

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Sixth Session
(Tenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday , March 12, 1993 31 Phalguna A
21, (1914) (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI C. K. KUPPUSWAMY (Coimbatore): Sir, a Congress MLA was assaulted by some persons belonging to AIADMK in Egmore of Tamil Nadu . so, Question Hour should be suspended to discuss this matter. (Interruptions)

11.0 hrs.

At this stage, Shri C. K. Kuppuswamy came and sat on the floor near the table.
(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) (SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK): Please go to your sent. (Interruptions)

11.03 hrs.

At this stage, Shri, C. K. Kuppuswamy went back to his seat.

11.03 1/2hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Sale of Industrial Units

241. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Supreme Court has held in its judgements that the industrial units may be sold by the State Finance Corporations only after exhausting all possibilities of their revival;

(b) Whether the Union Government have brought to the notice of financial institutions the orders / directions of the Supreme Court;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) Whether the financial institutions are following these directions ; and

(f) if not the reasons therefor?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (f). A Statement is laid on

the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The Supreme Court, in its Judgment dated February 12, 1992 in the case of **Manohar Chandra Vs. Uttar Pradesh Finance Corporation (UPFC)**, while setting aside the sale effected by UPFC in exercise of its powers under Section 29 of the SFCs Act, 1951 on the basis of the facts and circumstances of the case, observed that "Keeping these factors giving rise to conflicting interest the following directions are necessary to be issued to be observed by the UPFC while exercising power under Section 29 of the Act", that every endeavour should be made to make the unit viable and to be put in working condition. If it becomes unworkable, sale of a unit should always be made by public auction.

(b) to (f) : No, Sir. However, the Financial institutions are expected to take note of this decision of the Supreme Court, in subsequent cases in similar situations.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: First of all I would like to congratulate Shri Abrar Ahmed, who belongs to Sawai Madhopur in Rajasthan for assuming the charge of new Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance. A cement factory is lying closed there. He knows about it. I would like to extend my thanks to him for replying the first question in this session. The Supreme Court has given direction not to dispose off small industrial units and the hon. Minister has stated:-

[English]

"Every endeavour should be made to make the unit viable and to be put in working condition."

[Translation]

The Supreme Court has given direction

not to dispose off these units at all and to make these viable. How many units have been revived after providing desired relief in the rates of interest under the direction of the Industrial Development Bank. Secondly, directorate of Industries had directed that technical person, who took loan, will not participate in activities of any political parties. This condition was abolished by the Government of Rajasthan. Does the Central Government propose to abolish this condition at the Central Government level in all the States? My third supplementary is that a person, who takes loan cannot set up any other industry even if the dies of starvation. Therefore would the Government like to abolish both these conditions?

DR. ABRAR AHMED: Mr. Speaker Sir, the supplementary raised by the hon. Member regarding the Sawai Madhopur Cement Factory is not related to the main question. Since he has congratulated me and then asked this question, I think must reply to it. I am in no way less worried than the hon. Member about this factory, since I myself belong to Sawai Madhopur. Before becoming a Minister, when I was a member like him I had raised the issue of Sawai Madhopur Cement Factory several times. The hon. Member is aware of it but sometimes there are problems that cannot be solved immediately. I would like to inform the hon. Member that at first the matter was with the B. I. F. R., who decided it but after that the concerned party has filed a writ in the A.I.F.R. The hon. Minister is aware that when an issue is pending in a court or with a similar other institution then the Government can not interfere in it directly and is of little help. As soon as the A.I. F.R gives a decision about the cement factory, the Government will definitely make all possible efforts to restart the factory.

The hon. Member, further wants to know as to in how many cases the Supreme Court has given this directive? All the sick units or these units which were set up with loans from the State Financial Corporation should not be sold.

In this context I would like to inform the

hon. Member that it is a fact that the Supreme Court has given the verdict in the case of Mahesh Chandra Vs. Uttar Pradesh Finance Corporation that the viability of every sick unit should be examined and every effort should be made to revive it. If the unit becomes unworkable, the assets of the unit should be sold in an open auction. The hon. Member has asked as to how many cases are there in which such directives have been given. I would like to inform the hon. Member that the Supreme Court has given this interim verdict and it will give the final judgement later. The verdict of the Supreme Court is based on merits of the case and the Government can not form a policy on that basis.

I would like to inform the hon. Member about the other case, which is concerned with the U.P.F.C. Vs M/s J.F.K. of India. The Supreme Court reversed its interim verdict. The Government can do little in this matter. Thirdly the hon. Member has expressed his desire to know whether the person taking loan can not be associated with any political party or he can not set up any other industry. I would like to inform him that such a ban was imposed only in Rajasthan which has now been lifted and there is no such condition in any other Financial Corporation.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:

There are no two opinions that the hon. Minister has given a good logic and he deserves congratulations. Please let me know as to what will happen to the workers if the Sawai Madhopur Cement Factory and the poddar factory at Jaipur are closed. Besides, how much amount has been sanctioned by the Financial Corporations for the other factorries at Beawar. The second part of this supplementary question is how much amount is out standing against these units and what steps are being taken by the Government for recovery. The third part of this Supplementary is what steps are being taken to streamline the performance of the State Financial Corporations since he took charge as a new State Minister of Finance. It has been stated that the Supreme Court has given verdict not to sell any of the units and the Financial Corporations should help

these units to stand on their own. What steps has the Government taken to provide assistance to these small units and revive them?

DR. ABRAR AHMED: I am seized of the matter relating to the cement factory at Sawai Madhopur and I share his concern but as I have stated when the case is pending in the court the Government can not intervene in it (Interruptions) You know it very well and I am just reminding you. This issue is with the A. I. F. R. and as soon as it is decided, efforts will be made in this direction.

Secondly, the hon. Member has asked about the sanctioned amount till date. Upto 31st March, 1992, Rs. 13,15,000 lakh were sanctioned for 4 lakh 62 thousand 776 units and out of it Rs. 10,20,211 lakh was actually disbursed. As far as the statewide figures are concerned (Interruptions) perhaps you have not listened to me attentively, I have rightly spoken and have used the word lakh at the end of the figure. I have spoken 10,20,211 lakh, if you listen it carefully then you will not have any objection. If the hon. Member wants the Statewise figure, I have them with me but it is a detailed one and it will take long time to read it out.

As far as the question of overdues is concerned Rs. 6840 crore was out standing upto 31st March, 1992. Excluding Bihar and Jammu and Kashmir the out standing amount was Rs. 5,900 crore. 4,110 crore was in standard category, Rs. 664 crore was in sub-standard and in category doubtful category the amount was 1125 crore. During the Seventh Five Year Plan this out standing was 31 per cent which shot upto 35 per cent in 1991-92. Orissa is on the top with 64 percent of the total outstanding against the state. It is followed by Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and others. The last part of the hon. Members' supplementary related to the recovery of outstanding. I would like to inform him that in 1986-87 the recovery was 35 percent which declined to 31 per cent in 1991-92. In the following year it became 32 per cent. The hon. Member has expressed his desire to

know... (Interruptions)

SHRIGIRDHARILALBHARGAVA: The hon. Minister belongs to my tate, he is an hon. Minister and I am in the oppositon . He belongs to the ruling party and he is a Minister (Interruptions)

DR. ABRAR AHMED : The last question was regarding the performance (*Interruptions*) The hon. Member has asked as to what steps have been taken to streamline the performance . I would like to inform him that many steps have been taken to improve the performance, which includes the " six monthly review" , "identified potential of sick units for their revival" also. For recovery, there is the " periodic review" and the " default - review" . Apart from it some of the steps that have been taken ar3e the setting up of committees, sufficient arrangement for bad debt, fixing target for annual collection and special aid to the weak S. F. C. ' s by SIDBI.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Mr. speaker, Sir. in answer to part (a) of the qestion, the Minister has rightly disclosed the good principle which has bee laid down any the Supreme Court , that is every endeavour should be made to make a unit viable and to put it in working condition. If at all it is not viable then it should be sold by public auction . When this good prnciple has been laid down by the Supreme Court , I am surprised to see the reply to part (b)of the question where the Minister has not even informed or brought to the notice of the Financial Institutions this good direction given by the Supreme Court.

I would like to know whether it is not the duty of dtthe government to see that the Supreme Court's direction is follwed by the financial institutions. And from that point of view, is it not necessary for you not only to bring to the notice of these financial institutions but to see that no violeton is committed by these financial institutions with respect to these principles laid down by the Supreme Court?

[Translation]

DR. ABRAR AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already stated in detail that the Supreme Court decides the cases on merit and it has given a decision in a particular case. But in another case it reversed its earlier decision. I would like to tell the hon. Member that the Government cannot frame its policies on the basis of a particular judgement passed by the Supreme Court . Conditions and merits differ from case to case. The Government can , therefore, not issue anyh direction to the ffinancial institutions. The hon. Member has sought to know the number of cases in which evaluation has been conducted. In this regard, I would like to inform him that evaluation is done only in the case in which orders have already been passed by the Court; and the decision of thee Supreme Court is followed . It is very difficult to do so in all the the cases unless some policies are framed and without such directives of the Supreme Court, the framing of policies in such matters is not.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: It is a direction of the Supreme Court . It is not a question of laying down your policy direction of the Supreme Court is binding.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: It is a direction of the Supreme Court. It is not a question of layiing down your policy direction of the supreme court is binding.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker , Sir, since the issue of sick industries has come up and since there has been a reference to the B. I. F. R. , I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the B. I. F. R. shows more interest in selling the sick industries to the industrial groups of the its own choice than in rehabilitating these units. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has got some specific complaints in this regard. I would

also like to know that while the B. I. F. R. has been asked to perform the role of a doctor to look into the problems of sick units, what is the number of such cases lying before the B. I. F. R. and the time by which it would the inquiry, to be followed by proper measures to rehabilitate the sick industries. Besides, I would also like to know the short-comings of the B. I. F. R. and the steps to be taken by the hon. Minister to overcome these short-comings?

DR. ABRAR AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, normally the B. I. F. R. has nothing to do with such a question. Since the matter pertains to a cement factory so I just referred to about the B. I. F. R. Since the hon. Member has, by referring to that, sought to know whether I have received any complaint regarding selling the sick industries to a selected industrial group. I would like to inform the hon. Member in this regard that I have not received any such complaint.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Have you then tried to gather information in this regard? My second question was also there that several cases are lying for disposal before the B. I. F. R. for a long time. Many of them are pending for five to seven years. Mills are closed, labourers are unemployed and moreover the Government has its investments in those mills. I would like to know as to when these problems will be solved?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is right that there are problems about timely disposal of cases that go before the B. I. F. R. It is precisely for this reason that we have sought to amend the sick Industrial Regulation Act.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: You strengthen it.

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Mr. Speaker, sir, the hon. Minister has stated

that industries are set up in the country and they are closed too. When industries are closed, it is the labourers who suffer the most because industries provide them bread and butter. They really suffer the most when industries are closed. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that the millowners derive maximum benefit out of their mills and there after they make these mills sick and gradually close them. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is proposing any amendment in the concerned Act so that the closure of the mills may be prevented and even when they are close, the invested money may be taken back from the millowners. The next thing I would like to point out that the textile mills are generally closed. There is one Sajjan Textile mill in my constituency of Ratlam which after being closed, is now being run by the State Government. The labourers, however, want to run the mill themselves. Now the banks and other financial institutions are trying to thrust the financial liabilities of the factory on the labourers, whereas they should recover their dues from the mill owners. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: you are not supposed to deliver a speech, you have to ask question.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: I simply want to submit that if the labourers are to run those industries, then the outstanding liabilities of the industries should be rested on the industrialists and not on the labourers and in running the new industries.. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know whether the labourers are to be given the responsibility of running the mills?

[English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: This has to be just a case to case matter. The Government would be very happy to look into these cases. Wherever the workers are in a position to run these sick units, it will be our endeavour to encourage them.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a lot of confusion about this question. The State level financial corporations are concerned about financing small and medium scale industries alone and their responsibility is restricted only to make investment. Most of the industries are closed mainly for want of working capital, electricity and raw material. The Government has restricted the role of state financial corporations only up to making in finance available. The industries that depend on other financial institutions such as Banks etc. for more working capital following the investment made by the State Financial Corporations, are generally closed due to non-availability of working capital from the Banks and the capita already invested in the industries is sunk and the units are unable to start functioning. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would provide the State Financial corporations with the right to further provide the working capital to rehabilitate the industrial units whom they have already given financial assistance? is it a fact whether the Government contemplates to bring any change in this policy?

DR. ABRAR AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, till 1990, the S.F.C. has been providing term lakhs up to a maximum of Rs. 60 lakh to such projects, whose projects cost limit was Rs. 3 crore and since August 1990 this amount has been raised from Rs. 60 lakh to Rs. 90 lakh for those projects whose projects whose project cost is Rs. 5 crore. So far as the matter of working capital, as has been said by the hon. Member is concerned, the State Financial Corporation provides them working capital as per its own limits and resources. The industrial units can apply for working capital to any Bank or to any financial institution and the amount of working capital is sanctioned keeping in view the viability of the project.

[English]

SHRI B. AKBAR PASHA: Delay is involved in the B.I.F.R. cases. They appoint

an operating agency which finalises a case. That take quite a long time. Even after a decision is taken, the operating agency gives a direction to the financial institutions very late. That is why the disbursement takes such a long time that the unit becomes further sick. Will the Government try to seek some remedy in this direction?

[Translation]

DR. ABRAR AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully concede the incidents of delay as pointed out by the hon. Member and in this regard the Government is contemplating to increase the number of benches.

EPFA Scheme

242. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in his Report No. 15 of 1992 on Employees' Provident Fund Organisation has pointed out a number of shortcomings in the working of Employees Provident Fund Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The Controller & Auditor General of India in his report for the year ended 31-3-91 (No. 15 of 1992) has made certain observations on the working of the EPF Scheme. The important observations are mainly about delays/ deficiencies in respect of the following matters :- identification of coverable establishments; issue of orders for coverage of establishments; determination of PF dues to be paid by the defaulting

establishments; recovery of dues; levy of damages; settlement of PF claims; issue of Annual Accounts Statements; finalisation of prosecutory cases; etc.

2. The report of the CAG has been forwarded to the Employees Provident Fund Organisation for taking appropriate remedial measures. In order to provide prompt service to the EPF subscribers and for streamlining the accounting procedure, a massive computerisation programme has already been launched in the EPF Organisation. A Central Action Plan covering substantive areas of work was initiated in 1990-91 which has resulted in improving the system's efficiency and effectiveness.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI:

The hon. Minister has somehow replied my question. Sir, nearly 1 crore and 70 lac employees of 2 lac and 12 thousand units spread over 174 odd industries are subscribing to E. P. F. Generally, it is seen that E. P. F. Organisation has its offices in big cities only. Difficulty is being faced in disposing of cases of the employees, especially of those retired. The employees working on lower posts have to visit the city of and on in order to enquire the balance at their credit to collect their dues and to sort out the discrepancies in accounts. Mr. Speaker, Sir it may be noted that in Uttar Pradesh they have their office in Kanpur. People from places like Ballia, Varanasi, Gazipur will have to go to Kanpur. I would like to know whether there is any provision to open offices in every district headquarters in order to solve this problem or is any thought being given to the idea so that these cases could be settled conveniently. My second point is that employees are paid P.F. dues by the regional office through a nationalised bank in its vicinity. The employees are required to stay for 2-3 days in the city to get the payment. This causes a lot of inconvenience to them. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is evolving a scheme to make the payment of provident fund dues to the employees by cheques through Banks?

[English]

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, as on today we have got 16 regional offices and 47 sub-regional offices. I agree with the hon. Member that these offices are not adequate to serve the interest of the working class everywhere. They do face lot of difficulties in going to the Provident Fund Office because of the distance.

We are trying to open up more offices but when we decide to open a new office, the criteria is not on the district or sub-divisional level, it is on the basis of as to how many workers or subscribers are there to the Provident Fund. So it is industry-wise and number of workers available in that area. It cannot be opened at district headquarters because the basis is number of workers.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI:

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a few days ago the Government had made an announcement that from April, 1993 onwards the employees would get pension even after their retirement. Has the Government issued any ordinance or is it bringing a bill to this effect in this session is it in a position to get it passed before 31st March, 1993, so that pension payments are made from 1st April 1993? My second point is that generally it takes 3-4 months time to settle the cases of employees. It causes a lot of hardship. Taking this aspect into account the Comptroller and Auditor General had said that cases should be settled within 20 days. I would like to tell the hon. Minister that more than 200 such cases have been lying pending for last 3-4 years in Kanpur region alone. What is the number of such pending cases and time by which payment would be made in respect of cases that are lying pending for more than three years.

[English]

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, as far as the pension scheme is concerned the Government has finalised the pension scheme for industrial workers including the working jour-

nalists . The scheme is at the final stage. I hope to get it through the Cabinet in a few days time. The Act has to be amended. I will be coming before the House for the amendment of the Act and whether it can be implemented as scheduled from 1.4. 1993 will depend on whether the Bill can be passed on the floor of the House . So it is in the hands of the hon. Members. I will be coming forward with a Bill . I hope this Bill will be passed without discussion because it is such a good scheme and I am very much hopeful that it can be implemented from 1.4. 1993 .

