if I recollect right, the first phrase used for Rashtriya Rifle was 'Federal Guard'; and 'Federal Guard' was then translated to become Rashtriya Rifles. The original concept was that this element would be taken out apart and it would not be on attachment; it will be a separation. It will be a transfer of other ranks; the officers will continue; their uniforms will be different; their badges of ranks will be different; and their role will be internal security. Having formed the *Rashtriya* Rifles, the Army will, thereafter, not even be called in for internal security. That was the concept. Now, what have we done? We have fudged that concept. Simultaneously, there was an understanding that, given the fact of the continuity of the security environment, once you have taken out an element from the Army, created a *Rashtriya* Rifle, made it a separately uniformed, separately attired organisation; it will not be an attachment and it will be a transfer. Another very important point - I do not know because I have not examined it in details - is that the men that they transferred from the Army to the Rashtriya Rifles, like the BSF, would serve till the age of 58 year.

This is one of the necessary earlier thoughts about the Rashtriya Rifles. You abandoned that. You make it transferred. You milk existing units to send on transfer to Rashtriya Rifles. By milking these units you debilitate these units. And the ethos of the Rashtriya Rifles does not evolve of course, I accept that it will take some time to develop. So, a very peculiar hybrid, which is neither here nor there, comes into being. And most damagingly the Army is still continued to be called for internal security duty. There is no guarantee that the Rashtriya Rifles will suffice. I am not entering into the debate whether Rashtriya Rifles is a part of the Ministry of Defence or the Ministry of Home Affairs. That is a separate aspect of the debate altogether. Where should the Budgetary allocation of Rashtriya Rifles go to, Ministry of Home or MOD? The other corresponding requirement then was that the force level of Army, the manpower of the Army will then become a fixed point. I feel, that because we have created this hybrid, we are not going to be satisfied with this ever growing animal called Rashtriya Rifles and the Army is certainly not going to be content with its present force level and with

its present size. Every now and then they will come up with the demand that they need so many more infantry battalions or infantry divisions.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : How much more time do you want because we have to take up the next item at 15.30 hours.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I will take a minute to conclude this point. The only sentence that I wish to add is that so far as manpower is concerned, I have simply illustrated it. There are aspects of manpower like, training and welfare which still remain to be covered and those I cannot cover in the time that is available to me. Therefore, I request that I may be permitted to continue on Monday. Thank you very much.

15.31 hrs.

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI : I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced to Re. 1."

/Failure to encourage indigenous Research and Development in the Defence related technology and instead inviting multi-nationals in this field causing growing alarm for India's national interest./(1)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced to Re. 1."

/Failure to initiate effective rehabilitation programmes for ex-servicemen./(2)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced to Re. 1."

/Failure to stop practice of sending Indian troops abroad in the so-called peace-keeping operations./(3)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced to Re. 1"

/Failure to scrap Indo-US joint defence exercises eroding India's national interest./(4)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced to Re. 1."

/Failure to resist foreign pressure for scuttling India's Agni and Prithvi development programmes./(5)

[Translation]

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : I beg to move :

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced to Re. 1."

/Failure to set up National Security Council./
(6)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced to Re. 1."

/Failure to set up a proper organisation for Defence Planning instead of a Directorate only to collect and collate requirement of different services./**(7)**

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced to Re. 1."

/Failure to Plan for Joint and integrated action by more than one service./**(8)**

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced to Re. 1."

/Failure to effect sufficient economy to raise resources for modernisation of Defence forces of the country./**(9)**

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced to Re. 1."

Failure to learn the lessons of the Gulf War and apply the same./**(10)**

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced to Re. 1."

/Failure to acquire sufficient naval crafts to replace the old ones./**(11)**

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced to Re. 1."

/Failure to effect proper inventory control in the ordnance Depots thereby causing enormous waste./**(12)**

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced to Re. 1."

/Failure to organise proper training in the Defence services for both officers and men./**(13)**

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100"

/Need to replace the old weapon system in the Indian Air Force./**(14)**

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to impart proper training to the combat pilots./**(15)**

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to improve the surveillance system for all the three services./**(16)**

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to improve the communication command and control system in all the three Defence services./**(17)**

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Ra. 100."

/Need to gear up indigenous research and development of weapons and other systems./**(18)**

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to plan for electronic warfare and execute the same./**(19)**

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur) : I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced to Re. 1."

/Failure of the Government to get the complete information in regard to Bofors Gun deal from Sweden in spite of long time./**(40)**

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced to Re. 1."

/Need to alleviate the plight of ex-servicemen owing to non-implementation of one-rank pension scheme./**(63)**

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM (Inner Manipur): I beg to move :

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced to Re. 1."

/Failure to organise a line of defence of the area bordering with Myanmar and Bangladesh./**(41)**

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced to Re. 1."

/Failure to recruit more women in the Army, Navy and Air Force./**(42)**

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to strengthen the Defence line on the Eastern part of the country particularly at Moreh./**(52)**

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to keep/maintain vigilance on the North-eastern region of the country which is most vulnerable./**(53)**

SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI (Kasaragod) : I beg to move :

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced to Re. 1."

/Failure to expedite and complete the work of Naval Academy at Ezimala in Kerala even after 12 years are over./(45)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced to Re. 1."

/Failure to recruit women in the Defence Service in proportion to their population./(46)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced to Re. 1."

/Failure to produce hightech electronic weapons needed for the Defence establishments/(47)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to avoid Defence purchases from U.S.A./(50)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to avoid joint defence exercises with U.S.A. as its aim is world domination and which is against the interest of India./(51)

[Translation]

SHRI JANARDAN MISRA (Sitapur) . I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced to Re. 1."

/Failure to encourage indigenous research and development in the field of defence technology./(48)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced to Re. 1"

/Failure to make available more funds for Missile Development Programme/(49)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to chalk out effective programme to rehabilitate ex-servicemen/(54)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to make available more funds for Arjun tank research and development programme/ (55)

[English]

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY (Howrah) : I beg to move :

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced to Re. 1."

/Failure to modernise the Indian Air-Crafts fleet./(62)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : I beg to move :

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to replace the old weaponry system in Indian Armed Force./(66)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to strengthen armed forces to meet any probable danger from Pakistan/ (67)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to amend service conditions of defence personnel/ (68)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to raise compensation given to the families of departed soldiers/ (69)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to make available of adequate accommodation facilities to defence personnel/ (70)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to recruit more women in all the three wings of Defence Services/(71)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to collect complete information in regard to Bofors Gun deal/(72)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to chalk out effective programme to rehabilitate ex-servicemen/(73)

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to make available more funds for Arjun Tank Research and Development programme/ (74)

15.33 hrs.

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND
RESOLUTIONS**

Thirty-Ninth Report

[English]

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur) : I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-ninth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 3rd May, 1995."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-ninth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 3rd May, 1995."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We will now take up the Private Members' Business. Bills to be introduced.

15.34 hrs.

Electrotherapy System of Medicine (Recognition) Bill

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY (Allahabad) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the recognition of electrotherapy system of medicine and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the recognition of electrotherapy system of medicine and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SURAJ DUBEY : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.35 hrs.

**CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER
(AMENDMENT) BILL***

(Amendment of the Schedule)

[English]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Chimur) : Sir, I beg to

Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Pt-II, Section-2 dated 5.5.95.

move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : I introduce the Bill.

15.36 hrs.

**Safal Karamchari Small Scale Industries
Development Corporation on Bill****

[Translation]

SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI (Bijnor) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to establish and incorporate a Safal Karamchari's Small Scale Industries Development Corporation for the promotion of economic development of Safal Karamcharis and for matters concerned therewith or incidental thereto."

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to establish and incorporate a Safal Karamchari's Small Scale Industries Development Corporation for the promotion of economic development of Safal Karamcharis and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Sir, (introduce the Bill.

15.37 hrs.

[English]

**Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
(Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill**
(Insertion of new Section 9A)**

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK (Shahabad) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989)".

** Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Pt-II, Section-2 dated 5.5.95.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.38 hrs.

RESERVATION OF POSTS FOR SCHEDULED
CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES (IN
GOVERNMENT SERVICES) BILL - CONTD.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up Item No. 13 - Further consideration of the following motion moved by Dr. P. Vallal Peruman on the 9th December, 1994, namely :

"That the Bill to provide for reservation of posts for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in higher category of posts in Government Services, be taken into consideration."

Shri Ramashraya Prasad Singh ... not here.

Shri Gopi Nath Gajapathi.

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berhampur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as can be clearly seen from the existing conditions, there is reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Government Services in lower and middle level posts only. There has been a great demand from several quarters for reservation of posts and appointments for them in senior posts as well. In order to protect their interests and to boost their morale, our esteemed colleague Dr. Vallal Peruman has brought forward a proposal that 15 per cent and 7.5 per cent of the total number of posts at senior levels should be reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively in Government Services. At present, however, reservation of posts for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is based on their population which was recorded decades back. He logically argues that there should be proportionate increase in percentage of posts reserved for them according to the proportion of their population to the total population as recorded in every census.

Of course, during recent years, there has been a perceptible change in the politico-administrative culture that, at least, some top bureaucrats, ambitious as they are, becoming a part of the power structure with personal loyalty to the political leadership and overlooking a dozen or more senior officers in making important appointments, has become common even as honest officers with traditional bureaucratic commitment are neglected and relegated to the background.