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: It is stated here that CAG in its report of 31st March , 1993 made certain observations on the working of EPF scheme. In those observations the CAG has clearly stated that some delay and inefficiency were there in some cases. I want to know from the hon. Minister what steps have been taken against those officials who have been negligent in their duty and who were responsible for those delays and the inefficient working of the EPF scheme . What steps were taken or are proposed to be taken against those officials?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: This report of the CAG was finalised only on 14. 9. 1992 . It was forwarded to the Ministry of Labour by the Ministry of Finance only on the 15th of January this year, that is, 1993 . We have forwarded this report to the Provident Fund . Organisation on the 5th of February, just about a month ago . Therefore, it is hardly two months since we have received this report of the CAG . It will take some time for us to go into the para-wise comments of CAG and give our reply or comments.

In can assure the hon. Members, if they are interested in knowing the reactions of the organisation or the comments of the organisation, I can easily send them to them. Maybe, it will take a couple of months' time.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker , Sir, I would like to ask a question through you. As you know in P. F. scheme employees also contribute along with the employees . Generally it is seen that the sick industries, as has been the case of a number of mills in my constituency which are already closed or awaiting their closure, do not contribute to P. F. Either the money is spent on salaries or the workers do not get it. The M. P. High Court had given a judgement in this regard, but cases will have to be filed individually each and every time. I would like to know as to what action is being taken by the Government in order to pay the individuals contribution in P. F. alongwith the contribution from the employers ? What schemes have been evolved in this regard and what action is being taken by the Government to remove the irregularities?

[English]

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Both the employees' contribution and the employers' contribution have to be collected by the management and they have to remit that amount to the Provident Fund Organisation through the designated banks. It is true that a large number of establishments have not yet paid their dues after collection and today as much as Rs. 250 crore are in arrears from the different industries all over the country. Out of this Rs. 250 crore which are yet to be recovered, Rs. 160 crore are not recoverable at this stage because of many reasons.

Firstly , the units have been closed down. They have been liquidated. Some of the units have gone to the BIFR and in many cases the High Court has given a stay order. Therefore, Rs . 160 crore are not recoverable at this state. As on 31.3.1991, out of Rs. 250 crore the amount recoverable was only Rs. 90 crores. Whithin this year, till December 1992 , crore the amount recoverable was only Rs. 90 crores . Within this year, till December 1992 , out of Rs. 90 crore , we have been able to recover Rs. 43 crore. Therefore, out of the recovgerable amount

it is only Rs. 47 crore which is left and we are making vigorous efforts to see that these arrears are also recovered.

MR. SPEAKER: The lady wanted to know what the vigorous steps are, because this is a very serious matter about which the Government should take a serious note.

[English]

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Under the Act, the procedure for recovery of the arrears is laid down in a specific provision.

[Translation]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let the hon. Minister say as to how many prosecutions were launched and how many convictions made. And the power was vested with the District Collector. Now, it was not possible as the District Collector is having so much of preoccupation. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Does not he get time.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV: It is a very important issue. The workers should not suffer because of this helplessness or preoccupation of the District Collector. You should find alternatives. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: You have no patience to listen. What can I do...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: Do not say that we have no patience to listen....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: You have not listened to my reply. I have not completed

my reply. As I said, according to the provisions of the Act, in the beginning, the duty was assigned to the collector. We found that it was not working well. Therefore, the Act has been amended and this power has now been given to the Regional Provident Fund Commissioners. After the power has been delegated to the Regional Provident Fund Commissioners, there has been a tremendous progress in the recovery of the arrears. I can give you the figures. This is why I said that we are making efforts. For example, in 1986-87, our recovery was only Rs. 7 crores; in 1987-88 our recovery was Rs. 9 crores. But, in 1991-92, after the powers have been delegated to the Regional provident Fund Commissioners, our recovery in one year that is in 1991-92 was Rs. 58 crores and in 1992-93 till December it has been Rs. 45 crores. Therefore, we are making progress in the recovery. This was possible after the amendment of the Act by delegating the powers to the Provident Fund Commissioners.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you are a very efficient Minister, and we appreciate your efficiency. But the matter is very serious and you have seen what the House feels. You please take proper action in the matter.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for your observation. As this issue relates to employees, I would like to ask questions from the hon. Minister in two parts. There are many Municipalities where safai Karamchans work. In those Municipalities the employers do not contribute to Provident Fund separately. As a result, the employees do not get money on time. Likewise, in Jute and Textile industries employees arrears are lying, which they do not get at all. I will be glad if you kindly tell me the total amount of arrears lying. I would like to ask a policy question from the hon. Minister. When I was a Minister, our Government had drafted a bill for extending the Provident Fund scheme to unorganised labourers like agricultural labourers and construction workers. I would like to know

about the fate of that Bill from the hon. Minister. Is the Government thinking about extending provident fund scheme to the unorganised sector also?

[*English*]

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: As on today, the Act applies to those factories which employ twenty or more workers. It applies to the 'Co-operative societies which employ 50 or more workers. So, that is the present position of the Act. Now, it is true that a large number of workers are not yet covered by this Social Security Scheme. Today, we have got 319 million work force in our country and out of this 319 million work force, it is only 17 million of the workers which are covered under the Social Security Scheme. We have made a quick survey. I had asked the Organisation to find out how much more number of workers could have been covered under the provisions of the Act. In our quick survey it is found that as many as 100 million more workers could be covered under the P. F. Act. Therefore, I do agree with the sentiments of the hon. Members expressed here, that much more needs to be done not only in the Provident Fund scheme but also in the Social Security Scheme. Therefore, that is one of the reasons why this Government had decided to bring pension scheme also. It is our effort that this scheme should be made applicable to as many workers as possible.

We have made a quick survey, as I said and one hundred million more could be covered. But I am not sure- I would not be able to give that much of assurance on the floor of the House-how much more could be done in a year or so, but it would be our effort to do it.

SHRI BASUDEV ACHARIA: Sir, in spite of Supreme Court's order, the employers in bidi industries are not implementing the orders of the Supreme Court in respect to the provident fund contribution of bidi workers. May I know from the Minister what steps he is going to take to implement the

Supreme Court order in respect to bidi workers and also whether the attention of the Minister has been drawn to this fact or not? Part (b) of my question is that there are a number of bidi workers' cooperatives where the bidi workers are the owners of those co-operatives. So, I would like to know whether the Minister will consider to exempt those co-operatives from payment of arrears- not current but payment of arrears- where the bidi workers themselves are the owners of the cooperatives.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, I am quite aware of the Supreme Court ruling. In fact, the Supreme Court ruling to extend the provisio of Provident Fund Act was implemented during my first tenure as labour Minister in 1986- 87 and, therefore, I am quite aware of that. We have started implementing the scheme to the bidi workers. But we have a problem in respect of bidi industry because it is such an industry that it is very difficult to establish the relationship between the employer and the employee. Those hon. Members who are working in that area are aware how bidis are manufactured. Bidis are manufactured in respective homes of the people. The manufacturer, gives a contract and then the contractor gives it to the people in the families, in the villages and all that. Therefore, the establishment of a relationship between the employer and the employee becomes not an easy thing. Yet I can assure the House that we are trying to implement the Provident Fund scheme to the bidi workers as much as possible. I do not have the exact figures of how many bidi workers have been covered by this time but I am sure a large number of them have already been covered.

As far as the co-operatives are concerned, I have already stated that this Act is available to any co-operative society employing fifty or more workers.

Mr. Acharia has brought to my notice a particular case of a co-operative society. I do not think I need to say it on the floor of the house, but I know what he means by his question. He met me yesterday also. I am looking at it separately.

Trade with EC

243. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have discussed with British Premier the problems faced by domestic exporters to European Community;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the trade deficit of the country with European Community;

(d) Whether the Government have re-formulated their investment, production and marketing strategies in view of the decision of the European Community to enforce stringent guidelines for Indian exports; and

(e) if so, the details and ramifications thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Following are the details of India's trade deficit with EEC during the last two years:

(Rs. in crores,

1990-91	1991-92
3802. 67	2114. 61

(d) and (e). No specific guidelines have been enforced by the European Community against Indian exports. The on going liberalisation process aims at globalisation of India's foreign trade, by promoting productivity, modernisation and

competitiveness in industrial and other economic sectors in India, thereby enhancing their export capabilities and encouraging the attainment of high and internationally accepted standards of quality.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Sir, I would like to know what are going to be the terms and conditions for the proposed new co-operation agreement between Indian and the 12 -nation European Community.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, the conditions are already known. We are already having long standing relations with the Community and recently the agreement has been initiated for two years.

We are given the most Favoured Nation treatment. It is also covered by GSP and as a result of this long-standing relation, nearly 30 per cent of our total exports are to the European Economic Community.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: How far it is likely to strengthen trade, industry and technical cooperation of European Community with India?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, it is expanding and recently the hon. Member has noted that large number of trade ministers and industry Ministers from the Community had come and had inter-action with the Government officials and also with the leaders of the trade and industry. In fact the liberalised policy which aims at upgradation, technology and expansion of our production capacity both in terms of quality and price can be taken advantage of and we can take advantage of it with the larger cooperation and we are aiming to have that.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Sir, in our trade with European Economic Community, the balance of trade has continued to be against India. Our export portfolio consists of textiles and garments, gems and jewellery, leather, marine products and pharmaceuticals but not agricultural and plantation goods. The reason is the regime of

subsidies which the E.E. C. has. Now, with the agreement between European Economic Community and European Free Trade Area, We have a situation where there is a possibility of fortressing Europe" coming up. The hon. Minister, in his answer, has talked about liberalisation process which aims at globalisation. The GATT Dunkel Draft aims at the subsidy reduction in agriculture. My question to the hon. Minister is what is the preparation of the Government of India about the export of agricultural goods to Europe, particularly to E.E.C. and is the provisions in the Dunkel Draft on agriculture/ to India's advantage or not and whether it will help Indian exports of agriculture?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Sir, perhaps it would be too early to pass any judgement on it. But it is quite understandable that if the subsidy components in the agriculture products of the European Community countries are reduced, to that extent India would be in an advantageous position.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARAYA: When will you take action? It is in the last stage of the agreement.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: It is not so. I am coming to that part a little later.

Therefore, even, perhaps, the hon. members have noticed that the U. S. Secretary to Treasury has raised certain questions in respect to the arrangement between community and certain other countries in agricultural subsidies. So, all these questions are going to be raised and we are not in a position to indicate what would be the timeframe by which the Uruguay round of discussion should be concluded. We shall have to wait for some time. But, surely, there is likely to be some advantage and India should take advantage of it and particularly there are immense potentialities in some of the agricultural products which include tea and coffee also. But on the specific point which hon. member has referred in regard to reduction of the subsidy element, I do hope we can take advantage of that provided we can make our packaging and quality of our

goods according to the standards prescribed by them.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, the statement does not give us any figure of 1992-93 as of date. May be the full year's figures are not available. But, I am afraid, that the deficit, in fact, has increased. 1991-92 was a year of compression of imports. 1992-93 was not so. I want to know that figure.

Secondly, in the bilateral discussions that are taking place between the E.E.C. Members what is being discussed is the expansion of trade. But our problem is the kind of trade that we are having with the E.E.C. Any expansion of trade is leading inevitably to further deficit in trade.

What remedies have we proposed to these countries where expansion of trade is leading to further deficit in balance of trade.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the remedy is quite clear and we must expand our exports and that is why we have indicated that if we want to overcome the type of BOP crisis at the end of the Eighth Plan, during the plan period our exports should grow at the rate of 13.6 per cent in volume terms, and in Dollar terms it would be about 15 per cent to 20 per cent, and import at the rate of around 8-1/2 per cent.

In respect of the figure for the current year, I have the figure for April- November 1992 and in order to avoid whether the rupee has been depressed or not, I am giving the figures in terms of Dollar. Our export has been of the value of 3307.37 Million US Dollars and import has been of the value of 4337.37 US Dollars. The export has grown at 13.6 per cent, and import at 21.7 per cent.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: But what is the deficit?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, for deficit I require the figure. But I can give the figure of the total deficit from April to November; the global figure is roughly about 3,300 million Dollars.

Transfer of money to Foreign Banks

244. SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have made any assessment regarding the illegal transfer of money from the country to foreign banks annually;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the foreign banks identified by the government where money has been transferred illegally;

(d) Whether the Government have asked propose to ask the foreign banks to relax secrecy laws for transparent global banking system;

(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. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) : No Sir, such transfers are done clandestinely and it is not possible to make reliable estimates of their volume.

(c) ; The Directorate of Enforcement has come across instances of illegal remittance of foreign exchange equivalent to Rs. 77. 93 crores (appro) through VOSTRO accounts, to standard chartered Bank , London GIRO Bank PLC, UK and Bank of Ireland, Dublin.

(d) to (f) : Banks are governed by the laws of the country in which they operate. Foreign banks operating in India are required to make available ali relevant information to concerned authorities. Banks in other countries are governed by laws in those countries. Government has not taken any initiatives to seek relaxation in Laws of other countries.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Sir, the answer to my questions are the expres-

sions more of helplessness than of taking any concrete steps to stop the flow of illegal money, particularly in foreign exchange hard currency which we are so much pressed for in foreign banks. why I ask this question is that I read one statement of the Finance Minister when he was in London . He expressed his own very serious concern that some of the Indian businessmen are entering into the transfer of illegal money by this clandestine method and a huge amount of money is being deposited in foreign banks. Though the Government has not made any estimate, one estimate is that illegal transfer of an amount between 5.5 billion to 7.5 billion dollars annually is an astonishing amount of money which is illegally being transferred to the foreign countries and the Government answers only that Government — the Directorate of Enforcement has been able to find out only the case up to the tune of Rs. 77.93 crores.

Sir, another press report is that the Director of the CBI is allso going into an inquiry for another case which amounts to 1.2 billion dollars. I want to know from the Minister of Finance that seeing this kind of a serious situation where such a large amount of money is illegally transferred, whether the Government has taken any initiative. The Minister himself has got very good contacts with many international financial institutions. I want know whether he will use his goodwill also in his contacts to see that India should not be in a position to lose such a big amount. Has the Government made any assessment besides this one case where according to my information some foreign Embassies working in Delhi, are involved? What is the answer of the Minister?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH) : Mr. Speaker , Sir, in these specific cases of Rs. 77 crores which has been mentioned in this answer , I would like to say that in most of these cases funds were remitted from the VOSTRO accounts of the banks forr Foreign Economic Affairs of the erstwhile USSR. This bank had a VOSTRO account in India. This was non-convertible this was misused to deposit money into the VOSTRO accounts which

was convertible and that is how the Enforcement Directorate detected it. Action is being taken both by the Enforcement Directorate as well as by the Reserve Bank of India.

As regards the wider question, there is circumstantial evidence that large flows of money go out of this country in violation of our rules, regulations and laws. The Enforcement Directorate, to the extent it can, has been trying to deal with this problem. But overall, we have to deal with this problem by changes in economic policy environment and that is precisely what our Government has sought to do. For example, smuggling of gold is a major source for generation of black money and also for illegal export of money from this country. We have now taken steps to allow import of gold and there is evidence that the smuggling of gold and thereby the creation of illegal foreign exchange, to some extent, has been reduced. We are extending that process with regard to silver.

Similarly, a large amount of consumer goods are imported illegally and smuggled into our country and they are financed by exports of foreign exchange illegally. We have liberalised that also. My hope is, as a cumulative result of these measures, over a period of time, the illegal outflow of foreign exchange will diminish. At the same time, with the more liberal investment policies that we have created if the rate of return that our people can get in our own country is also comparable, I have reasons to hope that over a period of time this clandestine outflow will stop. But in so far as the Enforcement Directorate has a role, I can assure this hon. House that we will pursue all these cases with utmost vigilance and with speed.

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV: Most of these illegal transfer of money is done through over-invoicing and under-invoicing and that has been a long-practised method for transfer of illegal money to foreign countries. Really speaking, most of the money is deposited in Swiss banks. Some of the countries have entered into concrete agreements, for example the United States of

America has an agreement with the Swiss banks which is called 'Mutual Assistance Arrangement', where they can get certain information if they want to know from the Swiss banks. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India also would take initiative to enter into some kind of agreements with the foreign banks or foreign governments where, whenever they want to get the information, that may be made available to the Government of India.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, we can certainly make efforts to make agreements, but quite honestly I would say that we do not have the bargaining power of the United States of America in dealing with the Government of Switzerland, but we can try.

[Translation]

DR. P.R.GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when India became independent, the Britishers left behind Rs. 3452 crore in the country. What steps are being taken by the Government to extract the money of leaders and businessmen deposited in foreign countries.

[English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, I have already answered that question, but I would like to mention to this hon. House that some people have made an estimate of total inflow of gold into this country since independence and if we offset that against the outstanding external debt of India, the two figures are roughly comparable. So, the real problem is, as many people say, that the Government of India has a Balance of Payment problem, but the country, as a whole, if we take into account all the import of gold, I think the picture would be different.

SHRI CHETAN P. S. CHAUHAN: Sir, through the VOSTRO account, money is being diverted clandestinely and in most cases, the money is being diverted with the full knowledge of the banks.

It is also published in newspapers that this money which is being siphoned off is being used for even terrorist activities. In one very small case, the Bank of Baroda in America was fined 800,000 dollars.

Is the Finance Minister thinking of bringing in some rule for prosecuting these banks which are indulging in these activities?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: There is already a provision under FERA to prosecute those who violate the provisions of FERA. Also in so far as the Foreign Exchange violations are concerned, the Reserve Bank of India is looking into VOSTRO accounts of all foreign banks.