Now, the proposal to please certain sections of the society notwithstanding the fact that this kind of favouritism is bound to seriously affect the morale of the Services.

Owing to the Mandal formula and a big support it has received from various political parties, for the first time, a 27 per cent reservation is going to be made in the Civil Services from the current year in favour of the Backward Classes apart from the usual reservations to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The stamp of approval by the Supreme Court to the proposal has made it binding. The total number of vacancies that arise in all these Services put together does not exceed 600 for the entire country and it would have been better if the higher Civil Services, at least, were left out of the reservation arena. It would look odd that some persons obtaining lower ranks be selected in preference to the others, who are much higher rank-wise, especially, when all of them write a common examination. But political compulsions have weighed heavily with the Government and in any case it is too late now to reverse the process. The effect of the reservation policy is to bring into the Services, persons with diverse social and cultural preferences, thereby introducing a certain heterogeneity which may make for greater responsiveness though it also creates tensions.

The Kothari Committee on Recruitment Policy and Selection Methods went on record that a considerable number of administrators and others who met the Committee, expressed the view that the upper age limit should not exceed 24 years. A higher age limit would be welcome only to the extent to which it gives an opportunity to the late blossomers and others, who wish to pursue higher academic studies or obtain specialisation in a subject of their choice to enter service careers.

Public administration has become a speciality calling for high skills enhancing the concessions will only compromise merit and encourage mediocrity. It is also true that tribal tendencies such as caste favouritism regional and long-standing affiliations openly advocated and practised by interested politicians have also infected the Services. An experienced administrator and

statesmen like Shri C. Subramaniam has even stated that in specialised fields like science and technology as well as medicine, merit alone should be the consideration and the principles of reservation should not be applied.

Even though there is no taker for this view, however sound it is at this point of time, when reservations are taken for granted at least in the field of administration where decision making plays a significant role, only the best men and women should be recruited solely on the basis of quality and competitive competence. During February, 1995 in a significant judgement on the reservation issue, a Five Judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court held that the prescribed percentage of reservation for backward classes cannot be varied or changed by the Government simply because some of the members of the backward classes had already been appointed or promoted against the general category seats. In a 15 page judgement, the Supreme Court Bench headed by Mr. Justice Kudrip Singh held that no general category candidate could be appointed against a slot in the roster reserved for the backward classes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Gajapati, a small request. Originally it was awarded two hours. Subsequently on 9.12.94, one hour was extended. Once again on 31.3.95, it was extended by another two hours. So far it has taken five hours. We have already spent four hours and thirty five minutes and we are left with only 25 minutes more. Today the reply is very much needed.

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Sir, I will take just one more minute. The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are really the weakest of the weak sections. The Orissa Chief Minister, Hon'ble Shri J.B. Patnaik, has recently made a Landmark declaration for implementation of enhancing the reservation quota for OBCs to 27 per cent. The Orissa Government deserves to be complimented for this significant humanitarian steps taken by them in favour of the deprived lot. In the ultimate analysis the subject of reservation literally becomes a combat between logic *versus* emotions. Let us concede that logic is a good policy. But the question arises: Is it the best policy?

In conclusion, I am of the personal opinion that there should be a national conference comprising of the Central Government, Chief Ministers of all the States and all Heads of Opposition parties to thrash out this sentimental issue in threadbare detail, for arriving at a general consensus in establishing a social order based on equality and thereby eradicate the imbalances existing in our present day society.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Bill presented by Dr. Peruman on 9th December, 1994 in the House, providing for reservation of posts in Government service for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I would like to submit, through you, that the provision for reservation had been made in our constitution to bring about social parity by uplifting the neglected classes of society. Today, when we look at it after 45 years of independence, we feel that the reservation has become a political issue. It has become a politics of vote bank. The main idea behind making a provision for reservation was to uplift those few classes of the society who were neglected due to a practice of untouchability prevalent then. They used to be called Dalits and treated inhumanely. That is why, in order to bring about social parity, to do away with the stigma of casteism and indiscrimination and to initiate a social restructuring, a provision of reservation had been made in the Constitution. Sir, despite implementation of the provision of 15 percent reservation for Scheduled Castes and 7.5 per cent reservation for Scheduled Tribes in our Constitution for the last 45 years, the situation has come to such a pass that every caste wants to be included in the list of SCs/STs.

Sir, at the time of implementing the Constitution, several experts, and sociologists had selected those castes only after studying their historical, religious and other backgrounds. But now, in the name of politics and vote-bank, every other caste wants to be included in the list of Scheduled Castes. It is true that according to the 1991 census, there has been an increase in the percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population. Therefore, there should be a proportionate increase in reservation. As per the decision of the Supreme Court, the reservation cannot exceed 50 per cent. The reservation for backward classes, SCs and STs is 27 percent, 15 per cent and 7.5 per cent respectively. Then, what will become of the reservation made for the ex-servicemen and the handicapped people?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, you wanted only two-and-a-half minutes. You should understand this. Now you conclude.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, I am concluding.

[Translation]

I am concluding in a minute. Sir, I would like to say, through you, that initially, the provision of reservation had been made in the Constitution for a period of 10

years only. That is why, today, after almost 50 years of independence, it is needed to be reviewed to find out whether there has been an increase in the social harmony. This issue should not be considered a vote-bank plank. A feeling of harmony, affection and equality should develop in society. I feel that they should get reservation at higher posts so that they could participate in power and get a respectable place in society.
..(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It will not go on record. Now I call Shri Dwarka Nath Das.

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (Karimganj) : Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I support this very important Bill introduced by the hon. Member, Dr. P. Vallal Peruman, of this House.

Sir, after 47 years of independence, the literacy amongst the males of SCs and STs combined is not more than 25 per cent and that of females of SCs and STs combined is not more than 15 per cent. This low rate of literacy is because of their out of the way habitation, lack of infrastructure and poverty. The question of reservation in service till date is 15.5 per cent for Scheduled Castes and 7 per cent only for Scheduled Tribe.

As per the census of 1991, at present the Scheduled Caste population in this country is about 16.48 per cent and Scheduled Tribe population is 7.50 per cent. The total population of them is 25 per cent. So in my opinion, the reservation for Scheduled Castes should be, at present, 16.5 per cent and for Scheduled Tribes, it must be 8.5 per cent. Sir, in the Central and State Government service, there are heavy backlogs. As for example, in NEF Railways, in the 'D' category, there are not less than 900 backlog vacancies for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In the 'C' category, there are 160 backlog vacancies for SC and ST.

Moreover, in the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research Institute in Chandigarh, the promotion for doctors belonging to SC and ST, is held up till today.

Sir, the States and the Union Territories are not following the norms of reservation for SC and ST. In my own State, Assam, there is no such thing like 15.5 per cent or 7 per cent reservation.

15.56 hrs.

(Shrimati Santosh Chowdhary in the Chair)

The Government follows its own rules. So the question of reservation does not arise in the case of State Governments and Union Territories.

* Not recorded.

Madam, the hon. Supreme Court's judgment is that there may not be reservation in promotion. Of course, it is a general observation of the Supreme Court. But in that case, the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people who are appointed or recruited under the provision of reservation would never see their happy days of promotion. So it needs an amendment in the Constitution.

Madam, the SC and ST people do not want that reservation should continue for an indefinite period. But for their upgradation at par with the strata of other advanced society, reservation must continue in all sorts of activities in a civilized society till they are entirely upgraded. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR (Motihari) : Madam Chairman, we are having another discussion on the Bill which had been presented in the last Session of the Lok Sabha. I support this Bill. Several of our friends, especially those belonging to Bhartiya Janata Party do not seem to understand the importance of this Bill, because when a discussion is taken up here on reservation, they think that this discussion is a prelude to vote catching process. However, they had also endeavored to unite all the Hindus on the basis of utopian ideas. It was also a political plank which failed to bear fruit. I feel that reservation is a social revolution.

SHRI V.P. SINGH, who is no longer a Member of Lok Sabha had raised his voice, for the first time, against the suppression of these classes of people, under our caste-based society and customs. Later, it was implemented in Bihar and efforts were also made to implement it in Orissa and Tamilnadu. But several logics are being provided in an attempt to hinder such efforts. One such logic is that if a provision is made for reservations in higher posts then intelligence and merit will not get due recognition. Intelligence and merit do not belong to a particular caste. Several great men have made a name in India's history who were, though, not born in the families of high classes yet they played a vital role in building Indian culture, social upliftment as well as cultural and literary promotion.

16.00 hrs.

For example, I would like to name Shri Valmiki. Who is not aware of Valmiki? People not only in India but the world over, know about Valmiki-Ramayana. Valmiki-Ramayana is the only religious book which has been interpreted and presented in various ways. So, it is wrong to say that we should not go for reservation. Reservation has been considered essential to bring

about a change in society and speed up the pace of development. That is why, I support it and would like to submit that its scope should be widened.

Madam, it is said that the Supreme Court has given a decision in this regard. I do not intend to violate the decision of the Supreme Court but would like to say that the public of this country has elected their representatives to this Parliament and Parliament has created Supreme Court and other institutions. When this is the will of the people then how can these institutions go against the interests/wishes of the people. If the constitution needs to be amended to fulfill the wishes of the public, then the constitution should be amended to increase the percentage of reservation also.