QUESTION HOUR OVER

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Export of Engineering Products

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

(a) the target fixed for the export of engineering products for the current financial year;

(b) the extent to which this target has been achieved by the end of 1992;

(c) the extent to which this target is likely to be achieved upto March 31, 1993?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The target set for export of engineering items during 1992-93 is Rs. 5910 crores.

(b) Export of engineering items during April-November, 1992 amounted to Rs. 4038 crores. Export figures for the month of De-

cember, 1992 are not yet available from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics.

(c) It appears from the trend observed in exports since April 1992 that the target set for 1992-93 is likely to be achieved.

[English]

Import of Consumer Goods

*246. **SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE:**
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed certain percentage of foreign exchange earnings by exporters to import consumer goods;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how much of the said earnings has since been utilised; and

(d) the details of the main items which have been permitted to be imported?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Under the Special Import Licence Scheme introduced for Deemed Exports, Export House/Trading House/Star Trading House and manufactures who have acquired internationally recognised certification of quality certain consumer goods/consumer durables are allowed for import as per policy.

(c) Statistical data relating to import of items against individual import licences is not maintained.

(d) Items of import are given in the Public Notice No.64/(PN)92-97 dated

21.10.1992, a copy of which is available in the Parliament Library.

NABARD Assistance to Kerala

*247. SHRI V.S. VIJAYA
RAGHAVAN:
SHRI KODIKKUNNIL
SURESH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has extended refinance assistance to set up village and cottage industries in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details of assistance provided during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED):

(a) and (b). National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been extending refinance assistance to eligible institutions on automatic basis to enable them to finance Village and Cottage Industries under the composite loan scheme. The eligible institutions for refinance from NABARD are Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks, State Cooperative Banks, District Industrial Cooperative Bank, State Land Development Banks, District Central Cooperative Banks and Primary Land Development Banks. The refinance disbursed by NABARD in respect of Kerala State for the last three years was as under:-

1989-90	Rs. 835 lakhs
1990-91	Rs. 1125 lakhs
1991-92	Rs. 1202 lakhs

(Latest available)

Branches of Public Sector Banks

*248. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:
SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA
MUNDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of public sector banks opened during the period from April to December, 1992 and proposed to be opened during the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether inter-State disparities exist in the matter of opening of such branches in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the extent to which the recommendations of the Narasimha Committee have influenced the Government's policy of restriction of opening bank branches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED):

(a) The number of branches opened during the period April to September, 1992 (latest available) of Public Sector Banks, State-wise is given in the Statement. No specific target has been fixed for any State for opening branches during the current year;

(b) and (c). Inter-State disparities do exist in the matter of opening of branches in the country. The factors leading to the disparities may be attributed to the geographical location, lack of infrastructural facilities, business potential, economic activity, transport, communication etc.

(d) The Narasimham Committee has not recommended placing of any restrictions on the opening of new branches by banks. It has, however, suggested by the

Committee that banks may themselves decide on the policy and strategy for setting up new branches. Taking into consideration the recommendations made by the Committee and with a view to provide some degree of freedom in operational matters to the banks, RBI announced the new branch li-

censing policy in May, 1992. The new policy gives greater freedom to banks to rationalise their branch network by relocating branches, opening of specialised branches, spinning off of business, setting up of controlling offices/administrative units and establishing extension counters.

STATEMENT

Sl.No	Name of State/ Union Territory	Branches Opened					Total
		Rural	Semi- Urban	Urban	Metropolitan Port Town		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	1	7	3	14	
2	Assam	-	-	1	-	1	
3.	Bihar	2	1	6	-	9	
4.	Chandigarh	-	-	2	-	2	
5.	Delhi	-	-	-	4	4	
6.	Gujarat	4	2	4	1	11	
7.	Haryana	-	-	7	-	7	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	-	-	-	2	
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	-	-	-	1	
10.	Karnataka	1	1	2	7	11	
11.	Kerala	1	3	4	-	8	

Sl.No	Name of State/ Union Territory	Branches Opened					Total
		Rural	Semi- Urban	Urban	Metropolitan Port Town		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3	1	12	-	16	
13.	Maharashtra	3	-	4	9	16	
14.	Meghalaya	2	-	-	3		
15.	Orissa	3	-	4	-	7	
16.	Pondicherry	-	-	-	1	1	
17.	Punjab	-	1	8	-	9	
18.	Rajasthan	2	-	9	-	11	
19.	Sikkim	3	1	-	-	4	
20.	Tamil Nadu	2	1	11	4	18	
21.	Uttar Pradesh	5	2	15	3	25	
22.	West Bengal	3	-	3	2	8	
Total		40	14	100	34	188	

Import of Gold

*249. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gold-import scheme introduced by the Government has yielded the desired results; and'

(b) if so, the details of foreign exchange realisation during the period April, 1992 to January, 1993?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir. About Rs. 274.78 crores have been collected in convertible foreign exchange as customs duty on about 121.44 M.T. of gold which has been imported under the gold import scheme upto February, 1993. Reports also indicate that the smuggling of gold, as a result of these imports, has also declined.

(b) Rs. 243.81 crores of customs duty has collected from the imports of gold during the period from April, 1992 to January 1993.

Bank Credit to SCs/STs in Gujarat

*250. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARUJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of credit extended by public sector banks to SCs/STs and other backward classes in Gujarat under priority sector against the target fixed for the years 1990, 1991 and 1992;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the tribal farmers, SCs/STs and other backward classes face various difficulties in getting the loans sanctioned; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRARAHMED): (a) to (c). In terms of Reserve Bank of India's guidelines all public sector banks are required to extend atleast 10% of their total credit to weaker sections, including Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes. No State-wise/borrowers' category-wise targets in this regard have been stipulated. The data reporting system does not generate separate information regarding bank credit extended to backward classes. However, the outstanding amount of all scheduled commercial banks extended to weaker sections and Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in Gujarat as at the end of March 1990, 1991 (latest available) is given below:

<i>As at the end of</i>	<i>Amount of Outstanding Advances</i>	
	<i>Weaker Sections</i>	<i>SC/STs</i>
March 1990	428	146
March 1991	429	149

The Commercial banks are required to adhere to the instructions of Reserve Bank of India in the matter of advancing loans to the weaker sections, including those belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. A number of steps have been taken with a view to increase the flow of credit to weaker sections. The important ones are:

1. The Interest on loans upto Rs. 7500 is kept low at 11.5% p.a.
2. In the case of crop loans availed of by small and marginal farmers, the interest debited to the account should not exceed the principal amount.

3. No third party guarantee or collateral security is to be insisted upon the loans upto Rs. 10000.

4. There should be no compound interest on current dues in agricultural sector.

5. Appropriate sanctioning powers should be delegated to the Branch Managers so that majority of loan applications are sanctioned at branch level itself.

6. All loan applications upto a credit limit of Rs. 25000 are to be disposed off within a fortnight and those for over Rs. 25000, within 8-9 weeks.

7. Loan proposals from SC/ST applicants should not be rejected without valid reasons. In such cases, rejections should be at level higher than that of Branch Manager.

Export of Sandal Wood

*251. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:

SHRI C.P. MUDALA
GIRIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of countries to which products of sandal wood are being exported;

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(c) whether some more countries are proposed to be included in the list for exporting sandal wood products during 1993; and

(d) if so, the efforts being made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The countries to which products of sandalwood are being exported are Taiwan, Honkong, Singapore, USA, UAE, Japan, UK, Switzerland, France, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Erstwhile USSR etc.

(b) Export realisation during the last three years has been as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Sandalwood Oil	Sandalwood chips, powder and Flakes etc.
1989-90	5.71	7.51
1990-91	13.27	10.55
1991-92	16.23	12.65

Export figures in respect of major importing countries during 1991-92, 1990-91 and 1989-90 have been as under:

Sandalwood Chips, Dust, Powder and Machine finished products

(Rs. in crores)

Country	1991-92	1990-91	1989-90
Taiwan	3.94	5.67	3.95

(Rs. in crores)

<i>Country</i>	<i>1991-92</i>	<i>1990-91</i>	<i>1989-90</i>
Honkong	2.40	1.82	1.32
Singapore	2.11	1.30	0.92
UAE	1.08	0.27	0.20
USA	1.06	0.03	0.01
Others	2.06	1.56	1.11
Sandalwood Oil			
USA	4.62	1.54	1.86
France	2.69	3.20	1.97
UK	1.00	0.69	-
Singapore	1.73	-	-
UAE	1.47	0.77	-
USSR	-	4.34	0.85
Others	4.73	2.73	1.03

(c) The exporters are always on the look out for new markets.

(d) There is no specific programme in this regard; however, normal incentives available to other exporters are also allowed for export of sandalwood oil and other products.

as per the current Import-Export Policy, effective from 1st April, 1992., there is a complete ban on export of sandalwood in all forms except in the following categories:

(i) Sandalwood oil

(ii) Handicrafts made of sandalwood

(iii) Machine finished sandalwood products namely:

(a) visiting cards

(b) blades for ladies hand fans

(c) outer case and dials for watches any other products of similar nature meeting the laid down specifications and value addition norms.

The ban on export of other items has been imposed to ensure export of only value added items.

[Translation]

and imported during 1992-93;

Trade Relations Between India and China

*252. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether trade relations between India and China have improved;

(b) if so, the details of items exported

(c) whether India is fulfilling the total demand of China for wheat and sugar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information is readily available only for the period April-October, 1992 which is as under:

<i>India's Imports from China</i>	<i>Value (Rs. in Crores)</i>	<i>India's Exports to China</i>	<i>Value (Rs. Crores)</i>
Raw Silk	29.40	Iron ore	39.35
Crude minerals	11.05	Leather and manufacture	49.23
Coal, Coke and Briquettes	25.12	Engineering items other than machinery, instrument and transport equipment	10.41
Organic chemicals	35.93	Iron and steel bars/rods etc.	10.50
Others	79.74	Others	24.05
Total	182.14	Total	133.54

(Sources: DGCI &S, Calcutta)

Information for the remaining period of the year 1992-93 will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.,

(c) India has not received any demand from China for supply of wheat and sugar.

(d) Question does not arise.

Asset Reconstruction Fund

[English]

*253. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has decided to set up an Asset Reconstruction Fund for smaller weak banks;

(b) if so, whether the Narasimham Committee's recommendations regarding merging of weak banks with stronger banks have been accepted and implemented; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIA-

MENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRARAHMED):

(a) No final decision has been taken by Reserve Bank of India on the setting up of an Asset Reconstruction Fund for smaller weak banks.

(b) and (c). The Narasimham Committee recommended that the move towards a restructured banking system should be market driven and based on profitability considerations and brought about through a process of mergers and acquisitions. The Committee did not recommend any specific time frame for achieving this objective. The appropriate mode of restructuring of weak banks is under consideration of the Government.

African Import and Export Bank

*254. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the African Development Bank has sought cooperation from EXIM Bank in setting of African Import and Export Bank of country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any modalities of such co-operation have been worked out; and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRARAHMED):

(a) to (d). The African Development Bank requested Government of India to allow, in principle, the Exim Bank of India to participate in the establishment of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) as a shareholder. Government's no objection to the participation of the Exim Bank of India was conveyed in early May, 1992. The

Afreximbank would be a regional Bank in Africa proposed to deal with trade financing within Africa and between Africa and other countries. The Exim Bank of India has since been co-opted in the Preparatory Committee set up by the African Development Bank of finance the launch of the Afreximbank. It has also been approached by the African Development Bank to subscribe to the shareholding of the proposed Afreximbank. As at present the modalities of cooperation have not been worked out.

Projects Funded by World Bank

*255. PROF. PREM DHUMAL:
SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA
KAUR:(DEEPA):

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the World Bank the Progress of the projects aided by the World Bank and the International Development Association in India is not satisfactory;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) Whether the Government have carried out any assessment of all such projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to ensure timely completion of all the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRARAHMED): (a) to (d). Monitoring of World Bank aided projects is a continuous and ongoing process by the World Bank Government of India and State Governments over the life of the project. The implementation of such

projects is dependent on a number of factors relating to the scope, nature and life of the project.

Delayed utilisation in some externally aided projects arises from a number of factors which included exchange rate fluctuations, inadequate counterpart funds, technical problems, tardy land acquisition and other project specific issues.

(e) Implementation delays are addressed through strengthening of counterpart resource support, closer monitoring by Ministries, simplification of procedures in respect of release of foreign exchange etc., extensions and restructuring of projects.

[*Translation*]

Investment by ASEAN Countries

*256. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the capital investment by ASEAN countries has increased in India during each of the last two years;

(b) if so, the details of areas in which investment has been made; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to further encourage investment from these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED):

(a) Details of approvals given by Government for foreign investment from ASEAN countries, country-wise are shown in the statement below. The data show an increasing trend during the last 2 years.

(b) The sections covered by the approvals, are inter-alia, edible oil, sea food, computer software and peripherals, canvas footwear, venture capital yellow page directories, cut and polished granites, solar salt, trading companies, engineering services etc.

(c) The several initiatives of the Government to attract foreign investment, including NRI investment, apply equally to ASEAN countries.

STATEMENT

(Rs. in crores)

	1990	1991	1992
Indonesia	-	-	19.00
Malaysia	1.2	1.8	744.30
Philippines	-	-	50.00
Singapore	-	13.7	602.1
Thailand	1.6	-	25.2

[English]

Indo-Italian Co-operation

*257. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to promote Indo-Italian Co-operation in the field of hi-tech trade and industry;

(b) whether an Italian delegation had visited India recently to have discussions in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details of discussions and agreements finalised, if any?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). In the Indo-Italian Joint Committee Meeting held recently, several product groups, including those in the higher technology areas, identified for greater export thrust.

Curtailment in Expenditure on Public Sector Units

*258. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the final outcome of their efforts to curtail expenditure of various public sectors under the Central Government jurisdiction;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the abrupt and unphased curtailment in assistance during 1992-93 has led several sector units to remain on the verge of closure;

(d) if so, whether as a result some of these public sector units have lost even their working capital;

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken by Government to over-come such conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.C. CHANDRASEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b). Keeping the Government expenditure under control is a continuous exercise. Instructions are issued from time to time regarding specific measures to be taken to effect economy in expenditure or to avoid wasteful expenditure. The Ministries/Departments concerned are also advised to issue similar instructions to effect economy in expenditure in autonomous bodies and public sector enterprises under their control. The details regarding the curtailment in expenditure are not maintained centrally. It is, therefore, difficult to quantify the financial impact of these measures.

(c) and (d). The Central assistance to the PSUs has gone up from Rs. 5984 crores in 1991-92 to Rs. 6071 crores in 1992-93 (Revised Estimates).

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

External Assistance

*259. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of net in-flow of external assistance from 1990 to 1992, year-wise;

(b) whether there is any decline in the rate of net in-flow of external assistance every year;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve this net in-flow decline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRARAHMED):

(a) The net in-flow (net of repayment of principal) of external assistance during 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 was Rs. 3815 crores, Rs. 4375 crores and Rs. 7965 crores respectively. The net inflow (net of repayment and payment of interest) was Rs. 2116 crores; Rs. 2422 crores and Rs., 4959 crores respectively during these years.

(b) No, Sir.

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

Production of Cardamom

*260. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a steep decline in the production of cardamom during 1991-92 as compared to the previous year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for increasing the production of cardamom during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Spices Board has a number of schemes to increase the production and productivity of cardamom. These include:

i) production and supply of quality planting material and introduction of tissue culture plantlets;

ii) Cardamom replanting programme;

iii) Irrigation and land development programmes;

iv) Subsidised supply of pesticides etc. to curb diseases and pests in the cardamom industry; and

v) Popularising scientific cultivation.

World Bank Assistance for Poverty Alleviation Schemes in Andhra Pradesh

2468. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent any scheme for poverty alleviation sought to be financed with World Bank Assistance; and

(b) the quantum of assistance sought and the schemes proposed to be implemented with the World Bank Assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRARAHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Andhra Pradesh Poverty Alleviation Project sought to be implemented with possible World Bank assistance involves a total investment of Rs. 1149.0 crores over a period of 4 years in agriculture and related sectors of irrigation, forestry, horticulture, sericulture, fisheries, education, women and child development, health etc.

Import of Automobile Tyres

2469. SHRI BAPU HARICHAURE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import automobile tyres in view of the steep rise in prices in the domestic market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps Government propose to take to check the rise in tyre prices?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). No, Sir. There has been no steep increase in prices of automobile tyres. According to Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association, none of the tyre companies have increased the prices of bus/truck tyres which accounts for over 70% of the production of tyre industry. However, some companies have increased the prices of non-truck/bus tyres by 5-6% recently.

(c). There is no statutory control over the prices of tyres.

[Translation]

Child Labour in Uttar Pradesh

2470. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the child labour employed in various industries in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether these industries have set up any teaching centers for the child labour;

(c) if so, the number thereof; and

(d) the extent of the financial assistance being provided by the State Government and the Union Government to these centres to make them more useful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) 14,34,675 (1981 Census)

(b) and (c). No specific information in this regard is being maintained.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Compensation to Industrial Workers

2471. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: SHRI RAM NAIK:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enhance the quantum of compensation payable to injured industrial workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be enhanced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). A proposal to make suitable enhancement in the quantum of compensation payable under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 is under consideration. Since a decision is yet to be taken and any enhancement would involve amendment in the Act, it is difficult to indicate either the amount or the time limit by which it will be enhanced.

[Translation]

Loan to Farmer in Gujarat

2472. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nationalised banks have advanced loans from 50 thousand to 3 lakh rupees to the farmers in Gujarat for laying pipeline and installing electric motors;

(b) whether the Government propose to waive off the loans of these farmers or to provide 10 per cent subsidy on these pipelines;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED):

(a) The data reporting system does not generate the information in the manner asked for. However, the outstanding advances given by all Scheduled Commercial Banks in Gujarat for Minor Irrigation Schemes as at the end of June, 1991 (latest available) was Rs. 176 crores in about 1.25 lakh accounts.

(b) The Government and Reserve Bank of India do not favour any across the board write off of banks' loans. However, the Government of India and State Governments had formulated a Scheme in May 1990 for providing debt relief upto Rs. 10,000 per borrower to a certain category of borrowers eligible under that Scheme. The Scheme has already come to a close on March 31, 1991.

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

Refinance Facility to U.P. by National Housing Bank

2473. MAJ. GEN. (RETD) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Housing Bank provided refinance facility to the Regional Rural Banks of Uttar Pradesh for the reconstruction/repairing of houses damaged in earthquake in Uttarkashi;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the amount allocated for this purpose; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED):

(a) to (c). National Housing Bank (NHB) provides refinance to scheduled commercial banks, housing finance institutions and State Level apex co-operative housing finance societies in respect of eligible loans disbursed by them. NHB has introduced since 1989, schemes for providing financial assistance to, inter-alia, scheduled state co-operative banks as also to state level co-operative agriculture and rural development banks. NHB does not extend refinance to regional rural banks directly. NHB's scheme for refinance to scheduled commercial banks provides for extending refinance to the sponsor banks in respect of housing loans extended by the regional rural banks affiliated to them. NHB has reported that no requests have been received in this regard on behalf of any regional rural bank. NHB has, however, sanctioned Rs. 30 crores to Housing and Urban Development Corporation for the victims of UP earthquake. Out of this, Rs. 19.50 crores have been released so far.

[English]

Civil Aircraft by HAL

2474. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) is considering various international offers for the manufacture of civil aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision has been taken in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). Certain foreign companies have expressed interest in co-production of civil aircraft with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and discussions are at a preliminary stage.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Revenue Collection from Cigarettes

2475. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of revenue (totally as well as category-wise) collected from cigarettes in the year 1986-87 and the incidence of duty individually in respect of the premium categories of cigarettes;

(b) the incidence of duty on the premium categories of cigarettes after the change over to specific rates i.e. during the years 1987-88, 1988-89, 1989-90, and 1991-92;

(c) the number of occasions, during the period since 1987 when specific rates were revised with a view to keep in with increase in prices;

(d) whether the revision of rates has been regular feature;

(e) if so, the procedure followed in this regard; and

(f) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHR M. V. RASEKHARMURTHY): (a) The information regarding incidence and quantum of revenue collected from cigarettes is not maintained brand-wise. However, total revenue collected from cigarettes in the year 1986-87 was Rs. 1363.52 crores.

(b) the information regarding incidence of duty on the premium categories of cigarettes is not being maintained.

(c) to (f). Since 1987 specific rates of duty on cigarettes have been revised/reviewed vide Notifications No.34/87 CE dated 1.3.87; 22/89/-CE, dated 1.3.89; 14/90-CE, dated 20.3.90; 21/91-CE dated 25.7.91; 9/92-CE, dated 1.3.92 and No.6/93-CE, dated 28.2.93.

Appointment of Chairmen/Chairman-cum-Managing Directors of Banks

2476. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria prescribed for the appointment of Chairmen/Chairman-cum-Managing Directors of public sector banks;

(b) whether the Government propose to make some changes in it; and

(c) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) The Chairmen and Managing Directors in the nationalised banks and Chairman/Managing Directors in State Bank of India are appointed by the Government in accordance with the provisions contained in the Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Schemes, 1970 and 1980, and the State Bank of India Act,

1955, respectively. These statutes provide for appointment of these executives in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India.

There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to amend the statutes relating to the appointment of whole-some directors of the nationalised banks and State Bank of India.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Bridges in Bihar

2477. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred Question No. 723 on November 27, 1992 and state:

(a) the names of the roads and the places where the bridges mentioned in parts (a) and (b) of the reply, are located;

(b) the amount sanctioned for each of these bridges and the amount spent so far; and

(c) the details of the bridges completed

and lying incomplete and the time by which the incomplete bridges are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) (a) Bridges mentioned in part (a) and (b) of reply given to Unstarred Question No. 723 on 27.11.1992 are as under:-

Para (a): 1. Bridges in km. 46 over river Chami Nallah on NH 23;

2. Nosain bridge in km 101 of NH 23; and

3. Paras bridge at km 70 of NH 23.

Part (b): 1. Flood damage repair to guide bunds of Burhi Gandak bridge at Khagaria in km. 270 of NH 31.

2. Special Repair to Bridge at km. 422 of NH 31.

(b) The amount sanctioned for each bridge and allocations made so far are as under:-

<i>Name of Bridge</i>		<i>Sanctioned Cost (Rs. in lakhs)</i>	<i>Allocation (Rs. in lakhs)</i>
i)	Bridges in km 46 over river Chami nallah on NH 23	41.35	10.00
ii)	Nosain bridge in km. 101 of NH 23	33.52	27.00
iii)	Paras bridge at km. 70 of NH 23.	39.48	1.00
iv)	Guide bunds of Khagaria in km 270 of NH 31.	76.197	76.197
v)	Special repair to bridge at km. 422 of NH 31.	10.194	10.194

- (c) Times by which the bridge works are likely to be completed are as under:-

	Year
i) Floods Damage Repair to guide bunds of Burhi Gandak bridge at Khagaria on NH 31	1993
ii) Special Repair to Bridge at km. 422 of NH 31.	1993
iii) Bridges in km. 46 and 101 of NH 23.	1995
iv) Bridge in km. 70 of NH 23.	1996

Share of States from Central Sales Tax

[English]

Balance of Trade

2478. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to give proper share to the concerned Governments after recovering the Central Sales Tax on one point;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHAR MURTHY) (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

2479. SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN THORAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of balance of trade with western countries such as U.K. France, USA, Italy and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) including Russia during each of the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve our balance of trade with these countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A Statement is attached.

(b) Steps to improve our balance of trade include discussions at Govt to Govt. level at the fora of Joint Commissions/Committees, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, encouragement to Indian Companies to establish direct contact with their counter-part organisations in these countries etc.

STATEMENT

Balance of Trade with U.K., France, USA etc

Years	1989-90	90-91	91-92
(i) U.K.	(-) 1372.00	(-) 797.00	(-) 159.00

<i>Years</i>	<i>1989-90</i>	<i>90-91</i>	<i>91-92</i>
(ii) FRANCE	(-) 973.44	(-) 539.58	(-) 482.00
(III) Italy	(-) 11.00	(-) 92.00	(-) 329.00
(iv) USA	(+) 814.90	(-) 441.46	(+) 3000.69
(v) Canada	(-) 189.80	(-) 278.36	(-) 217.12
(vi) Latin America and Cariben Region			
(vii) C.I.S.	(+) 2424.78	(+) 2706.67	(+) 2187.05 including Russia (Erstwhile USSR)

Profit Earned by SBI

2480. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total profit earned by the State Bank of India in its total turn over in Gujarat and other States during the last three years;

(b) the targets fixed for earning business profit in Gujarat and other States during the current financial year;

(c) the extent of increase in the targets as compared to the last year; and

(d) the extent of achievement made against these targets by the bank so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (d) The present data reporting system does not yield State-wise information in regard to the profits and losses of public sector banks.

Minimum Wages

2481. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Rural Labour has recommended revision of minimum wages every two years;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments have been asked to adopt and implement its recommendation;

(c) the date of last revision of minimum wages, State-wise;

(d) whether it has also been proposed by the Commission that the minimum wages should be supplemented by a Dearness Allowance to be fixed every six months on the basis of the Consumer Price Index; and

(e) the names of the States which have so far implemented this recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendation of the National Commission on Rural Labour were forwarded to all the State Governments/UT Administrations for consideration and taking appropriate action.

(c) Statement I indicating the date of last revision of minimum wages by different State Governments /UT Administrations is

annexed.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Statement II indicating the names of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations which have made the provision of Dearness Allowance along with the minimum rates of wages is annexed.

STATEMENT

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the State</i>	<i>Date of Last revision</i>
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	31.7.91
2.	Assam	18.3.91
3.	Bihar	26.11.90
4.	Goa	5.2.92
5.	Gujarat	28.6.89
6.	Haryana	11.10.89
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1.4.91
8.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.11.90
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	24.3.89
10.	Karnataka	22.7.92
11.	Kerala	25.6.92
12.	Madhya Pradesh	20.6.92
13.	Maharashtra	9.8.92
14.	Manipur	23.12.88
15.	Mizoram	1.6.90
16.	Nagaland	11.11.87

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the State</i>	<i>Date of Last revision</i>
1	2	3
17.	Nagaland	6.8.92
18.	Orissa	30.6.90
19.	Punjab	1.9.89
20.	Rajasthan	2.7.89
21.	Sikkim	1.1.91
22.	Tamil Nadu	10.4.92
23.	Tripura	15.12.91
24.	Uttar Pradesh	23.9.92
25.	West Bengal	4.7.87
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	13.8.92
27.	Chandigarh	22.2.90
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5.10.89
29.	Daman & Diu	13.12.91
30.	Delhi	28.4.89
31.	Lakshadweep	1.9.88
32.	Pondicherry	
i)	Karaikal	31.1.90
ii)	Mahe	18.2.87
iii)	Yanam	9.3.88
iv)	Pondicherry	15.12.89

STATEMENT II

Name of States which have made the provision of Variable Dearness Allowance alongwith the minimum wages:

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the States</i>
1.	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Assam
3.	Gujarat
4.	Haryana
5.	Karnataka
6.	Kerala
7.	Madhya Pradesh
8.	Maharashtra
9.	Manipur
10.	Punjab
11.	Tamil Nadu
12.	Uttar Pradesh
13.	West Bengal
14.	Chandigarh
15.	Delhi.

Meeting of the State Labour Ministers

2482. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the sub-committee of State Labour Ministers was held in Calcutta on February, 1, 1993;

(b) if so, the details of the points discussed and recommendations made therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) We have no information about the meeting of the Sub-Committee of the State Labour Ministers' held on February 1, 1993 at Calcutta

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

[Translation]

Purchase of Ships

2483. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the present tonnage/capacity of the Shipping Corporation of India;

(b) whether the Corporation propose to purchase some new ships;

(c) if so, the names of the agencies/countries from where these ships are likely to be purchased; and

(d) the amount of expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The present fleet of Shipping Corporation of India is 126 ships of 49.72 lakhs DWT.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Shipping Corporation of India proposes to acquire 75 vessels of about 28 lakhs DWT during the 8th Plan period. Some

of the vessels would be acquired from Indian Shipyards and the others from shipyards in foreign countries like Korea, Japan and / European Countries on the basis of global tenders. However, the final selection of the yard is based on the relative competitiveness.

(d) It is estimated that an investment of the order of Rs. 5000 crores may be incurred for the acquisition of 75 vessels during the 8th Plan period..

[English]

Outflow of Funds from NRI Accounts

2484. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) The month-wise figures of outflow of funds from Foreign Currency Non-Resident Accounts (FCNRA) and from Non-Resident

(External) Rupee Accounts during last three months;

(b) whether there is continuous increase in outflow from these accounts during the above period;

(c) If so, the reasons therefor, and

(d) The steps being taken by the Government to overcome this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED):

(a) As per the information available with RBI there have been net inflows under Non-Resident (External) Rupee Accounts and the Foreign Currency Non-Resident Accounts schemes during December 1992, January and February 1993. Data on month-wise net inflows under the two schemes are given below:

(US \$ Million)

Month	NE (E)RA*	FCNRA
December 1992	2**	93
January	1**	110
February 1993	Not available at present with RBI	88

* Inclusive of accrued interest.

** Provisional

(b), (c) and (d). Since the available figures suggest a trend of net inflow the questions do not arise.

Repayment of External Assistance

2485. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of external assistance taken by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the development of irrigation and power projects so far;

(b) whether the State Government is responsible for the repayment of the said debt; and

(c) if not, the manner in which such external assistance is repaid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED):

(a) The details of external assistance taken so far for the development of irrigation and power projects pertaining to the State Gov-

ernment of Andhra Pradesh are given in annexed Statement

(b) and (c)., External assistance is taken by the Government of India and is passed on to the State Government as 70 per cent loan and 30 per cent grant. The loan portion is repayable in 20 years and presently carries an interest of 11.75 percent.

STATEMENT

Name of the Project and Donor Agency	Date of Signing	Amount in DC Million
1	2	3
IRRIGATION SECTOR		
1. Pochampad Irrigation Project (World Bank)	23.8.1971	US \$ 39.000
2. Godavari Barrage Project (World Bank)	7.3.1975	US \$ 45.000
3. AP Irrigation & CAD Project (World Bank)	10.6.1976	US \$ 145.000
4. * Water Resources Management & Training Project (USAID)	30.7.1983	US \$ 50.900*
5. Minor Irrigation Project. (EEC Grant)	8.3.1985	ECU 30.000
6. A.P. Irrigation II Project (World Bank)	28.5.1986	US \$ 215.110
7. * National Water Management Project, (World Bank)	12.5.1987	US \$ 127.270*

* These are multi-state projects and Andhra Pradesh is one of the participating State:

Name of the Project and Donor Agency	1	Date of Signing	Amount in DC Million
		2	3
POWER SECTOR			
1. Srisaillam & Nagarjuna Power Project (Saudi Fund for Development)		1.6.1977	SR 353.000
2. Nagarjunasagar Reversible Turbine Project (Stage-I)- (OECF)		13.6.1978	Yen 84.00
3. Nagarjunasagar Hydroelectric Power Station Expansion Project (OECF)		15.10.1981	Yen 7000
4. Nagarjunasagar Power Project (Grant U.K.)		16.9.1987	£12.930
5. Srisaillam Left Bank Hydro Power Station Project (OECF)		10.2.1988	Yen 26101
6. Rayalseema Thermal Power Project (ADB)		14.3.1990	US \$ 230.000
7. Srisaillam Power Transmission system Project (OECF)		21.12.1992	Yen 3806

Indo-Japan Co-operation

2486. SHRI SUBASH CHANDRA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to improve bilateral cooperation with Japan;

(b) if so, the items proposed to be imported from and exported to Japan during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the details of the agreements made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India's major exports to Japan include gems and Jewellery, iron ore, marine products, manufactures of metals, cotton yarn, garments etc. Major Indian imports from Japan include project goods, machinery (electrical, transport equipment, machine tools), iron and steel, organic chemicals, textiles yarn, etc. It is our endeavour to augment and diversify these during the Eighth Five Year Plan too.

(c) Trade with Japan is governed by "Most Favoured Nation" agreement signed between the two countries which is in force since 1958.

Loan to SCs/STs Bus Permit Holders

2488. SHRI RAM PRAKASH CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received by various public sector banks and Government financial institutions for grant of loan to SCs/STs bus permit holders for purchase of buses during each of the last two years

and during the current year so far;

(b) whether loan has been disbursed to all such bus permit holders;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the number of SCs/STs bus permit holders who have been disbursed loan so far; and

(d) the time by which the loan applied for is likely to be disbursed to all such permit holders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAHAMMED):

(a) to (d). Existing data reporting system does not generate the information regarding the number of applications received and loans disbursed by the various public sector banks and financial institutions to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes bus permit holders. As per the guidelines of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), advances to small road and water transport operators owning and operating a fleet of vehicles not exceeding six vehicles including the one proposed to be financed are included in the priority sector lending of banks. Public sector banks provide credit to eligible borrowers including those belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes for the purchase of commercial vehicles including buses. However, as per the instructions of RBI, all proposals including those received from SC/STs, which are financially viable and technically feasible are considered by the public sector banks for grant of loans. In terms of guidelines issued by RBI to banks on priority sector lending, all loan applications upto the credit limit of Rs. 25,000/- are to be disposed of within a fortnight and those over Rs. 25,000/- within 8 to 9 weeks. The loans disbursed by the commercial banks to transport operators during the years ended June, 1990 and June, 1991 (latest available) are indicated below:

<i>Year ended</i>	<i>No. of Account</i>	<i>Amount outstanding (Rs. in crores)</i>
June 1990	117628	578
June, 1991	108481	522

Financial Assistance from Asian Development Bank

2489. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank has imposed some restrictions on providing concessional financial assistance to India for taking up new projects;

(b) if so, the reasons for imposing such restrictions; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED):

(a) to (c). During the Donors' meeting held in London on 9-10 December, 1991, it was decided that, in view of the given needs of traditional ADF recipients and other eligible borrowers it would not be possible to make ADF resources (concessional assistance) available to India during ADF-VI period i.e. from 1992-1995. However, efforts would continue to be made to impress upon the Bank to make concessional assistance available to India for financing new projects.

Merge of Associate Banks with S.B.I.