The Chief Minister of Bihar has already announced that he would provide more than 60 per cent reservation and it has been accepted by Lok Sabha. All these attempts are being made in order to hinder the process of reservation. That is why, I urge upon the Government to implement the principle of reservation with all sincerity and implement the alacrity in all posts, from the lowest rung to the highest one, in all departments and in the multinationals as well.

Madam, we feel that there are some Members of treasury benches who are not in favour of either implementing or increasing the present quota of reservation. But, opposition Members, barring the BJP, are very clear about it that it should be increased and it should be seriously implemented. That is why, I demand that there should be no hesitation about it and the whole House should work towards passing this Bill unanimously.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Madam Chairman, I rise to support the Private Member's Bill moved by Dr. P. Vallal Peruman. I would like to say, through you, that at present, reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is fifteen per cent and seven and a half per cent respectively. I want that, first of all, the backlog should be immediately cleared in all the Departments. The Members of this House raise this issue time and again and the treasury benches keep on assuring that the backlog would be cleared.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nawal Kishore Ji, please listen to me for a minute. Since there is shortage of time please conclude your speech within a minute.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Alright, Madam, I would conclude within a minute.

First of all, arrangements should be made to clear the backlog. This Bill has been moved by Dr. P. Vallal Peruman to especially provide reservation in higher posts. Our welfare Minister and Minister of State for

Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension are present here. I would like to know from the Central Government, through you, whether the present reservation quota of 22 1/2 per cent has been filled in all the Ministries and Departments of the Union Government. Whether the prescribed ratio has been observed in appointing people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to the posts of Secretaries in all Departments?

Have the people belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes been appointed as M.D. or to other higher posts in all Public Sector Undertakings in the country? So far as I know, only two per cent of the people belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes have been appointed as Secretaries of the Departments in all Government Departments and to higher posts in Public Sector Undertakings. I express concern over it and would like to ask the Welfare Minister and Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension, through you, as to what percentages of the people belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes have been appointed to the posts of Secretary in all Government Departments and to other higher posts in Public Sector Undertakings?

This question has been raised time and again by the Members of all the parties including the treasury benches and the opposition, that there has been an increase in the population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. All the parties are demanding that the present limit of 22 1/2 per cent reservation for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes should be increased upto 25 per cent. I would like to know, through you, whether the Government propose to increase this limit from 22 1/2 per cent to 25 per cent? In the end, I would like to say something about the multinationals which are being invited in the country. Efforts are being made to entrust all our works to the private sector. I would seek an assurance from the Government that it would bring a legislation to amend the Constitution so as to ensure reservation for the Scheduled Castes/Tribes and backward classes in the private sector as well. Further, what step the Government is contemplating to implement the quota of reservation in higher posts in Government services?

In the end I would conclude my speech by requesting all the Members to cooperate in getting this Bill passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Girija Ji, since there is shortage of time, so, please conclude your speech in a minute.

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI (Maharajanj) : Madam Chairman, I might not be able to stick to the one-minute time-limit but I would try to put forth my views in the least possible time. Five year back, when Janata Party

Government was in power, they had first of all, thought about increasing the reservation limit but at that time other people had politicised it. Today, those very people who have brought this Bill are strongly supporting it. They had at that time, raised a great nation-wide hue and cry and did their level-best to malign the image of the Government in power. We had raised the reservation issue only in the name of humanity and that was step in right direction. Now it has become the compulsion of everyone to support it.

Today, in this Private Member's Bill, which has been presented here, I have only seen 'Safal Karamchari Bill'. The reservation for women is also being talked about. We have provided reservations for several classes of people. We passed a Bill to provide 80 per cent reservation in Tamil Nadu. When we retrospect, we realise that by giving 50 per cent reservation we had not done anything wrong. And the process of presentation of such Bills starts right therefrom. The politicians have only worked against our dream of having a good humanity, building a good society and a good country. Today they realize their mistakes. They may change its name or pseudomorph it in some way but our decision has been welcomed everywhere.

I admit that there has been a backlog in filling up this quota since 1947. The main reason behind it is that only one party has been in power for most of the period and it did not provide reservation to these classes of people. They used Gandhi's name but never talked about 'Antyodaya' i.e. as to how will the person at lowest stratum of society be able to grace the highest posts. For this, we should not have thought of creating posts but building a conducive atmosphere to enable the educated pass-outs to be eligible enough to be appointed to these posts, but it has not been done so far. However, our party, which had first intended to provide 50 per cent reservation to these people, formulated an inexpensive educational policy and decided to clear the backlog. We are also thinking along the lines to provide reservation in Public as well as Private Sector Undertakings and educational institutions. We cannot take it granted that quality and quantity cannot be equated, slum-dwellers are born without brains and they have no thinking power. Further, we should not think that by providing reservation to them, how can we protect them.

With these words, I thank you and congratulate Dr. Peruman ji that now because of his good intentions and right approach, there will be reservation in higher posts also. Further, reservation will be provided to people belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and backward classes in higher posts also in proportion to

their population. Only then we will be able to build an equal and egalitarian society. However, it will not be like Andhra Pradesh where untouchability still prevails. When ever Congress has been in power there, untouchables have been prevented from entering temples. We dream of an impartial Government, an egalitarian society and a united country. However we can nurture the feelings of unity and integrity in the country only by providing reservation to the most backward classes.

In the end, I heartily support this Bill.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : We are discussing the topic of reservation here but seeing the presence of ruling party and opposition parties Members here, we can very well gauge their interest in it. The hon. Ministers of Congress Party are present here but, the number of Members of their party is very less.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It does not matter, we are sitting here. I would like to inform the House that Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh ji was speaking on this Bill last time. Since he was not present earlier, I am giving him a minute's time as a special case. Shri Ramashray Prasad ji, Though the scheduled time is over, yet you may speak for a minute.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Madam Chairman, I had gone out for a while and when my name was called I was not present. I thank you for allowing me to speak for a minute. I have already spoken on this Bill and would still like to put forth some other points. The reservation issue is now gaining momentum. This issue is not being raised for the first time today. However, the reservation quota prescribed for various classes of people is yet to be filled. I had given a suggestion earlier also that wherever a new Post Office is opened in rural areas, a 'Postman' is also recruited but not a single person belonging to SCs/STs is recruited to this post. Leave aside the higher posts, they can at least be appointed to lower posts. In such circumstances, how do they talk about giving reservation to them in higher posts? Actually, people in power do not have the will power to extend this facility to them. If they had the will-power, they could have recruited Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe youth to such posts. I doubt the intention of the Government. That is why, they are dilly dallying this issue. Even now, the vacancies in class III and IV posts are lying vacant. Even today the children of people belonging to SCs/STs are working as labourers in fields. They feel inconvenient to do this work. They are drifting towards terrorism for want of employment. The terrorism sponsoring leaders misguide them and thus, wean them away. As a result thereof, the terrorism is on the rise

throughout Bihar. The degree of terrorism varies from place to place. The Government should do something about it.

The Government lack the feeling of nationalism. It is useless to talk of morality with them. As and when a feeling of nationalism will be created in the country, morality will develop on its own. Further, when morality will surface then there will be no problem in filling these vacancies. I conclude by saying that the Government must fill up the reserved vacancies.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : Madam Chairperson, I have heard the views expressed by the hon. Members with great interest and attention. The Government is fully alive to the need for protecting the interests of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and shares the concern expressed by the Members. The debate has gone on for almost four-and-a-half hours. Several Members have expressed their views and as far as the Bill itself is concerned, the Bill moved by Dr. Peruman seeks to provide reservation of posts for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in higher categories of posts in Government services. The Bill seeks to provide reservation for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in higher categories of posts at the rate of 15 per cent and 7-1/2 per cent respectively of the total number of posts. It also seeks to provide that upon the completion of each census the percentage of posts reserved for the scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes shall vary according to the proportion of their population to the total population as recorded in that census.

Madam, I do realise that these are important aspects of the entire reservation question and Government have been carrying on dialogue with all the political parties from time to time through the Ministry of Welfare. Even as recently as on 28th April and 4th May, we have had detailed discussions with leaders of political parties. Various views on the very issues which are being discussed here have been expressed by the political parties. Some of them have asked that this question should become part of our election manifestoes to the coming election so that the people express their views. Others have asked that the State Governments should also be consulted before any changes are made. Most parties have been demanding a Constitution amendment to overcome the 50% limit which has come into operation after the 'Indira Sawhni' case in view of the

fact that 27% reservation for backward classes has also been introduced after the acceptance of the Mandal Commission recommendations.

Therefore, we are today faced with a situation in which we have a Supreme Court directive, we have different demands from the political parties and the aspirations of the weaker sections of our community to have their representation in Government become not just a reserved category but visible and at positions of decision-making.

Therefore, there is need for us to work out a consensus and a common acceptable limit for reservation which we believe through consultation and by taking into confidence the State Governments and the different political parties could be worked out.

The hon. lady Member very vehemently spoke about her party's role and literally said that the Congress has done nothing. I would like to say, Madam, that all this implementation over these years has been done by the Congress Government. We have been as committed as anybody else. (Interruptions) I do not think that this is a party issue or a political issue. I believe that when it comes to the question of giving their due share as guaranteed by the Constitution and the founding fathers of the Constitution, there should be no political or other differences. I think all of us are committed to it. The question is: How do we do it without creating conflict and without creating problems within the administration itself?