2490. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken on the demand for merger of various associate banks with State Bank of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Pension and Gratuity Scheme for Beedi and Jute Workers

2491. SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers employed in beedi and jute industries in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the number of those working till 55 years of age in these industries;

(c) whether any pension scheme and retirement gratuity has been introduced for these beedi and jute industrial workers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) There are about 6 lakhs beedi workers in Tamil Nadu. Jute is not grown in Tamil Nadu nor is there any jute mill employing sizeable (more than 20) number

of workers.

(b) No such statistics is maintained.

(c) to (e). Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 is applicable to beedi and jute industrial workers. A pension scheme for industrial workers who are EPF subscribers is under the active consideration of the Government. The scheme will be applicable also to beedi and jute industrial workers who are EPF subscribers.

Branches of Public Sector Banks in Assam

2492. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of licences issued by

the Reserve Bank of India to set up branches of public sector banks in Assam during the last three years and the current year; and

(b) the places in the State where these branches have been opened and proposed to be opened, bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) 8 licences were issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for opening branches of public sector banks in Assam during the last three years.

(b) The places in Assam where these branches have been opened and proposed to be opened are given below

<i>Name of Bank</i>	<i>Name of District</i>	<i>Name of Centre</i>
United Bank of India	Jorhat	Jorhat Jail Road
Bank of Baroda	Jorhat	Jorhat-Garmur
State Bank of India	Jorhat	Jorhat-Borpool.
State Bank of India	Kamrup	Guwahati Kalipur
United Bank of India	Kamrup	Guwahati Ambka Giri Nagar
Indian Bank	Kamrup	Guwahati Beltola
Central Bank of India	Kamrup	Guwahati Adabari.
Canara Bank	Kamrup	Guwahati Kahilipara.

Further, following allotments have been made to public sector banks for opening branches in urban and semi-urban centres in the State of Assam. The banks are required to identify the premises and make

necessary arrangement for the infrastructure after which they have to approach Guwahati Regional Office of RBI for the licences. These branches are to be opened upto 31st March, 1995.

<i>Name of Allottee Bank</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Centres</i>
Bank of India	Jorhat	Jorhat-Bangai Ahukuri.
Central Bank of India	Jorhat	Jorhat-Rajabari
Corporation Bank	Kamrup	Guwahati-Near Old Bus Stand, Kedar Road, Madaknowa.
United Bank of India	Kamrup	Guwahati-M.G. Road.
State Bank of India	Kamrup	Guwahati-Industrial Finance Branch
State Bank of India	Morigaon	Morigaon
State Bank of India	Nagaon	Lumding
Indian Overseas Bank	Sontipur	Tezpur.
Indian Overseas Bank	Nagaon	Nagaon.
Indian Overseas Bank	Cachar	Silchar.
Indian Overseas Bank	Sibsagar	Sibsagar.
Indian Overseas Bank	Bongaigaon	Kathalguri.
United Bank of India	Sonitpur	Biswanathcharait.

No applications have been received under the present plan 1990-95, for opening of branches in rural areas through the Government of Assam.

Self-Sufficiency in Defence Equipments

2493. SHRI RAMCHANDRA GHANGARE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the country is self-sufficient in defence equipments;

(b) the time by which the country is likely to become self-sufficient in defence equipments; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). India has a strong research and development base and a sizeable production infrastructure for the manufacture of Defence equipments. The equipment requirements of the Armed Forces are met by imports only when they cannot be produced indigenously in a cost-

effective manner within the required time-frames. A substantial degree of self-sufficiency has been achieved in the indigenous production of equipment, weapons and weapon systems, ammunition and spares required by the Armed Forces and efforts continue to reduce imports of Defense items and to make the country self-reliant in Defense items.

Agricultural Loan in Gujarat

2494. SHRICHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the amount of agricultural loan provided to farmers in the districts of Jamnagar and Rajkot in Gujarat by various public sector banks, Regional Rural Banks and Central Co-operative banks during the last three years and during the current year upto

February 28, 1993 proposed to be provided during 1993-94, District-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): In terms of guidelines of Reserve Bank of India, all Indian Banks are required to extend at least 18% of their total credit for direct agricultural finance. No State-wise or District-wise targets for fresh lending are stipulated in this regard. The amount of agricultural loans disbursed to farmers in the districts of Jamnagar and Rajkot in Gujarat by various public sector banks, Regional Rural Banks and Central Co-operative Banks during the last three years namely 1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-92 and during the current year 1992-93 (upto June 1992, latest available) is given below:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

	<i>Jamnagar</i>	<i>Rajkot</i>
1989-90	3058.63	4620.20
1990-91	6245.26	7785.36
1991-92	6626.73	8486.37
1992-93 (upto June '92)	1658.44	4462.95

[Translation]

Committees on Child Labour

2495. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

sory Board and Child Labour Technical Advisory Committee as per the recommendations of the Gurupadswami Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(a) whether the Government have constituted the Child Labour Cell, child Labour Advi-

(c) the work undertaken by these bodies during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c).

(i) Child Labour Cell in the Ministry of Labour has been set up in 1979. The Cell is associated with the formulation, co-ordination and implementation of policies and programmes for the Welfare of child labour. The Cell is also involved in the welfare of children at work through governmental and non-governmental action.

(ii) The Child Labour Advisory Board was initially constituted on 4/3 and reconstituted from time to time. The Board has been set up with a view to review the implementation of the existing legislation administered by the Central Govt., suggest legislative measures as well as welfare measures for welfare of working children, recommend the industries and areas where there must be progressive elimination of child labour. The Board examined the recommendation of Task Force on child labour set up under the chairmanship of the eminent jurist Dr. L.M. Singhvi

(iii) 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 Govt. for the purpose of addition of occupations - processes to the Schedule under section 3 of the Act. The Committee has met thrice and on the basis of the recommendations one occupation and 3 processes have been added so far to the Schedule. In its last meeting the Child Labour Technical Advisory Committee has recommended addition of a further 15 processes to the Schedule.

House Building Advance By LIC

2496. SHRI VISHWANATH SHARMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of irregularities in sanctioning house building advances to the policy holders by the Life Insurance Corporation of India have come to the notice of the Government during the last year;

(b) if so, number and details of the complaints received in this regard; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

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

Export of Agricultural Products

2497. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to implement any scheme to encourage the export of agricultural products;

(b) if so, the detailed outline of this scheme and the total amount to be spent during 1992-93 and 1993-94 separately to encourage the exporters under this scheme;

(c) the estimated target fixed for export by the Government after the implementation of the scheme;

(d) whether the Government have fixed any priority to the export of certain agricultural products; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir. Government is keen to promote exports of agricultural items like basmati rice, spices, fresh fruits and vegetables, processed foods and floriculture items. Promotional agencies like Spices Board, Tobacco Board, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) provide assistance to the exporters by way of information, market intelligence, financial assistance and by organising participation in international exhibitions and conducting Buyer-Seller Meets etc.

(b) The outlays for the above 3 organisations for the two years are as under:-

(Rs. crores)

	1992-93 (RE)	1993-94 (BE)
(1) Spices Board	8.05	9.70
(2) Tobacco Board	10.06	23.91
(3) APEDA	1.90	6.23

(c) to (e). The targets fixed for the export of various agricultural items for the year 1992-93 are indicated below:-

	Target 1992-93 (US \$ million)
1. Spices	165
2. Cashew	300
3. Tobacco	175

Target 1992-93
(US \$ million)

4. Cereals	275
5. Oilcakes, etc.	500
6. Fruits, vegetables their products, dairy products, processed foods, meat & meat products.	425
7. Sugar & molasses	150
8. Gum Karaya, niger seeds, shellac etc.	10

2000

For the year 1993-94 it is proposed to step up exports by 15% in terms of value.

Smuggling of Clove

2498. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of smuggling of clove from Sri Lanka to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantity of clove smuggled every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c). Government are aware that cloves continue to be smuggled in small quantities particularly in passenger luggage from Sri Lanka. However, since smuggling is a clandestine activity, it is not possible to quantify such smuggling.

Children in Beedi Industry

2499. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government made any study of the children being bonded into the beedi industry in the country and the various problems faced by them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of the child labour in the country estimated to be in the beedi industry, at the end of 1991 stating their age group;

(d) whether some have bonded their children into the industry to repay the loans taken from contractors in beedi industry;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to bring a suitable legislation prohibiting the bonding of children; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (g). Government had set up a National Commission on Rural Labour to study the problems of rural labour in the country and make recommendations. The Commission had inter alia made certain observations regarding problem, of beedi workers, one of which was the problem of child labour in the beedi industry. Beedi industry is mainly a home-based industry where the majority of workers roll beedies in their own houses with the help of material supplied by the employers/contractors. The employment of children below 14 years of

age in industrial premises is prohibited under the provisions of Beedi & Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966. However, the home-based beedi workers do take the help of their family members including children in rolling beedies. No survey/study regarding number of child labour or children being mortgaged or bonded to the beedi industry has been made. In view of this, there is no proposal at present to bring about any legislation in this regard.

Smuggling of Textiles

2500. SHRI PARASRAMBHARDWAJ:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale smuggling of textiles into the country from Bangladesh and Nepal;

(b) if so, the estimated value of the textiles being smuggled into the country annually and the estimated recession in demand of indigenous products as a result thereof;

(c) the main reasons for the large scale smuggling of textiles into the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHAR MURTHY) (a) to (c). Synthetic textiles of third country origin or manufactured out of the yarn imported from third countries continue to be sensitive to smuggling into the country from Bangladesh and Nepal. However, smuggling is a clandestine activity it is hence not possible to estimate the extent of such smuggling and, therefore it is also not possible to estimate the recession in demand of indigenous products on account of such smuggling. Though Indian synthetic textiles compare favorably

in quality, print and texture they are more expensive than the imported ones.

(d) The anti-smuggling agencies remain vigilant against smuggling of contraband including textiles. Close coordination is being maintained among the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling.

Heimtextile Fair in Frankfurt

2501 . SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India participated in the International Trade Fair for home textiles, 'HEIMTEXTIL' held in Frankfurt;

(b) if so, the details of firms which

represented India; and

(c) the amount spent and the value of orders received during the fair?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 57 Indian firms participated through India Trade Promotion Organisation, A list of participants is at Annexure.

(c) The estimated expenditure on the fair is Rs. 45.64 lakhs. As reported by the participants business booked amounted to Rs. 37.78 crores and business under negotiation was Rs. 43.23 crores.

STATEMENT

S.No	Name of the Firms who represented India
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1	2
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- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1. | Ajanta Art Exporters, Bombay. |
| 2. | Globe Enterprises, New Delhi. |
| 3. | India Emporium International, New Delhi. |
| 4. | Indo Export Corporation, New Delhi. |
| 5. | P. Venkanna & Co., Palakol. |
| 6. | Prakash Biharilal Exports, Madras. |
| 7. | Regency Exports Pvt. Ltd. Bombay. |
| 8. | Ramakrishna Paramahansa & Co., W.G.D.T. Andhra Pradesh. |
| 9. | Macneill International Ltd., New Delhi. |
| 10. | The Handloom Export Promotion Council, Madras. |
| 11. | Sri Narasamba Lace Industries, Andhra Pradesh. |
| 12. | P A P Exports, Karur. |

S.No	Name of the Firms who represented India
1	2
13.	Prem International Karur.
14.	Amman Export, Karur.
15.	Export Fab, karur.
16.	Vigneshwara Exports P. Ltd., Bombay.
17.	Visma International, New Delhi.
18.	Amitara Fabrics P. Ltd., Bombay.
19.	Badridass Gauridatt P. Ltd., Bombay.
20.	Devi Exports Corporation, Kerala.
21.	Eastern exports, New Delhi.
22.	Encore Themes, New Delhi.
23.	Espee Exports, Bombay.
24.	Exportos India, New Delhi.
25.	Hira Lal & Son (Exports), New Delhi.
26.	Indus Crafts, New Delhi.
27.	I.T.C. Ltd., New Delhi.
28.	Kashika Enterprises, New Delhi.
29.	Kapoor Industries, New Delhi.

S.No	Name of the Firms who represented India	
	1	2
30.		La Sorogetka International, New Delhi.
31.		Mahajan Overseas P.Ltd., New Delhi.
32.		Starface Industries, Narsapur, W.G. Distt. A.P.
33.		Nidhi Exports, New Delhi.
34.		Ocean Exports India, Jaipur.
35.		Orchids, New Delhi.
36.		Poomima Handicrafts, Jaipur.
37.		Rawsitars Exports (P) Ltd., New Delhi.
38.		Shir Overseas, Delhi.
39.		Sartex, Delhi.
40.		Sunlord Apparels Mfg. Co., New Delhi.
41.		Wooltop Weaves, Madras.
42.		All India Handloom, Delhi.
43.		Amarjothi Fabrics Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.

Name of the Firms who represented India

2

S.No

1

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 44. | Arco Traders Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi. |
| 45. | Bannaras Silk Mfg. Co., Varanasi. |
| 46. | Evergreen International, New Delhi |
| 47. | Faze 3 Exports Pvt. Ltd., Bombay. |
| 48. | Snushti Exports, New Delhi. |
| 49. | Pasari Exports, Bangalore. |
| 50. | The State trading Corpn. India Ltd., New Delhi. |
| 51. | The Indian Silk Export, Promotion Council, Bombay. |
| 52. | Titico Exports P. Ltd., Varanasi. |
| 53. | Prakash silk Fabrics, Bangalore. |
| 54. | Chinson Textile karur. |
| 55. | Monoporte International (A Division of Montari Ind. Ltd.), New Delhi. |
| 56. | Shorewala Exim Internaational Delhi. |
| 57. | Tibet International Traders, New Delhi. |

[Translation]

Small/Medium Scale Industrial Units in Madhya Pradesh

2502. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the medium and small scale industrial units of Madhya Pradesh lying closed;

(b) the total investment involved in these units; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to revive these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House at the earliest.

[English]

Business in Mauritius

2503. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mauritius has invited Indian businessmen and traders to take advantage of the highly developed offshore business centre and free port there;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to allow the Indian business community to have business with Mauritius;

(c) if so, whether the Government have issued any guidelines in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE

(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are no restrictions on trade with Mauritius and the business community of both countries are free to do business with each other.

(c) and (d). There are no specific guidelines for doing business with Mauritius. However, Indian business community can do business with Mauritius under the EXIM policy of both countries. Also, the guidelines on overseas investment by Indian promoters for setting up ventures in all countries, including Mauritius, have also been recently liberalized.

[Translation]

Agreement with Germany

2504. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a German delegation visited India recently; and

(b) if so, the details of the negotiations held and agreements reached regarding economic cooperation between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIMENTARY AFFAIRS): DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The negotiations between the German and the Indian authorities related to issues of bilateral relations in particular the promotion of investment, technology transfer and trade; implications of German unification, European integration trends, and the situation in Eastern Europe and Russia; India's relations with neighbours and multi-lateral issues such as North-South dialogue

and GATT Uruguay Round Negotiations. Two financial protocols were concluded with the German Development Bank (KFW). These protocols provide for:

- (i) credits totalling about DM 30 million for Lift Irrigation Programme in Orissa to be implemented by Orissa Lift Irrigation Corp. (OLIC), an undertaking of Govt. of Orissa.
- (ii) credits totalling about DM 30 million extended to the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd. (ICICI) for financing investment projects of medium sized private owned enterprises.

Children as Bonded Labour

2505. SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA:
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that children below the age of 14 years are working as bonded labour in the country;

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

(c) whether these bonded children are paid minimum wages as per Minimum Wages Act, 1948;

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to ensure payment of minimum wages to bonded child labour; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to free and rehabilitate these bonded child labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). Some instances of children working in conditions of bondage have come to the notice of the Government. The State Governments of Uttar Pradesh,

Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have reported 20,1,75 and 43 children respectively working under bonded conditions. The children have been released and restored to their parents.

(c) to (e). Since the enactment of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, the system of bounded labour stands abolished. Wherever children are found to be working under conditions of bondage, the State Governments take appropriate steps, through their enforcement machinery for their release and restoration to their parents. Hence, there is no question of ensuring payment of minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 to the bonded child labour.

Production of Opium

2506. KUMARI VIMLA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of opium in Mandsoor district of Madhya Pradesh during each of the last three years;

(b) the production of the opium peels (Doda-Chori) as assessed on the basis of opium production during each year;

(c) the number of the export permits issued during the above period and the purposes for which these permits were issued;

(d) whether there is a marked difference between the total production of the opium peels and the export thereof for which permits have been issued;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARMURTHY): (a) Production of opium in Mandsaur district of Madhya Pradesh during each of the last three Years was as follows:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Production of opium at 70° c (in kgs.)</i>
1989-90	244415
1990-91	215701
1991-92	263130

(b) and (c). Possession, transport, import inter-State, export inter-State, warehousing, sale, purchase, consumption and use of poppy straw (Doda Chura) is regulated by the rules made by the State Governments concerned under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. As such Government of India do not maintain any data regarding production and export inter-State of poppy straw. However, no permit for export of opium straw to other countries has been issued by the Central Government during the last three years.

(d) to (f). Do not arise, in view of reply to parts (b) & (c) above.

[English]

Outstanding Loans of Public Sector Banks in Gujarat

2507. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI N.J. RATHVA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the out standing amount of loans advanced by various public sector banks in Gujarat during the last three years to individuals and various projects; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS: (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b). 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]

Loan Recovery from Private Companies

2508. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE:
SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are facing problems in recovery of loans in time from private companies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to expedite the recovery of loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS: (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (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.

[English]

Concurrent Audit of Public Sector Banks

2509. SHRI V. SREENIVAS6A PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI and the Government are considering to introduce concurrent audit for the public sector banks;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed system;

(c) whether the proposed system would prevent irregularities in the banks; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be introduced.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that as per the recommendations of Ghosh Committee on Frauds and Malpractice's in Banks, introduction of concurrent audit at the larger branches of public sector banks is under their consideration.

(b) The concurrent auditors at the branches will be required to supplement the efforts of the bank in carrying out simultaneous internal check of transactions and compliance with procedures laid down by the bank. The details of the system are being worked out by RBI.

(c) As the job of concurrent auditors is primarily to oversee the day today operations/transactions especially housekeeping, reconciliation of entries, income leakages etc. it is expected that the proposed system would greatly help in early detection of irregularities and their prevention.

(d) The guidelines in this regard are likely to be issued shortly by RBI.

[Translation]

Sale of Arms in International Market

2510. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal in regard to the sale of Indian arms and other Defence/ army equipment's in the international market is under the consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the action being taken in this regard; and

(c) the position of the country in this regard in international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). Defence Public Sector Undertakings and Ordnance Factories are already exporting their products. The steps taken to boost defence exports include policy and procedural liberalisations, utilisation of infrastructure with our Missions abroad, interaction with foreign delegations and undertaking publicity measures. The production agencies have also developed their marketing strategies keeping their target areas for export in view.

(c) A beginning has just been made in this field and no comparison can be drawn with other countries which have been exporting for a long time and have captured substantial share of the defence market. Given the production capabilities in India the potential for export is substantial; but the problems of making entry and of contracting demands have to be contended with.

[English]

Production of Tobacco

2511. SHRI SOBHANADRESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring tobacco under the purview of Tobacco Board regulation the production and fixing minimum support price to the

growers;

(b) if so., the details thereof;

(c) the likely time by which it will be done; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE) (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d). Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco is already under the purview of Tobacco Board. The question of bringing non-virginia tobacco under the purview of the Tobacco Board is under consideration.

Import of Gold by NRIs

2512. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:
SHRI RATILAL VARMA:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA
CHIKHALIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of gold brought into India by the Non-Resident Indians during the year, 1992;

(b) the revenue earned by the Government on this account;

(c) whether the rates of the gold has come down after the introduction of the Gold Import Policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (M.V. CHANDRASEKHAR MURTHY): (a) A quantity of about 92 tonnes of gold was brought

into India under the Gold Import Scheme during 1992 (March'92 to dec'92). No separate statistics is maintained for import by NRIs.

(b) A revenue of about Rs.210 crores was earned by the Government on this account.

(c) Yes; Sir.

(d) The price of gold, which was @ Rs.4708 per 10 grams in February, 1992 (before introduction of the Gold Import Scheme on March 1, 1992), declined to Rs. 4122 per 10 grams in July, 1992 and to Rs. 4018 per 10 grams in February, 1993.

[Translation]

Bank Loan for Commercial Vehicles

2513. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:
SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether no advance is provided by the public sector banks for trucks, buses and other commercial vehicles due to which transporters have to face much inconvenience;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government to ensure that transport organisations can also avail of this bank advance facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c). As per the guidelines of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), advances to small road

transport operators owning a fleet of vehicles not exceeding six vehicles including one proposed to be financed are eligible for inclusion under priority sector. Public sector banks continue to provide credit to eligible borrowers for purchase of commercial vehicles. All proposals which are financially viable and technically feasible are considered for grant of loans by banks. RBI have suitably advised to banks to ensure that credit flow to priority sector is not affected and borrowers under the category of priority sector do not face any difficulty in obtaining credit from the banks.

[English]

Exports and Imports through Ports in Gujarat

2514. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the total volume of exports and imports through minor ports in Gujarat during 1991 and 1992, port-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Retrenchment of Workers

2515. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of disturbing trend in the retrenchment of workers in organised industry during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise in private and public sector separately during each of the last two years; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of workers, especially in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) According to the available information there was no disturbing trend in the retrenchment of workers in the industries in the organised sector during the last two years. State-wise number of unites effecting retrenchment and workers retrenched there in during 1987-92 is given in Statement-I.

(b) The details of workers retrenched in public and private sector is given in the Statement-II.

(c) The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, provides certain measures of protection to the workmen in the event of retrenchment. Under the Act an employer of an industrial establishments who seeks to retrench workmen must serve notice on the appropriate Govt. Further an employer in respect of a factory, mine or plantation employing more than 100 workmen must obtain permission from appropriate Government for retrenching workers.

The Govt. has also established the National Renewal Fund to provide for social safety net for the workers who may be adversely affected under the new Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991.

1	1987		1988		1989 (P)		1990 (P)		1991		1992(P)		Jan-Nov.	
	A		A		A		A		A		A		A	
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
Maharashtra	45	439	79	994	41	355	40	409	22	233	26	316		
Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	1	976		
Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Orissa	37	1889	8	153	3	130	11	86	23	1573	7	133		
Punjab	4	125	1	47	2	23	4	30	-	-	2	58		
Rajasthan	16	198	10	387	14	1390	4	59	6	82	5	58		
Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Tamil Nadu	12	226	4	55	3	10	5	61	7	91	-	-		
Tripura	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Uttar Pradesh	10	239	9	258	10	334	7	290	13	666	13	184		
West Bengal	16	45	10	42	3	4	3	10	3	19	1	33		

	1987		1988		1989 (P)		1990 (P)		1991		1992(P)		Jan-Nov.	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
A & N Island	-	-	1	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chandigarh	1	8	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	..	..	..	..	..
Dadra & Nagar haveli	1	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	..	..	..	..
Delhi	20	131	15	82	10	170	10	27	5	100	-	-	-	-
Daman & Diu	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	57	..	..	..	..
Ladshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	11	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	356	5202	379	5014	174	3258	268	3037	235	4936	175	3338		

Source: Labour Bureau, Shimla

A = No. of Units

B = No. of Workers Retrenched

- = Nil

... = Not available

(P) = Provisional

STATEMENT - II

Number of Workers Retrenched in Public and Private Sector During 1991-1992

1	1991(P)		1992 (Jan-Nov.)(P)		
	2	3	Public Sector	Private Sector	5
A.P.	-	53	-	-	282
Arunachal Pradesh	..	..	..	..	..
Assam	-	-	-	-	-
Bihar	51	-	-	-	-
Goa	-	55	-	-	13
Gujarat	98	947	62	600	600
Haryana	-	250	-	116	116
H.P.	-	-	-	459	459
J&K	-	-	-	-	-
Karnataka	-	40	-	-	-
Kerala	-	60	-	11	11
Madhya Pradesh	-	233	-	-	-

	1991(P)		1992 (Jan-Nov.)(P)		
	Public Sector	Private Sector	Public Sector	Private Sector	Private Sector
1	2	3	4	5	5
Maharashtra	-	233	-	-	316
Manipur	10	-	976	-	-
Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-
Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-
Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-
Orissa	13	1560	-	-	133
Punjab	-	-	-	-	51
Rajasthan	53	29	4	-	54
Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu	-	91	-	-	-
Tripura	-	-	-	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	317	349	77	-	107
West Bengal	-	19	-	-	33

	1991(P)		1992 (Jan-Nov.)(P)	
	Public Sector	Private Sector	Public Sector	Private Sector
	2	3	4	5
1				
A&N Island	-	-	-	-
Chandigarh	..	..	..	..
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	..	..	..	..
Delhi	-	100	-	-
Daman & Diu	-	57	-	..
Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-
Pandicherry	-	11	-	-
Grand Total	542	3854	1163	2175

- = Nil

.. = Not available

P = Provisional

Proposal to Join World Tea Council.

2516. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to join the World Tea Council a forum of tea producing countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). Government is not aware of setting up of a World Tea Council, a forum of the tea producing countries. However, most of the tea producing and consuming countries of the world meet annually in the form of inter-governmental group on tea under aegis of F.A.D. to discuss various aspects of tea including demand supply position, quality of tea, prices etc.

Clouded Mills in Gujarat

2517. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers who lost their jobs due to closure of Mills in Gujarat, especially in Ahmedabad;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide them alternative employment;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to rehabilitate these workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the

House at the earliest.

[Translation]

Export of Prawn Fish to Japan and USA

2518. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether teams of exports were sent to Japan and United States of America for studying the procedure adopted by these countries for checking the quality of prawn fish supplied by India to these countries;

(b) if so, the details of the team members and the outcome of their visits to these countries;

(c) the recommendations made by these expert teams; and

(d) the measures being taken by the Government to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No teams of experts were sent to Japan of USA in this connection in the recent past.

(b) to (d). These questions do not arise.

[English]

National Road Safety Council

2519. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of meetings of the National Road Safety Council held during the last three years; and

(b) the details of the points discussed and the decisions arrived at therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The National Road Safety Council has met only once during the last three years.

(b) During the above meeting, a draft of a National Road Safety Policy aimed at bringing down the number of fatalities in road accidents to 25,000 by the year 2001 A.D., was placed before it. After discussions, the Council recommended for setting up of an Expert Group and a Sub-Committee of the Council under the Chairmanship of Minister of State for Surface Transport to finalise the Road Safety Policy Paper which would then be placed for consideration and adoption at a special meeting of the National Road Safety Council, later this year.

Subsidiaries of Public Sector Banks

2520. SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up subsidiaries of the public sector banks in European Community countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the assessment regarding performance of such banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS) (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b). State Bank of India (SBI) was permitted to incorporate a subsidiary in the United Kingdom, which is a Member of the European Community. The subsidiary has been incorporated on 7th Dec., 1992, in Wales, England with headquarters in London. SBI propose to integrate some of

its branches in UK and Antwerp, Paris and Frankfurt branches with the subsidiary. The subsidiary is expected to be inaugurated by the end of March, 1993.

Facilities to Exporters

2521. SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide certain facilities like lowering the import finance rate, make free shipment credit in foreign currency available, rediscount export bills abroad and to withdraw the tax on interest for export credit to the exporters;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be provided; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Government have already provided several facilities such as lowering the rate of interest on refinance from RBI, providing pre and post-shipment credit in foreign currency, reducing the rate of interest on export credit, providing pre-shipment credit without prior lodgement of letters of credit/firm export orders for all products through running account facility, and waiving of interest for late in the Case of credit banks.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Cases pending with Central Government Industrial Tribunals Cum Labour Courts

2522. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in the Central Government Industrial Tribunals cum Labour Courts as on December, 1992;

(b) whether any minimum time period has been fixed by the Government regarding the disposal of such cases;

(c) if so, the number of those cases which are pending for disposal for more than this fixed time limit; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) 5091 disputes and 9826 applications were pending with various Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour courts as on 31.12.1992.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise. However, 3828 disputes and 7550 applications were pending for more than 6 months as on 31.12.1992 with various Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts.

(d) The steps in hand for expediting adjudication of industrial disputes are *inter-alia* as follows:-

- (i) Improving and strengthening of Conciliation machinery so that a larger number of cases are settled at the conciliation stage;
- (ii) Expeditious filling up of vacancies of Presiding of that a larger number of cases are settled at the conciliation stage;
- (iii) Expeditious filling up of vacancies of Presiding Officers of the Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals;

(iii) Setting up of additional Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals, where necessary;

(iv) Holding of Lok Adalats, wherever possible.

Bank Fund for Exporters

2523. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:
SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the New Bank of India has earmarked separate funds to fulfill the financial requirements of the exporters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the mode likely to be adopted by the Bank to extend the above facility to the exporters; and

(d) the areas where this facility is proposed to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS) (D.R. ABRAR AHMED): (A) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Export of Cigarettes.

2524. DR. VASANT NIWRUTI PAWAR:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of cigarettes exported during 1991 and 1992; and

(b) the amount of foreign exchange

earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b). The quantity of cigarettes exported and the amount of foreign exchange earned there from for the last two years are as under:-

Year	Quantity (tons)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1990-91	448	3659.41
1991-92	175	1610.68

[Translation]

Branches of Public Sector Banks in Maharashtra

2525. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the existing branches of the various public sector banks in Maharashtra upto February 28, 1993;

(b) the number of the small industrial units in Maharashtra which were provided loans by these banks during each of the last three years; and

(c) the total amount of the loans so provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) The number of branches of public sector banks functioning in Maharashtra as on September 30, 1992 (latest available) is given in the Statement below.

(b) and (c). The small industrial units in Maharashtra which were provided loans by scheduled commercial banks during each of the last three years and the amount thereof are given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

As at the end of	No. of Accounts	Balance Outstanding
September 1989	164126	270848
March 1990	164076	290264
March 1991 (latest available)	161744	324141

STATEMENT

S. No.	Name of Bank	
1.	State Bank of India	758
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	17
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	146
4.	State Bank of Indore	12
5.	State Bank of Maharashtra	14
6.	State Bank of Patiala	5
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	13
8.	State Bank of Travancore	7
9.	Allahabad Bank	76
10.	Andhra Bank	75
11.	Bank of Baroda	260
12.	Bank of India	516
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	844
14.	Canada Bank	147
15.	Central Bank of India	461
16.	Corporation Bank	35
17.	Dena Bank	253
18.	India Bank	63
19.	India Overseas	60
20.	New Bank of India	21
21.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	27
22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	21
23.	Punjab Nation Bank	114
24.	Syndicate Bank	131
25.	UCO Bank	113
26.	Union Bank of India	289
27.	United Bank of India	28
28.	Vijaya Bank	45
Total		4501

Machinery to Implement Labour Laws Relating to Women and Child Workers

2526. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI:
SHRI RAMLAKHAN SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have started any Centrally sponsored scheme to strengthen the State enforcement machinery for the proper implementation of labour laws relating to women and child workers;

(b) if so, the details of work undertaken under this scheme state-wise; and

(c) the achievements made under this scheme during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A scheme with fifty percent central assistance was launched on a pilot basis during the 7th Plan. Under this scheme Central share of the funds have been released to two states, namely Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. While in Andhra Pradesh the scheme has not been so far implemented, in Madhya Pradesh it has been taken up in four districts namely, Indore, Raipur, Sagar and Gwalior. During the period 1989-92, the State has reported a total of 2068 inspections under various Acts. However, the scheme has now been transferred to the State Sector.

[English]

ADB Aid for Ports in Andhra Pradesh

2527. SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has given any financial assis-

tance for the developments of Indian Ports particularly in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Asian Development Bank (ADB) has sanctioned loan assistance for various port projects including a loan assistance of US \$ 77.99 million for development of Kakinada Port in Andhra Pradesh which is at present being executed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Navigation in Hooghly River

2528. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the steps the Government propose to take to increase the navigability of the river Hooghly in order to facilitate navigation of big ships in the river?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): With a view improve the navigability of the river Hooghly, Government have sanctioned river training and dredging works. Calcutta Port Trust carry out regular maintenance dredging through their own and Dredging Corporation of India's dredgers. Schemes for replacement of some of the old dredgers of Calcutta Port included in 8th Five Year Plan.

Debt Recovery by Banks

2529. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA): Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the accumulated debt recovery position in respect of domestic loans at the beginning of 1992 and the percentage of its recovery by the public sector banks at the end of 1992;

(b) the estimated amount of bad and doubtful debts at the end of 1992 as against the outstanding loans;

(c) the reasons for the slow recovery of debts;

(d) whether the Government propose to give more legal powers to the bankers to recover the debts; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the other measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c). The banks provide loans

to credit worthy borrowers for taking up economically viable activity. The banks also provide consumption loans although to a very limited extent, to credit worthy borrowers who have other sources of income for repaying loans. The loans are sanctioned by banks after the credit worthiness of the borrower has been ascertained. However, in the operations of the accounts certain debts are likely to go bad for various reasons creating thereby overdues.

The out standing advances & overdues in respect of public sector banks as on March 1990, March 1991 and September 1991 (latest available) as reported by Reserve Bank of India, is given below:

(Rs. in crores)

<i>As on</i>	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>Overdues</i>	<i>Percentage of overdues to out standings</i>
March 1990	85497	13675	16.00
March 1991	110802	17320	15.54
September 1991	102480	17967	17.53

Various steps have been taken by RBI to reduce the amount of overdues and also to improve the recovery performance of the commercial banks in respect of their advances to various sectors. Some of the important steps are as follows:

1. Banks have been impressed upon to institute a viable recovery system with a view to help recycling the scarce resources of the banks to the needy and productive sectors of the economy on the one hand, and to improve the profitability and viability of the lending banks, on the other.
2. The Chief Executives of the banks have been advised to pay their personal attention to the monitoring of large advances.
3. Introduction of a comprehensive and uniform grading system to indicate the health of individual advances for the purpose of their effective monitoring and follow up.
4. To keep a watch on the recovery of top sticky accounts.
5. Taking corrective action where advances

are found to have become sticky.

(d) & (e). The banks recover their dues as per measures available in the normal legal course such as filing of suits, compromises etc. and there is no proposal to give more legal powers directly to banks in this regard.

[Translation]

Commission for Bidi Workers

2530. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Commission for the welfare of bidi workers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Recruitment Centres

2531. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recruitment centres for the three services in the eight hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government propose to open more such centres in the country particularly in the interior areas of the hilly districts in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the steps taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) There are three Branch Recruiting Offices, one each at Lansdown, Almora and Pithoragarh, providing recruitment coverage to the hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) to (d). There is no proposal to open any new recruiting centre in the country, as the existing centres are adequately meeting the requirements of candidates seeking entry into the Armed Forces.