Madam, I would like to say that in view of the fact that there was a backlog in filling up of these vacancies over the years, since 1989 we have taken steps to have Special Recruitment Drives. We have had four upto now and I am glad to announce that the next Special Recruitment Drive for filling up the backlog has already been announced by the Government. The Ministries, Departments, Public Sector Undertakings and insurance Corporations have been asked on 21.4.1995 to identify the backlog of vacancies reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, as they stand on 1.4.1995 and the Special Recruitment Drive is being launched from June. But I would like to tell those who have been saying that we have not taken any action as far as the backlog is concerned, that in 1989 58,554 vacancies were identified and through the Special Recruitment Drive the number of appointments that were offered was 50,475. In the meantime, when new vacancies arose, the backlog was 46,559 in 1990-91 and through the Special Recruitment Drive, again we offered 21,114 posts to the Scheduled

Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. In 1991-92, in the next Special Recruitment Drive, out of 35,236 vacancies, 18,231 appointments were offered. Again in 1993-94, another Special Recruitment Drive was launched in which out of 30,000 vacancies, 12,346 appointments were made.

Madam, an hon. Member raised the question of recruitment of posts versus vacancies. This issue, today, is *sub judice*, because a Special Leave Petition is pending in the Supreme Court on whether the backlog should cover posts or whether it should be treated as vacancies. The question is to be decided by the Supreme Court. But at the moment, it is *sub judice*. I have listened to all the points of view expressed in the House. But the Government cannot say anything now, since the matter is pending in the Supreme Court at the moment. But the hon. Members are aware that discussions have taken place very recently with the leaders of political parties through the Ministry of Welfare. All the points of view have been noted and we are working on a comprehensive response to all the points which have been raised.

Madam, I would like to say that in accordance with the judgement, as I said earlier, in the Indira Sawhni case, 50 per cent limit has come in. But a Constitution Amendment has been suggested by various political parties and we are in the process of studying this proposal.

Lastly, Madam, I would like to point out one thing. Since this Government came to power, I am glad to say that the first Establishment Officer of the Government of India who is a Scheduled Caste was appointed by this Government. We have a Scheduled Tribe woman as the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission today and therefore, I would like to say that we have made it a point to see that the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe people are coming in important positions of decision making.

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : Madam, in the higher services, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are in microscopic minority. You may give only one instance like the one which you have given just now.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Madam, let me point out that it is not correct to say...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum) : Madam, I am from Kerala. Kerala has implemented the reservation for the last 30 years. Shri K. Karunakaran, former Chief Minister of Kerala, brought forward a legislation wherein reservation was given in all categories. About 40 per cent Heads of Departments including

High Court Judges and IG Police, are Scheduled Castes. That is the model. Do not claim that you are alone giving the reservation.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur) : Madam, I am on a point of order. I want to ask that when a Minister is replying, can a Member of Parliament from the Treasury Benches reply to a Member directly? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Madam, I just want to say one thing. The reservation of 15 per cent and seven and a half per cent already exists in higher services of Group A and B posts in direct recruitment. The Bill proposes that this should be brought in the services. I would like to say that it already exists. Even where promotion is concerned - in promotion by seniority - reservation already exists in all the categories. Our Government has also implemented recently 27 per cent reservation which perhaps has now been created because of backward classes and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes reservation together. As I said, it has a limit and we will see how this problem can be overcome through consultation and consensus among all the political parties.

Madam, with these words, I would like to appeal to the hon. Member, Dr Peruman to please withdraw the Bill because this is something on which a national consensus is being built up. We are committed to do what most of the Members in this House and in our party are asking for. We are committed to the cause of uplift of the weaker sections, particularly the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes new together with the reservation for backward classes and I would again appeal to him to withdraw the Bill and allow the Government to work out which it is working on...*(Interruption)*

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (Sheohar) : Madam, can I ask one question? The hon. Minister has mentioned that the Government is considering the Constitutional amendments suggested by various political parties and various segments of population in this country regarding raising the limit of reservation particularly for providing the reservation to women and to economically backward people. How long will it take? How long will the Government take to finalise its opinion in this regard?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Madam, the hon. Member is aware that two meetings have taken place - one on 28th April and another on 4th May - and some of the parties in the meeting - some of them, not all - have asked that the State Governments should also be brought into the picture and consulted. Therefore, we will have to, at least, formally consult the Chief Ministers

about these amendments on some of the changes which are proposed so that a national consensus can be built up. I cannot say that it will be arrived at in one week or 10 days or whatever it is. My senior colleague, Shri Sita Ram Kasriji, has been in touch with the political parties and I can assure the House that as early as possible, at the soonest possible date, we will come to the House.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : How soon is the soonest?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Please do not embarrass me because I am certainly not in a position to speak. I am a very junior Minister to give any date limit or deadline. But I can only say that the Government is committed to keep the commitments which we have made and I assure you that it will be as early as possible.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : I have no intention to embarrass you. Madam, the Minister is quite competent and I compliment her for her knowledge and advocacy. But this has been on the national agenda since the Mandal Commission report was accepted by the previous Government - the National Front Government - and after the Supreme Court Judgement, it should be under the consideration of the Government. I have no grudge if the Government and the hon. Minister claims the credit for implementing the Mandal Commission Report.

Although it was lying for ten long years, it was the National Front Government which took the courage to implement it. Therefore, the Minister cannot take shelter by saying that it is being discussed and their senior Minister is having meetings with the Opposition leaders. This is no answer....(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Trichur) . Madam, the whole thing is being twisted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Chacko, please sit down.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : It was implemented by the Congress Government, that much I can say. The actual formula as adopted by the Supreme Court was implemented only by the Congress Government.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : When was the Supreme Court Judgment delivered?... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you just wasting the time?

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Madam, unnecessarily a political element is being brought in at the last minute. This reservation is not anybody's gift. This has been implemented by the Congress Government successfully for many years and there is JD contribution in it. The matter is such, after introduction, the JD itself...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Is it not a fact that it was gathering dust for ten years after the submission of the Report? (Interruptions)

SHRI A. CHARLES : V.P. Singh was number two in the Government. You ask him as to why he did not do it. It was all because of V.P. Singh. V.P. Singh was in the Cabinet...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : The Mandal Commission Report was submitted in 1980 itself...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Madam, any Government can make pronouncements. But it requires a sober, experienced Government to implement certain judgements and to see that it becomes a reality; and that is what we have done.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Madam Chairmen, I want only one clarification as to what is the percentage of SCs/STs at Secretary level in the Ministries of the Central Government. Further, what is their percentage among the Officers appointed as Heads of Public Sector Undertakings. If the prescribed reservation quota of 15 percent and 7½ per cent has not been observed, then what step the Government propose to take in this regard?

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : To give the exact figures and percentages, I will need some more time.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will get the exact figures you way sit down now.

DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN (Chidambaram) : Madam Chairperson, I am very much thankful to all the hon. Members of different political parties who participated in the debate on the Bill brought forward by me to safeguard the interests of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Our hon. Minister, Shrimati Margaret Alva gave a very good reply in regard to this Bill and also talked about the functioning of the Congress Government. Though this judgement on Mandal Commission Report was given on 16.11.1992, the Government has not bothered about bringing any Constitutional (Amendment) Bill, despite what has been told in different fora and the replies given by the hon. Ministers, Shri Sitaram Keeri and Shri K.V. Thangka Balu, both in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha also. Still, they had not yet concluded this task. Yesterday also, they called all political parties for a meeting. Is there any political party against the interests of the Scheduled

Castes and the Scheduled Tribes? All political parties are concentrating on the votes of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, but even then they want consensus of all the political parties.

The spirit of the Bill which I have moved should be safeguarded when a Constitution (Amendment) Bill is brought by the Government. The Ministry of Welfare is actually diluting the issue of the Scheduled Castes by comparing it with the Backward classes.

They are always talking about Backward classes and Mandal Commission recommendations. Actually, the judgement on Mandal Commission recommendations has encroached upon our constitutional right. So, I request the hon. Ministers of the Department of Welfare and the Department of Personnel to take up the issue as a concrete one and fix up a time-limit to bring forward the Bill.

[Translation]

PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT : The hon. Member has made a remark about the Supreme Court that the Supreme Court has encroached upon our Constitutional right. This is not right.

MR CHAIRMAN : Please sit down

[English]

DR P VALLAL PERUMAN : I want to know from the hon Minister if they are ready to give a concrete and time-bound idea to safeguard the spirit of the Bill - both regarding reservation in promotion and also increase in the percentage of reservation according to the latest population. If they are giving an assurance, I can consider withdrawal of my Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you withdrawing the Bill?

DR P. VALLAL PERUMAN : I want an assurance from the Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think you have not answered his question.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Madam, I have said this earlier that the process of consultation is on all these issues.

DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN : Madam, the process of consultation is going on from 1992 onwards.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Madam, I would like to state that a Constitution Amendment would require certainly a consensus among political parties because this is something which has to be passed by both the Houses of Parliament. Therefore, we are trying to work out a mutually acceptable solution. I am sure, my friends the BJP will agree that that they have a point of view.

There have been Members of the CPI and CPM in the two meetings, who have expressed their point of view. The other smaller parties want some other changes brought in. Some parties are asking for reservation for Scheduled Castes Christian converts to be included. Others are demanding that in this Amendment some other things should be included. Each party has expressed its views. The minutes are with me. I am not going into the details. I will circulate the minutes. Various points of view have been expressed. For me to say to day that we will come out by so and so date immediately with this point of view is very difficult. All I can assure the Members is that the Government and I think the whole of Parliament is committed to ensuring that the rights of Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes for reservation as guaranteed by the Constitution and as demanded by the present changed situation would be protected both by Parliament and through a Constitution Amendment as and when a consensus is worked out. I am confident that it will be done very soon because all the political parties are committed to the same cause.

DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN : Madam, I am thankful to you. I withdraw the Bill.

I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill to provide for reservation of posts for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in higher category of posts in Government Services.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to provide for reservation of posts for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in higher category of posts in Government Services."

The motion was adopted.

DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN : I withdraw the Bill.

16.40 hrs.

INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL**

(Amendment of Section 354)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up item No. 14. Shri C.P. Mudala Giriappa. He is not present.

We go to the next item, item No. 15 Shrimati Saroj Dubey.

** Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Pt-II, Section-2, dated 5.5.95.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY (Allahabad) : Sir, I beg to move that,

"the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when we turn the pages of newspaper in the morning with the sips of sweet tea, we come across the details of the incidents of atrocities on woman, dowry deaths and the naked parading of the women and with it our tea turns sour. The question comes up in the mind why the atrocities are being committed on women?

On one hand the woman is called goddess and on the other hand woman is trampled under the feet of the society. It seems to me that the provision of punishment for outraging the modesty of the woman in the I.P.C. is very less, this is the reason that the cases of atrocities on women are increasing. By parading a woman naked, such a stamp is put on her face that she has to bear the scar of it for her whole life and the punishment for this severe crime is only 2 months, 6 months or 2 years imprisonment. I think that section 354 of the I.P.C. should be amended so that those who commit such heinous crimes can be punished severely. My submission is that the punishment given for such crimes should be reconsidered and a provision of severe punishment should be made.

Mr. Chairman, there is a mention of disrobing of Draupadi in Mahabharat in which Dushashan tried to disrob her and even Bhishm Pitamah went on looking at her helplessly. Draupadi went on weeping and crying for help but none of the warriors had courage to take out his sword and at last Shri Krishna had to save her honour.

Such incidents have been taking place since the ages when woman was worshipped as goddess and Lakshmi. The one question comes up in our mind, if there is anything more important than the modesty of a woman in this society. Extending this analogy further, my submission is that in the end of the 20th century, a delit woman Shivpati in village Dauna at Allahabad, who never removed the veil from her head and had never faced other male, was paraded naked one day at the gun point in the village. She cried for help before the whole village to save her modesty, the history of Mahabharat was repeated but none came forward to face those who were outraging her modesty.

It appears to be a simple thing that Shivpati was paraded naked in the village but if this incident is imagined that a delit woman, who covered herself for 40 long years, who did not keep off the veil from her

head, was paraded naked before the society, before her own children, brother, elders, her husband and even before her son. She was paraded naked before all the people and when we talked to the police officers regarding this heinous crime, I was stunned and my anger knew no bounds since they replied that there is no provision of a severe punishment for this crime and it was told that they can be sent to jail under the simple law. Wailing and crying, Shivpati tried to cover private parts of her body some how to save her modesty but these people burnt her body with cigarette stubs. Whenever she stopped or she could not move, they put the gun on her breast. When such a painful and shameful incident takes place with a woman, the whole of the society witnesses it helplessly. In the absence of severe punishment, we come across such incidents in the newspapers one after the other. The women who were going to take part in the Utrakhand movement were compelled to run naked in the fields. Even on 2nd and 3rd day their torn clothes lying in the fields were telling the tale of the atrocities on them.

When in Muzzaffarnagar a principal refused admission to a child, the so called brave people torn her clothes and she was stripped naked before the children, whom she taught the lesson of discipline and whom she was trying to be the future citizens of the country. Such incidents are increasing day by day. The criminals have become emboldened. On one hand we talk about equality, atomic age and want the women to progress with dignity. We even say that

"Yatra Nari Poojayante, Ramante Tatra Devta".

i.e. where women are worshipped that is the aside of gods. The woman, is called the reservoir of immense qualities and it is said that she has the endurance like the earth, deepness like the sea, coolness like a glacier and a vast heart like the Himalayas, the same woman is called sometimes a mother, sister, daughter and beloved but sometimes she is made naked cruelly in the society. Had someone opened fire on Shivpati in Dauna village, and on the women in New Delhi and Muzaffarnagar, then perhaps they could not have complained since at least they could have died with dignity for once. Their dignity could have been saved even if they had died and the heinous incident of parading them naked could not have put its scar on their families and their coming generation. Wherever the disgraced principal goes, her fame reaches there earlier. Now, even if she wears the clothes of iron, she feels that she is standing naked before the society. Then, the provision of 2 or 4 months or 2 years imprisonment for those is a gross injustice. Therefore by adding a sub-section to section 354, I demand that

severe punishment should be given to the culprit. Therefore my submission is that they deserve to be hanged since they commit such atrocities on women that they die while living. Those who commit such crimes do not have the right to live. But we live in a civilised society and we do not want to be barbaric like the criminals. Therefore, for such criminals, there should be a provision of life term imprisonment or seven years imprisonment at least and besides it there should be a provision of heavy penalty also, so that these people can have a lesson and in future no Dushashan can try to outrage the modesty of Draupdi, since, now gone are the days of Shri Krishna. Now the man commits atrocities on woman to show his upper hand on her and to satisfy his ego. Therefore, if severe punishment is not given for such crimes then such crimes will be repeated and the women like Shivapati and those who take part in the movement will be disgraced continuously.

The image of Indian woman inside and outside the country is that of a goddess and housewife. Should such Indian women be stripped naked and paraded? The persons perpetrating such misdeeds should be termed as mentally sick.

Epics have been written on coyness and modesty of women. In those works women have been depicted as covering her head with 'anchal' of her sari and sporting bindi as a mark of her being a married lady, wearing bangles and proceeding to community well with jingling sound of anklets and having utmost modesty in them. Now imagine the situation when women are stripped publicly at gunpoint and paraded in the streets. Such murky incidents are directly attaching our culture and compelling us to think over the presence of beast like persons in our society. The nature has created the woman tender-hearted but even then today the woman is marching ahead shoulder to shoulder with the man in the society. But it seems to me that the male dominated society does not want to allow the woman ahead of him in the society. That is why whenever woman proceed on the path of progress, she is humiliated by meting out such disgraceful treatment and attempts are made to confine her in the four walls of the home. But the society must understand that the woman cannot be stopped from making progress by such despicable acts of the man. They will certainly come forward and struggle for their rights, honour and their right to equality. They are doing so. In this context I would like to request the Government to amend the Section 354 of the Indian Penal Code and add a Sub-Section to take stringent action against the culprits who strip the women naked and parade them publicly. Provision should be made to award life imprisonment or at least 7 years rigorous imprisonment with time to

the persons who commit such crimes. The society has taken it as a very easy task that whenever the woman tries to make progress they may be humiliated publicly and insult them. A woman was publicly humiliated in East Delhi. She was not involved in any dispute. She was just standing behind her husband. But the criminals thought that unless they commit such ignoble crime and disrespect women, they would be defeated in the dispute. If such tendency persisted regarding women in our country the half of the population of the country would not get justice. They will be helpless. Even in the Ramayana the woman has been placed in the category of animal by saying "Dhol Ganwar Suudra Pashu Nari, Yeh Sab Tadan Ke Adhikari."

The modern literature has also not done justice with us. Our great national poet Malthill Sharan Gupta wrote "Abla teri yehi kahani, Anchal mein dudh ankhon mein pani." Thus, by saying this the way and approach for our progress had been blocked. Literature is considered to be the mirror of the society and thoughts of the society are reflected in it. But when the Indian woman wants to come out from the darkness of her backwardness and tries to find solace and take inspiration from the literature, what does she find? What message she gets? I.e. "Dhol, Ganavar, Suudra Pashu Nari or Abla Teri yehi kahani, Anchal mein doodh Aankh mein Pani." She is so much depressed to see such reflection of the society in the mirror of the literature that she considers it her destiny and is compelled to accept it as her fate. Such a tendency is on the rise in our society and we will have to take stern measure to check it.

Our hon. Minister of Home Affairs is sitting here. He is very well aware of the fact as to what is happening to women in Kashmir. They are being oppressed not only by terrorists but also by security personnel deployed there. Why is it so? Oppression on women is on increase even after 47 years of the independence of the country. Would the hon. Minister of Home Affairs like to reveal as to how many persons have been awarded stern punishment for stripping and humiliating women? When Shivpati became victim of such hateful incident, women organisation raised much hue and cry. People went to her to wipe out her tears and to express their sympathy with her. They did it so much that she fell ill.

16.59 hrs.