[Translation]

Amendments in Central Excise Rules

2532. SHRI RATILAL VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Central Excise Rules to match with the liberalised economic policies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURHY): (a) to (c). Rationalisation and re-structuring of any tax Law, including Central Excise Law, is an ongoing process. Necessary amendments are carried out, as and when the need arises.

French Assistance for Projects in Bihar

2533. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a portion of the loan assistance received from France is being utilised in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the total amount allocated to the various projects under implementation project-wise and the new projects to be started during the current year;

(c) whether some of the above projects have involved more time and cost than estimated; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the revised cost and time limit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED):

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. There is only one project in Bihar viz. East Katras, where French assistance is being utilised. An amount of French Franc 3.7168 million has been secured for this project by signing a financial Protocol with the French on 26th March, 1991. No new project in Bihar is likely to be started with French assistance during the current financial year.

(c) and (d). There had been delay in the implementation of this project. The total slippage in the completion of this project is 24 months. The revised anticipated date of completion of this project is March, 1994. The reasons for slippage on target date are as under:

(i) Short length of longwall panels, as planned in the Revised Project Report, resulting in frequent shifting off the longwall set from one panel to another thereby lowering the overall performance of the longwall equipment. The present longwall panel is only 160 meters long

and is expected to last for about 4 months only.

(ii) Delay in procurement of additional Blasting Gallery Equipments.

[English]

Varapuzha Bridge

2534. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have acquired land for construction of Varapuzha bridge on National Highway No. 17 in Emakulam district of Kerala;

(b) if so, when the construction work is likely to be started; and

(c) the total cost on the construction of the bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Construction work on this bridge can be started only after the estimate for the bridge is sanctioned by the Government and work is awarded.

(c) The estimated cost of construction of the bridge is Rs. 26.64 crores.

Changes in the Labour Policy

2535. SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to streamline the existing labour policy;

(b) if so, the details of the changes proposed to be made in the existing labour

policy;

(c) whether any discussion with representatives of industries and trade unions have been held before making any changes in the existing labour policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (d). The process of streamlining the Labour Policy is in the nature of a continuous process. This exercise is undertaken by Government with close co-operation of the representatives of the employers and workers and through tripartite discussion. On the basis of wide ranging discussions held in the past in different forums including the Conference of State Labour Ministers and the Indian Labour Conference, amendments to some of the labour legislations are under consideration of Government with the objective of enhancing productivity, creating more employment opportunities, achieving speedier dispute resolution and securing harmonious industrial relations.

Development of Jaleshwar-Chandaneswar Road

2536. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has asked for the funds under the Loan Assistance Programme for inter-state or Economic Importance Schemes for the development of Jaleshwar Chandaneswar road;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). The State Government of Orissa has forwarded

certain proposals for financing under the Centrally Aided Programme of State Roads of Inter-State or Economic Importance in the 8th Five Year Plan including the road in question costing Rs. 481.00 lakhs assigning it a lower priority in the list of prefects. Keeping in view the limited availability of funds, it is difficult to include the development of the road in question in the Eighth Plan under the aforesaid programme.

Loan Under 'Own your House Scheme' In Orissa

2537. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government propose to set up some centers of LIC in Orissa for facilitation grant of housing loan under "Own Your House Scheme"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas where such centres of LIC have been opened or proposed to be opened?

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b). At present LIC grants housing loans under "Own Your Home" (OYH) Scheme to its policyholders through its Divisional Office at Sambalpur. LIC Housing Finance Ltd. grants housing loans through its Area Office at Bhubaneswar. There is no proposal under consideration by Government to set up new centres of LIC for this purpose.

[Translation]

Purchases by Defence Organisations

2538. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made

it mandatory to purchase certain percentage of the direct purchases to be made by the Defence Organisations from the ex-Servicemen;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that this provision is strictly followed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). A reservation of 10% has been provided for the purchase of low technology items being manufactured by small scale units, owned by ex-Servicemen below 60 years of age, in direct purchases made by Defence establishments from the civil market, provided the quality and price are competitive.

(c) The purchasing authorities have been directed to ensure that:

(i) An ex-Serviceman entrepreneur who has tendered the lowest quotation should be awarded the entire work contract. In case the contract is awarded to a non ex-Serviceman, the ex-Serviceman entrepreneur, who has tendered rates nearest to the accepted tender should be offered 10% work contract at the rate quoted by the non ex-Serviceman entrepreneur.

(ii) After price settlement, the order should be placed on the selected ex-Serviceman entrepreneur with adequate number of ex-Servicemen kept in reserve, so that if the ex-Servicemen kept in reserve, so that if the ex-Servicemen quoting the lowest rates is not able to deliver the tendered goods, another ex-Serviceman could be given the chance to do so.

[English]

Profit/Loss of Public Sector Banks

2539. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of the profit made and loss incurred by each of the public sector banks during the current year, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): The annual accounts of public sector banks for the year ending 31st March, 1993 are yet to be finalised.

[Translation]

Branch of Spanish Bank

2540. SHRI BALARAJ PASSI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Spain has made any offer to open a branch of its Bank in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Reserve Bank of India have reported that they have so far not received any proposal from the Government of Spain of from any commercial bank in Spain for opening a branch in India.

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

[English]

Brand rate Scheme for Export Products

2541. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced any new brand rate scheme for export products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to extend this scheme to all export products and other sectors; and

(d) if so; the details thereof and if not, the reasons there for?

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

(b) to (d). with effect from 1st January, 1993, a simplified brand rate fixation scheme has been introduced covering all export products. The Scheme envisages acceptance of input-output data furnished by exporters under cover of a certificate from an independent Chartered Engineer and Chartered Accountant/Cost Accountant for fixation of brand rates, without pre-verification unlike what was being done earlier. The data will be verified after brand rate has been fixed. This scheme which was applicable prior to 1st January, 1993. only to three sectors, namely chemicals, electronics and engineering goods, has been extended to all sector to encourage exports by reducing the time taken in fixing the rates.

[Translation]

Capital Accumulation

2542. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of capital accumulation in the country is satisfactory;

(b) if so, the details of the achievements made in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the efforts made by the Government to accelerate the process of capital accumulation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c). The rate of Gross Capital Formation at current prices which was 19.6 percent during 1984-85, the last year of the Sixth Five Year Plan, reached a high rate of 27.3 percent during the terminal year of the Seventh Plan. Though the rate declined to 26.3 percent during 1990-91 and future to 25.5 percent during 1991-92 as per the quick estimates of National Income, yet the rate of capital formation is quite high and satisfactory.

(d) The major steps taken by the Government for accelerating the process of Capital Formation include an emphasis on increasing the rate of savings and reducing the price of capital goods through reduction in import duty on same.

[English]

Minimum Wages Act, 1948

2543. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Governments of West Bengal and other States recommended for the inclusion of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). The 39th Session of the Ministers' Conference held on 20th December 1990, among others, suggested inclusion of the Minimum Wages Act in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution to prevent filing of write petitions. The suggestion is under consideration of the Government.

NRIs Deposits in Public Sector Banks

2544. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount deposited by the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in public sector banks during the years 1990, 1991 and 1992;

(b) the manner in which this amount is being utilised; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to attract more NRIs money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIR (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The deposits received by public sector banks from Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) is a part of normal deposit of banks and are deployed, subject to guidelines and instructions issued by RBI from time to time, for providing credit facilities of all sector of economy.

Ban on Import of Exotic Skins

2545. SHRIMATI CHANDRAPRABHA URS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any ban on import of exotic skins;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to remove the ban on re-export basis; and

(d) the total requirement on imported exotic skins in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 prohibits dealings in Schedule I and Part II of Schedule II species altogether and by virtue of such prohibition in other laws, import is not permitted.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No separate statistics is maintained for requirement of imported exotic skins.

[Translation]

Bonus to Labourers

2546. SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for providing bonus to laborers;

(b) whether the Government propose to revise the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Employees, whose salary/wage does not exceed Rs. 2500/- p.m., are eligible for bonus under the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965;

(b) No, Sir;

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Trade Fair

2547. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trade fairs and exhibitions in which India is likely to participate during 1993 and the business expected to be transacted therein;

(b) the names of trade fairs likely to be held in India during the current year along with their scheduled programmes and the names of countries which are likely to participate; and

(c) the arrangements made for the use of official language Hindi in these fairs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OFF STATE IN MINISTRY OF COMMERCE) (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The Ministry of Commerce has approved 46 fairs abroad for being participated in 1993-94 by India Trade Promotion Organisation and about 75 fairs abroad for being directly participated by Export Promotion Councils/Commodity Boards under the Ministry of Commerce. The business expected to be transacted cannot be quantified at the beginning of the year as it depends upon a number of factors

such as demand for products in a particular country, the economic conditions in that country, the international situation, various incentives offered by Govt. to boost exports, etc.

(b) A list of trade fairs to be organised by India Trade Promotion Organisation in India in 1993 is enclosed Statement-I. A list of trade fairs to be organised by other agencies at Pragati Maidan in 1993 is given in Statement-II.

Countries which have already participated so far this year are Australia, Italy, U.K., U.S.A., Hong Kong, Belgium, France, Germany, New Zealand, Greece, Czech Republic, Taiwan, Nepal, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Japan, China, Korea, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Netherlands and Brazil.

So far as the foreign countries participation in the forth-coming trade fairs is concerned the names of these can not be spelt out at this stage because the mobilisation of participation in those fairs is on.

(c) Extensive use of Hindi is being made in all publicity material in all the national and international fairs to be organised by India Trade Promotion Organisation at Pragati Maidan.

In foreign countries wherein Hindi is well understood, fair catalogue as well as posters etc. are being prepared in bilingual form i.e. English as well as in Hindi.

STATEMENT

List of Trade Fairs to be organised by ITPO in India during 1993.

S.No.	Name of Trade Fair
1	2
1.	Texindia' 92-93, Dec. 23, 1992- Jan. 3, 1993
2.	India Intl. Leather Fair'93 Jan. 31-Feb. 4, 1993 (Madras)
3.	Andhra ' 93 March 2-9, 1993
4.	Printpack India' 93 March 2-9, 1993
5.	Water India' 93 April 23-29, 1993
6.	Consumexh' 93 May 8-16, 1993
7.	National Children Fair' 93 May 29- June 13, 1993
8.	Sajavat ' 93 Aug. 14-22, 1993

Name of Trade Fair

S.No.

1

2

9. Intl. Security Exhibition'93
Sept. 1-5, 1993

10. Shoe Fair'93
Oct. 17-19, 1993

11. India Intl. Trade Fair' 93
Nov. 14-23, 1993

12. Texindia'93-94
Dec. 26'93- Jan. 7, 1994

STATEMENT - II

List of Trade Fairs to be organised by other agencies at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi during 1993.

S.No	Name of Trade Fair	Name of Organisers
1	2	3
1.	Elecrame'93 Jan. 13-19, 1993	I. E.E.N.A., Bombay
2.	10th India Garment Fair' 93 Jan. 22-24, 1993	A.E.P.C New Delhi
3.	10th Indian Engg. Trade Fair Feb. 14-21, 1993	G.I.I. New Delhi
4.	Pata Travel Mart'93 April 2-5, 1993	I.I.T.M. New Delhi
5.	11th India Garment Fair'93 August 6-8, 1993	A.E.P.C New Delhi
6.	Information Technology Exhibition'93 Sept., 1993	M.A.I.T. New Delhi
7.	Cartex'93 October 14-18, 1993	M.M.M.C. New Delhi

S.No	Name of Trade Fair	Name of Organisers
1	2	3
8.	Broadcasting, Cable & Satellite Exhibition'93 Oct. 25-28, 1993	M/s. Exhibitions India and Broadcasting Engg. Society, New Delhi
9.	Auto Expo'93 Dec. 7-15, 1993	C.I.I. New Delhi
10.	Paperex'93 Dec. 9-12, 1993	Tafcon New Delhi

Credit Growth Rates

2548. DR. P.R. GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation regarding cut in existing credit growth rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to make it sustainable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED):

(a) and (b). Representations were received seeking cut in interest rates on bank credit. the 1993-94 Budget for Central Government has reduced the minimum interest rate of bank credit of over Rs. 2 lakhs from 18 percent to 17 percent. The interest rates on Rupee Export credit have also been reduced across-the-board by one percentage point.

(c) To sustain increased bank lending to commercial sector including export credit, the Government shall continue to restrain its recourse to credit from the banking system. Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) has been reduced and incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) has been removed.

Different Rates of Customs Duties

2549. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the goods having multiuses are subjected to different rates of customs duties;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) the details of cases detected where

lower concessional rate of customs duties have been misused and goods passed off to other users in different trade during the last three years; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to remove such anomalies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir, Certain goods are being extended concessional rates of duties, through exemption notifications issued under Section 25 of the Customs Act, 1962, based on the uses the said goods are put to. Cases in example are chemicals for the said goods of pesticides, oil seeds for sowing/planting, copper wire for the manufacture of contraceptives etc..

(b) Presently there are several such exemption notifications which are reproduced in the Customs Tariff published by the Department every year. All exemption notifications are also laid on the Tables of both the Houses of Parliament.

(c) and (d). The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Export of Tobacco

2550. SHRI ASTBHUJA PRASAL SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India rank number three in tobacco producing countries of the world but rank number nine in the list of exporting countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal for setting up the plants

for export purposes by the foreign companies in the country;

(d) whether the Government have accorded their approval thereon; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) According to statistics available for the calendar year 1991, India ranks number three in production of unmanufactured tobacco but number eight in unmanufactured tobacco exports.

(b) The reasons include:-

- Major chunk of production comprises non-exportable types like Bidi tobacco.
- Out of the FCV tobacco productions 50% is absorbed by the domestic cigarette industry.
- Production of flavorful FCV tobacco is less compared to other competing countries.
- Stiff competition from Brazil, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Argentina etc.

(c) to (e). Government has so far not approved any proposal for setting up of any plant for export of tobacco by any foreign company in the country.

[English]

Master Gain Scheme of UTI

2551. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unit Trust of India (UTI) has collected a large amount through its master gain-92 scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the fields in which these funds have been invested; and

(c) the profit earned on the investment made during the year 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF THE PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) UTI has mobilised around Rs. 4500 crore through Master gain 1992 Scheme.

(b) The funds have been primarily invested in equity shares and convertible Debentures.

(c) UTI has reported that so far no profit has been booked by sales of investments under the Scheme.

Dismissal of Army Officers

2552. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA:

SHRI SYED SHAHANUDDIN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers who were dismissed from service under the Army Act, 1950 during the last three calendar years, rank-wise and year-wise;

(b) the number of such cases pending as on January 1, 1993;

(c) whether the procedure as laid down in the Act and the rules framed there under

were fully complied with;

(d) whether any orders of dismissal have been challenged in the court of law;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the number of cases in which the appeal was decided in favour of the officer so punished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) A statement is attached

(b) The number of cases pending for dismissal cannot be forecast as decisions are taken on the merits of each case.

(c) Decisions are taken after following the procedure prescribed under the Act/ Rules.

(d) to (f). Out of 61 cases, orders in 10 cases have been challenged in Courts of Law. 2 cases have since been decided in favour of the Government and 1 case in favour of the petitioner. Orders in respect of the remaining cases are awaited.

STATEMENT

Details of officers dismissed From Service under the Army Act 1950 during the last three calendar years, rank-wise and year-wise, are as follows:-

Rank	1990	1991	1992
(i) 2 Lt.	-	1	-
(ii) Lt.	3	-	2
(iii) Capt	6	-	5
(iv) Major	6	3	10
(v) Lt. Col	1	2	6
(vi) Col	1	4	3
(v) Brig	-	3	2
	17	18	26

Counter Trade Component

2553. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to impose an obligatory counter trade

component in all major public sectors in imports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No Sir.

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

**Payment of Loan in Instalments by
Coffee Growers**

2554. SHRI K. MURALEE DHARAN:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow the coffee growers to repay the loans availed of by them in installments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). The proposal to allow the coffee growers to repay the loans availed of by them in instalments is under consideration of Government.

**Deposit of Fund By MMTC in Foreign
Bank**

2555. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any policy/rule that Mines and Minerals Trading Corporation (M.M.T.C.) can deposit any amount in any foreign banks;

(b) if so, the amount deposited by MMTC in City Bank or any other foreign banks during each of the last three years; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for violation of rules by MMTC

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Since 3.1.1992, Public Sector Undertakings have been permitted to undertake normal banking transactions with any bank of their choice, including foreign banks.

(b) Details of aggregate amounts deposited by MMTC in foreign banks during the last three years are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

	1991-92	1990-91	1989-90
Grindlays Bank	66.73	NIL	NIL
Citi Bank	9.97	NIL	NIL

(c) The above deposits were kept on different dates after 3.1.1992, except for Rs. 10 crores kept with Grindlays Bank for a period of two days in October, 1991. The question of taking action by the Government for violation of rules by MMTC has therefore not arisen.

Joint Venture with Romania

2556. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start some joint ventures with Romania in the banking sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and total amount of investment proposed to be made and the share of both the countries?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINIS-
TER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR**

AHMED): (a) Reserve Bank of India have reported that they have not received any application from any Indian bank seeking their approval to set up a joint venture in Romania.

(b) Does not arise.