(Shri Sharad Dighe in the Chair)

But what was the final outcome? The culprit is out of the jail and Shivpati is facing threat to her life. Such incidents are on the rise these days. Once again I would like to demand to amend this Bill. I would like to demand that provision should be made to give stringent

punishment to the culprit so that no other Dusshasan is born here to disrob any Draupadi. If anyone dares to do such a heinous crime he should be punished mercilessly with the help of the sword of law. I hope our Government will extend its full cooperation and will open the way and provide all the opportunities to the women to make progress in the society. If it is done, this will help the women to join the mainstream of the nation and contribute in its all round development. This will enable them to preserve the cultural dignity of India and make progress marching ahead with the men.

With these words I conclude.

[English]

Mr. Chairman : Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, be taken into consideration."

17.00 hra.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) . Mr. Chairman, Sir, I storngly support the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code introduced by Shrimati Saroj Dubey.

In fact news-items appearing in the newspapers every day regarding the oppression of women are so ignoble that we have to bow down our heads out of shame. Women enjoy supreme position in our Indian culture. In the Hindu mythology the name of Sita is taken first when we say 'Sitaram' and name of Radha is taken before Shyam in Radhey Shyam. When we say 'Laxshmi Narayan' the name of Lakshmi is taken first. Similarly in 'Gaurishanker' the name of Gauri is taken prior to Shanker. Saraswati has been considered the goddess of learning and Lakshmi is of prosperity and 'Durga' is of power and strength. These all are the different faces of the woman. The woman has been depicted as a symbol of Motherhood, Powers, learning and prosperity in this way and has been given supreme status and has been honoured by calling them goddess. Therefore, in our religons books it has been said that "Yatra Naryastu Poojeyente, Ramante Tatra Devta." i.e. the society or the nation where women are respected is the abode of gods. There were learned and scholarly ladies like Gargi, Maitreyi and Katyayeni in olden days who used to participate in the debates on the hymns of vedas and had honourable and equal status in the Society. They were never discriminated. But unfortunately in the medieval period they started by coming victims of illiteracy and many other social evils. Due to evils of orthodox and Conservative society the woman started losing its respectable status in the society and a down fall came in her position. Thereafter, the founder of the

Arya Samaj and pioneer of renaissance Swami Dayanand Saraswati emerged in the country who first stated that women has a respectable statue of motherhood. He told "mata nirmata bhawti." i.e. Mother gives birth to the progenies of human beings. It has been mentioned in our culture 'matri devo bhav, pitri devo bhav, Acharya devo bhav'. It means first mother should be considered equivalent to god, then father should be considered equivalent to god and then teacher should be considered equal to god. Then 'rashtra devo bhav.' i.e. the nation should be considered equal to god. Thus the position of mother is supreme. Therefore, Swami Dayanand Saraswati writes 'mata nirmata bhavti.'

Mother is the creator and it has been said that a person, whose mother is religious and learned, always moves towards the path of progress. Therefore, women are held in high esteem in our society. All the social workers, national leaders as well as all great pearsonalities since the time of Mahatma Gandhi to date have honoured this feeling and accorded equal status to women. Therefore, I support the Amendment Bill moved by Shrimati Saroj Dubey.

Today incidents of atrocities on women are increasing in various parts of the country. As has been stated just now that how a poor woman named Shivpatia of Allahabad was molested and stripped by some people to quench their frustration or to impose male supremacy and ego. in this illiterate society, women are ill-treated in the name of Social Panchayats and Castiest Panchayats. They are not respected and considered as commodities, be it in Allahabad or the capital of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal. Such an incident had taken place recently in Bhopal. There had been uproar for several days in the Legislative Assembly over this issue and consequently several officers were suspended. Therefore, it has become necessary to make amendments in Indian Penal Code to curb such crimes. Further, stringent provisions should be made in the Indian Penal Code to curb such crimes in which women are stripped, paraded nakedly and where people try to play with their dignity and dishonour them. It is a very good Bill and earlier under Section 354 of Indian Penal Code, there was provision of two years imprisonment or fine or both for those culprits indulging in rape and molestation. Now a days such crimes are on the increase. Women are illtreated due to growing tendency of hedonism; ill-effects of western culture, cinema and T.V., illiteracy; poverty and lack of respect to women in the society. Now through this Bill the provision of two years imprisonment and fine had been proposed to be extended upto 7 years rigorous imprisonment and maximum fine. Such exemplary punishments would become examples for others and they would refrain

from such acts. I feel that a provision of 7 years rigorous imprisonment should be made to contain such atrocities against women.

Sir, unfortunately the culprits caught in such crimes are generally found either unsocial elements or they have links with some gangs. Therefore, none come forward as a witness to such crime. I, therefore, request the Government to make arrangements that according to the law police officers should have clear cut instructions to reach the spot of such crime to inquire into the matter. Whether they get any evidence or not or whether the accused is influential, rich or a hooligan, the matter should be inquired into and the culprit should be arrested and punished.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no need to say that at the time of disrobing of Draupadi, her husbands were sitting bowing their heads in shame and battle of Mahabharata was fought and as a result of it, 18 'Akshohini' army met untimely death. Similarly, as a result of abduction of Sita, Maryada Purshotam Ram had to invade Lanka and kill the demon like Ravana. Several battles were fought for the dignity of Padmini. This kind of incidents continue to take place even today. Our Constitution, culture and religions have accorded a dignified place to women in the society. However, the hon. Lady Member was saying that the women a member of weaker sex. I would like to say that she is not such but more strong. Today, women are making progress in every sphere of life. They are pilots and working in Army and Police force of the country. Shrimati Indira Gandhi had worked boldly and efficiently as the Prime Minister of this country. Several women from other countries have also done exemplary works which can be a source of inspiration for other women to enable them set new records in every field of life. Further they can fight the anti-social elements as well. They should not hesitate or have any fear in registering their complaints with the concerned authorities against such anti-social elements to save their dignity. Now a days, women learn Judo-karate for self-protection. Such incidents take place in villages due to illiteracy among them. Through 73rd and 74th Amendment to the Constitution of India, now women have got the facility of reservation in Panchayat also. They are being elected as 'Pradhan' of Panchayats, Sarpanch and Member of Panchayats. It will certainly, create confidence among them. Now women will not be able to exploit other women but fight collectively against such anti-social elements through womens' organisation. These elements would not dare molest or perpetrate atrocities against them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the end I would like to say one more point. Even today, Panchayats are held on the basis of castes in our villages in which 'Panch', 'Patel'

'Nambaradar' and 'Mukhia' etc. of the village participate and hear the cases related to abduction of women, educated husbands rejecting their wives, on the ground of their being illiterate, maltreatment of women by their mother-in-law, eviction of women by their-in-laws from their houses etc. These Panchyats adopt parallel laws. They do not care for the law of police and court. First, they try to pressurise the husband and family member of a woman and ultimately, the woman is insulted before the public. Sometimes she is hanged on trees with ropes. Illiteracy and superstition still prevails in our rural society. 'Panch' and 'Patels' have their own rules, which do not have any link with social laws. It is on the basis of these rules they exploit people in the villages. I would like to say that efforts should be made to stop this. Persons who perpetrate atrocities on others and show their superiority on the basis of caste or on the power of 'Panch' and 'Patels', should be punished. There is a saying in English that 'to err is human and forgive is divine'. Further, it is better late than never. It is a condemnable act if false allegations are levelled against a woman and an attempt is made to hurt her character, behaviour or dignity. Once, Manuji had said —"Danden Shasti Prajam" - which means that Democracy is run on the basis of rule of law.

I support the Bill moved in this House for amendment in section 354 of I.P.C. I would like to emphasize upon the word 'rigorous' mentioned in it. Stringent actions should be taken against such anti-social elements so that no other person could dare to indulge in such offence and play with the dignity of women. Such incidents not only hurt the sentiments of the concerned women but her husband is also develops a feeling of inferiority. Such women curse themselves in their whole life because false pride of the society has made their lives a hell. Under such a situation their children and relatives also develop inferiority complex and they try to humiliate the victims, instead of expressing hatred against the sin and not the sinner. The sinner can be reformed. We should try our best to embrace and reform them by becoming their saviour. Women should be sent to such institutes which could guide them properly, give protection to them and provide necessary facilities to make them self-reliant.

Sir, through you, I would like to say that provisions under Section 354 of I.P.C. should be amended so that crimes like naked parading of women could be stopped and they could get a right to live a dignified life. It has been stated in Vedas that man and woman are equal and there should be no gender discrimination.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our culture, religion, civilization, history and traditions show that women have been respected and worshipped in our society. Therefore,

respect of women is the respect of our society, culture and human values. In view of the above, I would like to say that this amendment should be accepted for the dignity of women in our society and we should unanimously condemn such incidents.

[English]

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI (Sikkim) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to support the Bill introduced by hon. Member Shrimati Saroj Dubey. In this Bill, she seeks to amend Section 354 of IPC. Section 354 of the IPC as it exists now, reads as follows :

"Whoever assaults or uses criminal force to any woman, intending to outrage or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby outrage her modesty shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years or with fine or with both."

The hon. Member seeks to increase the imprisonment period from two to seven years and with fine. It is high time that the Government and also the society address themselves to the problem of atrocities on women. This problem is ever increasing. We have on dearth of legislation and whenever we speak in this august House or outside, platitudes expressed on the subject are bountiful. But when it comes to implementation, nothing is being done. Realising this lacuna, our hon. lady Members have been raising this issue of atrocities on women again and again. Realising the gravity of the situation and the problem, our hon. Speaker has also consulted all the Opposition Leaders and if I remember correctly, a discussion on this issue is going to take place on the 25th of this month.

I congratulate Smt. Saroj Dubey for introducing this Bill which is being considered here. She has very eloquently described why she wants this amendment. She has given many example of how ladies are being humiliated. Today, we feel really ashamed to be a part of a society where women are being humiliated. These atrocities are committed not only against grown up women but even children also. For the last few months, we are given to read in the newspapers that almost invariably every second day, there is a report of sexual abuse of children. Even eight year old small girls are not spared. I raise my hand during the Zero Hour many a time to express my anguish over such issues, but I fail to get an opportunity. Yesterday in Rajya Sabha there was a discussion on this issue. This type of degeneration which is creeping into our society makes us wonder whether we are really living in a civilised society at all. Any amount of punishment for this type of humiliation which is being committed against women would not compensate the suffering they are subjected to.

Sir, I would like to say that I not only support the Bill as brought forward by Smt. Saroj Dubey ji, but also I would go a step further and say that even the definition of rape has to be re-defined. This is because, the children who are sexually abused, not only children, but also the women who are abused in this way, in such cases the culprits are going scot free because there is no legislation.

Sir, Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code has given a definition of rape. But those actions which are more humiliating than actual rape have not been enlisted as one of the circumstances which is defined as rape.

So, Sir, through you, I would like to urge upon the hon. Home Minister that while considering the amendment to IPC 354, he should also consider the amendment of IPC 375 to re-define rape so that the guilty is punished. As Smt. Saroj Dubey ji has suggested and as I said earlier that for these people, no amount of punishment is sufficient when equated with the humiliation and the crime they have committed. So, these two IPCs should be amended. I strongly support the Bill that has been brought forward by Smt. Saroj Dubey ji.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI (Maharajganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome this Bill in regard to a partial amendment of Indian Penal Code No. 354 brought about by the hon. Member. But it is a matter of shame that we have to make a submission in this regard to the highest institution of the country. We are not adequately informed about Draupadi. From what we have come to know through folks, religious books or the great Epic, we have known about her in a traditional manner that she was such a woman who was stripped in front of her five husbands, her relatives and 'Pitamah' whose name 'Bheeshm' is linked with intentions even today to give it a meaning of strong will. Even Bheeshm, who had relinquished all his desires and worldly wealth and who was all powerful could not help Draupadi from being humiliated. All of her five husbands were skilled in various battle techniques but they remained mute spectators and Draupadi fell victim to Dushaasan's lasciviousness. Kauraves were 100 brothers. She became victim of their bestial tendencies. There must have been some social drawback behind this. It was not so that her husbands were also not without any fault. It was only their bestial tendency which made them lay their wife as a wager. Man takes oath before fire to protect his wife and declares that he has become her protector and says that he vows seven times to stand by her through thick and thin. What happened to all those vows taken by her husbands at that time? We

have, therefore, been witness to one drawback or the other in the social structure which does not view woman as she is depicted in Vedas, Puranas and it is said in them, "yatra nari poojyante ramante, tatra devta" or other religions books also say about women that there is paradise only in the bosom of a mother or christ plays in the arms of Mother Mary. But when our sisters, daughters are molested then the strength of arms of the same people wane and they talk of justice that the justice will be given by the judiciary. May be the judiciary can provide justice in respect of a field, tree, or a dispute between two countries. Rasa Singh Rawat ji has rightly said that we have several Panchayats in our country for that but he also has this doubt that Panchayats do not provide justice.

A daughters-in-law of a Meena caste family in our border line state, Haryana, who was pregnant was molested, her ghaghra and choli were ripped apart and then some local influential people of bestial tendencies outraged her modesty also. There should be a check over such tendencies as somewhere along they get support Justice is being denied in the name of delayed justice.

You may remember having read about this incident. It happened recently. Our magazines had published coloured photographs of her in ripped clothes. You may imagine what had been her feeling on that dark night when she was crying for help and running to save her from humiliation. Nobody came to her help and when the Panchayat was called to settle the matter her husband, mother-in-law and unmarried sister-in-law were intimidated into keeping silent and they were threatened to be killed or made socially outcast and were told that they would not let their unmarried daughter get married if they did otherwise.

Shrimati Dubey has requested to increase the jail term from a period of two years to seven years and increase the amount of fine charged. It is not a matter of two years or seven years, the thing is that, such a big crime is viewed in a very insignificant manner by us.

An incident took place in a Delhi college, I do not want to name the people as a boy and a girl are involved in it. It has been in the newspapers that a girl was stripped naked in a college of Delhi University. A committee was set up to inquire into the matter. But the findings of that Committee are yet to be published. The Vice-Chancellor of that University resigned due to mental tension in the wake of such happening. But the guilty people are still at large.

Maya Tyagi was paraded naked but it took 10-11 years to get the guilty person punished. The courts do mete out justice and people get imprisonment for a

period of 2-4-6 years or even more. In Maya Tyagi case the culprit was awarded that much punishment because the charge of murder was also involved in that case. Maya Tyagi was stripped in front of her husband who had married her with a vow to protect her dignity. Later her husband was also killed. Maya Tyagi must be alive somewhere but mentally she is dead. How could she hide that lost dignity of hers which was snatched from her in the open at road-side? The same is the case with Shivpati. She says that she does not understand how many clothes to wear to hide her lost modesty. She says, "no matter how much I hide my body and my head but I still feel naked." You have talked about Remand Homes in this social structure. You demand us but we have to go to Remand Homes. You strip us and our children, our sons earn a bad name. That is why, please do not call us 'Abla (helpless) and do not call us 'Sabria' (Strong) either but at least do not consider us a 'bala'(problem) in the society.

Whenever I pray to 'Durga Saptasati' I always remember that Goddess Durga was not harassed by the devils alone Her husband had created the devil, Madhukaltabh, in order to enjoy in frivolous activities. When the same devil assaulted Durga sexually, Vishnu was busy in his voluptuous activities. If you people, and 'Vedacharayas' etc. feel bad about it then I must say that I am only stating the facts. Then Durga had to fight with all the devils alone. Goddess Durga, to whom we offer prayers to seek her blessings for getting energy and power in us and say to her, 'He, Durga ! you are all-powerful and kind", was herself treated very badly. All demons including Madhukaltabh, Dhoomketu came one by one and one of them even said to her that she was foolish if she did not know his master. His master was such who did not want to denude her himself He had ordered his demons to pull her by her hair and bring her to him. Durga had said "Tisht tishta re moodhaa, yaavat madhu pivamyaham." it means that he could only say it till she got her energy from intaking honey.

That is why Saroj Dubey has raised her voice that we are one and whatever freedom you have given us if it goes on increasing then the day is not far when we will avenge the stripping of Draupadi and fight for our right even today after centuries. This is only the beginning.

I was really hurt when my friend mentioned 'Vedas' and 'Puranas' in this context. He has said that "Vedon Ka Hal Elan, Nar Nari Hain Ek Saman." In 65th and 66th Shalokas of 2nd Chapter of 'Manu Smriti' it has been written that women have no right to study Vedas or perform an oblation. She has the only right to marry

and it is due to the reason that man cannot marry alone. In a marriage, man and woman become partner. After marriage, woman lives and serves in her husband's house. At the time of marriage, man is told to take that fire before which he had taken sacred vows, to perform an oblation and woman is told to light the hearth by this fire. These are our century old traditions. On the one hand, there is a system in which women are worshipped as goddesses like in Sita-Ram, Radha-Krishan but on the other hand, we have a system just opposite to it in which name of Shiva in 'Shiva-Parvati' is uttered before Parvati. In this way, things come back to square one. We find that this whole system makes woman a pleasure seeking commodity and not venerable.

This system cannot be changed till the mentality of our society is changed through proper educational system. Since we could not change our mentality in the past, woman remained a pleasureable commodity under the cover of religion. She was married in her childhood while sitting in her mother's lap. At that time she did not know that she was getting married but when her husband died she was made a widow and was forcibly consigned to the pyre of her husband under a dose of opium. Then the woman was called sati. Later on, she was worshipped by erecting 'Sati Choura' so as to inspire other young widows to follow suit. The reason behind 'sati' was not that the woman will meet her husband in the heaven but because her share of property will pass on to others. Women, who refused to die or become sati were forced to lead a torturous life. There are several such incidents in which widows had left the house of their husbands as well as parents and led a life of prostitute. They were not given a respectable place in the society and were compelled to lead a poor, forlorn and disregarded life.

There are reports of stripping of women. After stripping her, it is assessed that how many times a woman has been raped. The rates of compensation vary from case to case. It is Rs. 10,000 for being raped once, Rs. 20,000/- for being raped twice and Rs. 30,000 for being raped thrice.

It seems as if it is a remuneration for her labour but punishment is not meted out to the culprits. The State of Affairs have reached such a disgusting pass that there are reports of a father raping his daughter. He is working as a higher official in the Ministry of Home Affairs. If such persons will hold the responsible posts in judiciary, where will that minor girl go to file a case? She is being raped by that very father who is her protector. I agree with Shrimati Saroj Dubey in regard

to the extent of punishment but I would like to make a submission that justice should be done immediately so that people involved in such crimes could not attempt to point an accusing finger at her. If the judicial system is made efficient to the extent that culprits of such crimes would be caught within two-three hours and punished, then no 'Duhshashan' would dare to touch the clothes of 'Draupdi'. But in our country, such cases take 2 to 4 years to be disposed of and the culprits in the meantime managed to get released on bail and find time to threaten the witnesses.

There had been an incident involving Usha Dhingra in a court of Uttar Pradesh. Some persons tried to strip her in the court itself.

Fortunately, that matter was referred to the Women's commission which took initiative and tried its best to get the culprit punished. But the commission has not been bestowed with any power. We had demanded setting up Women's Commission for immediate justice and benefit to women. The tenure of the women's commission has lapsed in January and it has not been reconstituted so far. It seems that our protest against atrocities committed on women like parading them naked is a cry in wilderness in this male dominated society. Sir, people may consider it as our cry in wilderness but I feel that a voice should be raised against atrocities on women. Women have awakened today and if their demand will not be met in time, then the situation will become explosive. I become overawed by the fear while thinking about it.

While supporting the Bill brought by hon. Member Shrimati Saroj Dubey, I again thank you for allowing me to speak.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL (Amravati):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House is having a discussion on a Bill concerning women. When I saw it on the T.V. monitor outside I came inside. This is such a topic which should be discussed not by women alone but by all the Members of the House. People, who outrage the modesty of a woman and strip her naked, do they not have mothers, sister or daughters in their houses? How does their conscience allow them to indulge in such an abominable act? The society should deliberate over this point. It is a heinous crime. A woman is a woman whether she belongs to any caste or religion. She is the dignity of the society, of the house and of the country, I am not aware whether such incidents take place in other countries or not. But if such incidents take place in a country like ours in whose culture we take pride, then it is a matter of shame not for any particular

community, to which that woman belongs but for the whole country. If such incidents are discussed at international fora then will not India have to cut a sorry figure? Hence, it becomes imperative that stringent laws are enacted to effectively deal with such crimes. I congratulate Shrimati Saroj Dubey who has introduced this Bill to amend this law. She has done a very good thing and presented her views in a very lucid manner. I do not have much to say about this as our sister, who just spoke, has said a lot about our scriptures and history. I would not like to go into those points again but would only like to share with this House, what I have learned from my experience.

I have worked as a Minister in Maharashtra for several years. I was the Minister of Health there. The International Women's Year, 1975 was celebrated during my tenure there as a Minister. Some women doctors of Madras had invited me to a conference of doctors. Since I was the Minister of Health, I attended it. They put all their problems before me and said that though they put in a hard work before becoming doctors and the nurses also studied hard to complete their training course yet they are told to go to villages as it was essential that there should be women doctors to treat women. In this regard, the main reason given is that rural women hesitate to go to a male doctor for medical treatment. They further said that they agree to go but there they do not get accommodation facility for them. So, they have to look for rented accommodation and since they have to live there alone, they are harassed. The rural folks treat them as women. They narrated one incident that once a female doctor was summoned to deliver a baby but when she reached the place there was no such thing and she was harassed there. Such incidents should be checked. A well considered law should be enacted. Later, it was decided that every lady doctor would be provided with a lady assistant, or helper but the things were back to square one because the helper was also a lady. The Government may not take this matter seriously but I feel that every girl should be imparted physical training including Judo and Karate. If we want them to be able to protect themselves then we must impart them such trainings. For this purpose an effective law and a proper system is needed to be evolved.

Sir, nothing can be more shameful than parading of a naked woman in the lanes of the city. If a 4-5 year old boy is spanked or admonished by his teacher in the school and made to stand on a bench he may not mind but if he is divested of his clothes and made to stand in the class, then he becomes reluctant to go back to school next day onwards. And when it is done to a girl she becomes mentally scarred for life and when it is

done to a woman then one may well imagine her mental agony and its affect on her family members and close relatives. So, the proposed provision for seven years imprisonment in such a case should be adhered to. However, it should be even more than that. In cases like these, there should be a provision to award immediate punishment. The local police, under whose jurisdiction such incidents take place, should arrest the guilty persons within 24 hours and put them behind the bars. Further, a tribunal should be set up which will deal with only such crimes. It should be burdened with other cases as well. If a woman is harassed or is stripped naked, the guilty should be arrested and he should be produced before the said tribunal. Thereafter the guilty person should be punished within a month. This can have a deterring impact, otherwise it will go on unabated. This way, public will even forget after one, two or three years that anything like that had happened. In High Courts, cases remain pending for 10-15 years and by that time it loses its purpose and everything becomes useless. There should be a special tribunal for that. If tribunals will also take more time then the Collector can be delegated the powers because a District Magistrate is a semi-judicial authority. I do not know if it will be done or not. If it could be provided in the Penal Code it is alright but if that cannot be done, then special tribunals should be set up. It is very important.

I would conclude by raising one more point. On 8th March last year when International Women Day was being celebrated, I had got up in this very House and said that the telecast of vulgar scenes involving women, through cinema and television was bad for our society. It should be checked. Earlier we used to say that women were being confined to the four walls of the house but now the situation is, that the woman has again become confined to her room because of telecast of vulgar songs and dances. The house may be having 4 rooms but she cannot come out of her room because her children and other members are watching television in the drawing room and the mother cannot watch such vulgarity in their company. So, this way the atmosphere is getting vitiated. In this connection, 'Cinematograph Act' will have to be amended. There has been some improvement since the day we took this step but the desired improvement is yet to take place. Women Members of Parliament belonging to all the parties, had then gone to meet the hon. President and submitted a representation which was forwarded by him to the hon. Prime Minister. The hon. Prime Minister in turn forwarded it to the concerned Department.

Something has been done regarding that but no solution of it has been found till date. Its solution must

be found. Therefore, the Act should be amended. We would like to submit that the amendment should be brought simultaneously.

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO (Sundergarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I extend my thanks to Shrimati Saroj Dubey for bringing the resolution to amend the Section 354 of I.P.C. This issue has already been discussed in detail and the fact is that the atrocities on women are increasing day by day and nobody comes to their rescue. The women are finding themselves helpless in both the rural and urban areas.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the main reason of this problem is the obscurity shown on the Doordarshan, which affects the youth and specially the uneducated and socially backward people and the wrong ideas start coming into their minds. This is the reason that the serious crimes like these are increasing day by day. Therefore, I support that the punishment for such crimes should be increased. There should be a provision of 7 years rigorous imprisonment and penalty and there should be no delay in awarding the punishment. The cases should be decided soon, so that there can be some effect of it on the criminals and such sort of crimes can be stopped in future.

The society should also ponder over it and the children should be educated in this way that in future they do not commit such crimes.

At last, I once again support that there should be a provision of 7 years imprisonment and heavy penalty for such serious crimes. Such issues should be settled immediately.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the move to amend the Section 354 of I.P.C. But, along with it, I would like to submit that merely by increasing the punishment, it will not serve the purpose. I would like to inform to the House that such incidents are taking place only with the women belonging to the weaker section of the society. We merely deliver the lecture here. I have seen that in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the people of upper class go to the houses of the people of the weaker section and sing filthy songs and hearing of such songs is shameful. On whom these atrocities are committed? These are the women of the weaker sections and the dalits who have no say in the villages. Do such incidents take place with the women of the upper class and the women of the capitalists. No, these do not take place with them. As long as there is disparity, it will continue.

You are saying to enact a law and bring the amendment. As long as the C.R.P.C., the law of evidence is not amended, merely amending the I.P.C. will not serve the purpose. When the witness is given after 10 years many things are forgotten. You talk about the court. It is on sale. Who buys the court? We want to know it from you that who has an access to the court?

As long as there was the society based on feudalism, the dowry system was confined to some classes of the society but today in the capitalist society, the dowry system has come up among those poor people also, who have become prosperous. Dowry is like leprosy in society. We are more than 500 people here, if we take an oath that we will not take dowry, the message will go to the crores of people.

I have seen in Banaras, that a wine seller invited four ministers in the marriage of his daughter. Shajan Lalji and Lalubabu were there and a huge amount was spent. Bringing the Bill has become a tradition here and we use choicest words here and feel that the heart has been purified. If you think that the atrocities on women should not be committed then you will have to educate the section of such women. You will see that once they are educated none will try to do wrong things before them.

We may enact a law but who is responsible for its implementation? What does the SHO write? See, what a big criminal the Doctor is? The rape has been committed but he will write 'no semen'. Where the case, will go. As long as all the loopholes are plugged, even if you make a provision of capital punishment in the IPC, it will not serve any purpose.

18.00 hrs.

Everything comes to an end on the trial. Therefore, my submission to you is that all the loopholes should be plugged with the help of the social awareness and its publicity taking the doctors into confidence. They should be advised not to spoil the case, as they are their mothers and sisters. If we do not change the mentality of the society, law will not bring any change.

A new thing has started today. The expected mothers of the affluent families go to the medical centres to know whether the child in their womb is a male or female. If that is a female then it is aborted. While we are discussing here about the disgrace of the girls, there the girls are killed before they take birth. If there are no girls, how this House will run. Therefore, we will have to understand all these things.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN The discussion will continue next time

The House now stands adjourned to meet on Monday, the 8th of May 1995 at 11 A M

18.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 8th May, 1995/Vaisakha 16, 1917 (Saka)

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