Export of Agricultural Commodities

2557. PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to make the export competitiveness of agricultural commodities;

(b) if so, the details of agricultural commodities that can be categorised as export competitive;

(c) whether any priority has been given to the processed agro-based commodities for exports; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to provide raw agricultural commodities at below normal price to the processing units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE) (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d). Government is keen to promote export of agricultural commodities. However, it is the policy of the Government to do so in a manner that domestic availability of items of mass consumption is not affected. Government have already taken a series of measures to improve policy environment for exports, which is a continuous process. These policy measures were further reinforced by the Import Export Policy, 1992-97, which came into force w.e.f. 1st April, 1992, for a period of 5 years. Introduction of unified exchange rate

will also help the export of agricultural commodities. Specific steps taken or proposed to be taken to encourage exports of agricultural commodities are as below:-

- (1) Defining agricultural activity as a manufacturing activity in the Import Export Policy, 1992-97.
- (2) Doing away with Compulsory Preshipment Inspection on the export of agricultural and food products subject to certain conditions.
- (3) Increase in production and productivity of important items such as fresh fruits and vegetables, spices, cashewnuts, oilseeds, basmati rice, etc.
- (4) Aggressive marketing in the potential countries through participation in exhibitions, holding of Buyer-Seller. Meets and interaction with importers.
- (5) Quality assurance programmes.
- (6) Basmati rice, floriculture products and processed foods are identified as thrust area in the field of export.

Government does not propose to provide raw agricultural commodities at below normal price to the processing units. However, with a view to promote exports of processed foods, Government has announced sizeable reduction in customs duties on import of capital goods & raw materials for the processed foods industry.

Revival of Sick NTC Mills By BIFR

2858. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister Of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of Industrial and

Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) is working out a revised package for revival of all sick N.T.C. mills, as in the case of other sick public sector units;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof;

(c) the estimated capital outlay of the rehabilitation package; and

(d) the manner in which it vary from the Cabinet package meant to bring about has turn around of the performance of the N.T.C. Mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED):

(a) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that it has registered 5 references of NTC Mills of which NTC, Bungleore has been declared sick on 12.1.1993 and the company has been directed to furnish its turn-around strategy. In the remaining 4 references of NTC Mills, BIFR is taking action in accordance with the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

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

[Translation]

Loans to SCs/STs in U.P. and Gujarat

2559. SHRI ARJUN SINGH
YADAV:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI CHBITUBHAI
GAMIT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any irregularities have noticed in disbursing loans to SCs/STs by public sector banks in Uttar Pradesh and

Gujarat during the last two years;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED):

(a) to (c). The commercial banks are required to follow the instructions of the Reserve Bank of India including those for advancing loans to the arsons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. With a view to increase flow of credit to SC/ST beneficiaries it has been enjoined upon banks by Reserve Bank of India that 10% of their total advances should be for weaker sections including that of SC/STs. Banks have been advised by the Reserve Bank in this context that special effort should be made to evolve suitable bank able schemes for SC/ST beneficiaries. Accordingly, the commercial banks participate in the programme sponsored by the Government to enable the identified beneficiaries to persue viable schemes for their ecgonomic upliftment. In addition to the above, the banks also rame the scheme on their own to assist weaker sections of the society by way of providing loans to them for productive ventures. The performance of public sector banks in the matter of extending credit assistances to SC/ST beneficiaries is reviewed by the Government as well as RBI periodically and suitable steps are taken to make up the RBI periodically and suitable steps are taken to make up the deficiencies noticed, if any.

The outstanding amount of all scheduled commercial banks extended to priority sector, weaker sections and Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat has been increasing as is evident from the following table:

No. of Accounts in lakhs Amount in Rs. crores

As at the end of	Priority Sector Accounts		Weaker Sections Accounts		SC/STs	
	Account	Account	Amount	Amount	Accounts	Amount
UTTAR PRADESH						
March 1990	39.46	4175	27.46	1196	10.67	472
March 1991	41.07	4639	28.93	1351	11.14	520
GUJARAT						
March 1990	16.05	2431	11.27	428	4.64	146
March 1991	15.91	2543	10.54	429	4.55	149

The loan applications are received by banks branches directly from applicants or through some state sponsored agency and are sanctioned accordingly. Action against officials is taken by banks in accordance with the laid down rules and procedures for willful neglects, non-following of instructions, any reported malpractices etc. The reporting system from banks does not generate information on the number of employees against whom action has been taken or contemplated for various category of charges.

[English]

Import of Currency notes Paper

2560. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total yearly requirement of currency notes paper in the country;

(b) the total yearly production of currency notes paper in the country;

(c) whether currency notes paper is also imported to meet its demand; and

(d) if so the details of import made

during 1989-90 and 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) At present the total yearly requirement of currency/bank note paper is about 6500 MTs.

(b) At present, the total yearly production of currency notes paper by Security Paper Mill, Hoshangabad, is around 3300 MTs.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The import details are as under:

Year	Quantity imported (MTs)
1989-90	1229
1990-91	2605

Linking of I.D.A Loans to Defence Expenditure

2561. SHRI M.V.V. S. MURTHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Development Association (IDA) has proposed to link the IDA loans to the defence expenditure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

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

[*Translation*]

Bank Dacoities in Bihar

2562. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the bank dacoities committed in Bihar during each of the last three years and the amount involved therein,

bank-wise;

(b) the number of persons killed/injured therein; and

(c) the details of the assistance/employment provided by the Government to the dependents of deceased/injured during the above dacoities in Bihar, bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED):

(a) and (b). As per information made available by Reserve Bank of India, there have been 30, 38 and 44 cases of robberies/dacoities during the years 1990, and 1991 and 1992, respectively in public sector banks in Bihar. Bank-wise details regarding number of dacoities/robberies, amount involved and number of persons killed/injured are given in the Statement below.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Bank-wise number of cases of robberies/dacoities, amount involved therein & persons killed/injured in the State of Bihar during the years 1990, 1991 & 1992

(Rs. in lakhs)										
Sl. No	Name of the Bank	No. of cases	Amount involved	Persons killed/injured	No. of cases	Amount involved	Persons killed/injured	No. of cases	Amount involved	Persons killed/injured
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Allahabad Bank	2	3.86	-	3	1.37	-	3	1.53	1
2.	Bank of India	7	8.37	-	6	15.50	5 k 3 i	13	23.33	1 k 6 i
3.	Canara Bank	-	-	-	1	18.98	3 i	1	6.06	-
4.	Central Bank of India	-	-	-	3	0.38	-	3	0.83	1 i
5.	Dena Bank	-	-	-	1	1.50	-	-	-	-
6.	Indian Bank	1	0.02	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7.	Indian Overseas Bank	1	19.05	-	1	0.86	-	-	-	-
8.	New Bank of India	-	-	-	1	0.55	-	-	-	-
9.	Punjab National Bank	5	15.02	1 k	7	10.31	1 k	8	6.62	-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No	Name of the Bank	No. of cases	Amount involved	Persons killed/injured	No. of cases	Amount involved	Persons killed/injured	No. of cases	Amount involved	Persons killed/injured
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10.	Punjab & Sind Bank	-	-	-	1	2.00	1 i	-	-	-
11.	State Bank of India	7	7.85	1 i	6	8.47	1 k 2 i	9	30.78	2 k 2 i
12.	UCO Bank	5	10.60	-	3	6.14	1 i	4	2.44	-
13.	Union Bank of India	-	-	-	2	0.56	1 i	-	-	-
14.	United Bank of India	1	2.04	2 i	3	4.32	-	2	9.97	-
15.	Vijaya Bank	1	6.05	-	-	-	-	1	40.00	-
	Total	30	72.85	1 k 3 i	38	70.94	7 k 11 i	44	121.56	3 k 10 i

k = Persons Killed

i = Persons injured

Widening of Delhi-Agra Section of National Highway No. 2

2563. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in respect of widening Delhi-Mathura section of Delhi-Agra Highway No.2 in to four lanes;

(b) by when this work is likely to be completed as per the contract; and

(c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Tenders for the work of 4 laning Ballabgarh-Mathura Section of NH-2 in the States of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh were awarded in April, 1991. The work is in progress and the target date of completion as per the contract is May 1995.

(c) The total expenditure likely to be incurred on this project is presently estimated at about Rs. 133 crores.

[English]

Committee on Bank Computerisation

2564. SANDIPAN BHAGWAN THORAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had appointed a Committee on bank computerisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the recommendations made therein;

(e) whether the recommendations have been implemented; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor, and the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (d). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had appointed a Committee in September 1988 to prepare a perspective plan for computerisation in banks for the period 1990-94. The Committee submitted its report in December, 1989.

The main recommendations of the Committee are summarised below:-

(i) The thrust of bank computerisation for the five year span (1990-94) should be to computerise all the operations in 2000-2500 large branches with in daily workload of 750 vouchers or more situated mostly in the top 30 business centres.

(ii) About 500 large branches (each branch having 1500 vouchers and above per day) may be taken up for computerisation in the first two/three year along with back office computerisation. In the next phase, full computerisation of the remaining 1500-2000 branches be taken up.

(iii) Regional/Zonal/Divisional offices would have to be computerised. Banks may also make concerted attempts to acquire and operationalise mainframe comput-

ers at head offices at the earliest.

- (iv) Banknet is to be set up as a common data communications network of banks and financial institutions on a cooperative basis. This network can be used for several inter-bank and inter-bank applications such as customer drawing/deposition cash at any branch, transfer of funds, credit card authentication, statistics, economical deployment of banks' funds, foreign exchange business, access to SWIFT etc.

- (v) A shared network of automated teller machine (ATM) as proposed by Indian Banks' Association can be tried out, to begin with, in Bombay, by installing ATMs at strategic locations such as airports, railway stations etc. However, before replication the project at other centres, sufficient care will have to be taken to assess its efficacy and effectiveness vis-a-vis the investment and expenditure involved.

(e) and (f). The Committee's recommendations have been broadly accepted by the Reserve Bank of India. Indian Banks' Association had made efforts to reach an industry level settlement with the staff unions for further computerisation in the banking industry. Since the industry level discussions with unions were not successful, IBA advised member banks to have discussions with their respective staff unions. So far only SBI, Indian Overseas Bank and Bank of Baroda have signed agreements with their respective staff unions. The banks are in the process of discussing the matter with their staff union.

Wholesale Price Index

2565. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the wholesale price index with 1981-82 as the base at the beginning of each month during current financial year;

(b) the rate of inflation at each monthly interval;

(c) the corresponding consumer price index on those dates;

(d) whether the price level of all groups included in the calculation of the index have shown a tendency of increase during the current year; and

(e) if not, the major groups which have shown a declining trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (c) . The wholesale and consumer price indices for each month of the current financial year are given in Table 1.

wholesale and Consumer price Indices during 1992-93

Month	WPI	CPI
	Base: 1981-82	Base: 1982
April 1992	219.4	231
May 1992	221.6	234
June 1992	224.1	236
July 1992	226.6	242
August 1992	228.8	242
September 1992	230.7	243
October 1992	232.4	244
November 1992	231.7	244

Month	WPI Base: 1981-82	CPI Base: 1982
December 1992	231.1	243
January 1993	230.3	241
February* 1993	231.3	N. A.

* (Average of 3 weeks ending 20.2.1993)

(b) The rate of inflation in wholesale prices in each month of the current financial year is given below :

Table- 2.

Inflation rate in terms of wholesale price indices (Base: 1981-82= 100)	
Month	inflation rate (%)
April 1992	13.8
May 1992	13.8
June 1992	13.0
July 1992	11.7
August 1992	9.4
September 1992	9.6

(d) and (e). No Sir, foodgrains, non-food articles and leather and leather products have exhibited a declining trend (Table 3)

TABLE III

Financial Year changes in WPI during 1992-93

		(Per cent)										
Major Group/ Group	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
All Commodities	0.8	1.8	2.9	4.1	5.1	6.0	6.8	6.4	6.2	5.8		
I Primary Articles	-0.1	0.7	2.6	4.7	6.1	4.8	4.4	3.9	3.2	2.2		
(A) Food articles	1.0	2.6	5.9	7.5	8.3	7.1	7.2	7.2	6.5	5.6		
Food grains	-0.7	-1.1	-0.2	0.8	2.3	0.0	-2.4	-2.8	-3.0	-2.2		
(B) Non-food articles	-2.2	-2.7	-2.9	0.2	3.0	1.3	0.0	-1.9	-2.7	-4.1		
(C) Minerals	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	1.6	1.4		1.5	1.5	1.5		
II Fuel, Power, Light & Lubricants	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	5.2	10.0	10.0	10.0	11.1		
a. Coal Mining	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
b. Mineral oils	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	9.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0		
c. Electricity	0.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	4.4		
III Manufactured Products	1.5	2.7		4.4	5.1	6.8	7.6	7.3	7.2	7.0		

(Per cent)

Major Group/ Group	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
(A) Food products	1.5	3.6	4.5	7.3	8.7	7.7	8.8	6.7	7.3	5.9
(B) Beverages, Tobacco & products	0.0	2.2	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.1	3.4	3.9	3.8	3.9
(C) Textiles	0.6	2.2	-0.5	-0.3	0.2	1.1	1.9		2.1	1.6
(D) Wood & Wood products	30.2	56.0	56.0	56.0	62.3	87.7	87.7	87.7	87.7	87.7
(E) Paper & paper products	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.5	10.0	10.9	10.9	10.7	10.7	10.7
(F) Leather & Leather products	0.1	0.9	0.9	-0.7	-1.9	-2.1	-1.1	-0.3	-0.6	-0.4
(G) Rubber & Plastic products	2.3	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	3.3	4.0	4.0	4.0
(H) Chemical & chemical products	0.5	1.6	2.9	3.4	5.5	11.8	12.4	12.1	11.9	12.0
(I) Non- metallic mineral products	0.4	0.2	0.7	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.9	0.7	-0.3	0.5
(J) Basic metals, alloys & metal products	0.5	1.2	5.1	6.2	7.0	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.2	7.4
(K) Machinery & machine tools	1.2	1.8	2.0	2.6	2.7	3.3	5.3	5.6	5.4	5.9
(L) Transport equipment & parts	0.5	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.1	3.8	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.2
(M) Other misc. manufacturing industries	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

Audit of Public sector Banks and Financial institutions

2567. SHRI ANADI CHARANDAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:-

(a) whether there is any demand for entrusting the audit of accounts of public sector banks and other financial institution like U. T. I., LIC, etc. to the Comptroller and Auditor general of India;

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

(c) whether the Government have sought the suggestions of the C& AG on this subject;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b). Demands have been made from time to time for entrusting the Comptroller & Auditor General of India with the audit of public sector banks and financial institutions. The question has been examined in the past in consultation with Reserve Bank of India. Keeping in view, the commercial nature of operations of these institutions and the need for a proper mix of autonomy and accountability in public sector banks / financial institutions, Government and Reserve Bank of India do not consider it necessary to entrust audit of these organisations to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

(c) to (e). The Comptroller and Auditor General of India had suggested in May, 1992 that the audit of public sector financial institutions including nationalised banks be

brought under their purview.

Development of National Highways in Assam

2568. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects sent by the Government of Assam for the development and improvement of National Highways in the State during the year 1993-94 and Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the details of the projects sanctioned / being sanctioned by the Union Government and the funds provided therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). 21 projects aggregating to Rs. 24.58 crores were received from the Government of Assam for development and improvement of National Highways in the State for the Eighth Plan, which includes the year 1993-94 also. Out of these, 18 projects aggregating to Rs. 14.03 crores have been sanctioned so far.

During 1992-93, an amount of Rs. 12.75 crores has been allocated which includes expenditure on going works. The allocation for 1993-94 will be known only after Demand for Grants are voted by Parliament.

World Bank Assistance for Agricultural Sector

2569. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL
SHRI RABI RAY

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the financial commitment from the World Bank, the International Development Association and other International agencies for various development schemes under agricultural sector during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) how it compares with such assistance actually utilised during the Seventh Five Year plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) . The financial aid commitment are indicated annually by the multilateral and bilateral donor agencies including the World Bank in the annual meeting of the Aid India Consortium . Further , external assistance is tried to projects and utilisation of aid depends upon the project specific implementation schedule. In the circumstances, it is not possible to indicate the financial aid commitments likely to be provided for various development schemes under agricultural sector during the Eighth Five Year Plan. As such, comparison with the assistance actually utilised during the seventh Five year plan does not arise.

Bifurcation of I . D . B . I .

2570. SHRI C. P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Narasimha Committee had recommended the bifurcation of the Industrial Development Bank of India (I . D . B . I .) ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government there on?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) . It is a fact that the Narasimham Committee had recommended that the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) should retain only its apex and refinancing role and that its direct lending function be transferred to a separate institution which could be incorporated as a company.

(c) Government is not currently proposing the bifurcation of IDBI.

Regional Housing Finance Companies

2571. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has allowed four regional housing finance companies to expand their business to meet the growing requirements of housing sector;

(b) the details of the financial companies allowed to expand;

(c) the number of houses likely to be constructed by these companies during the year 1993-94 ; and

(d) the interest rate chargeable from the individuals and from other builders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bank sponsored housing Finance Companies, namely can Fin, Homes Ltd., SBI Home Finance Ltd. , PNB Housing Finance Ltd. . Cent Bank Home Finance Ltd.

, and AB home Finance Ltd. , have been allowed by the National housing Bank (NHB) / Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to expand their business.

(c) NHB and RBI do not have information regarding the number of houses likely to

be constructed during the year 1993-94 .

(d) Interest rates (exclusive of interest tax) chargeable by Housing Finance Companies, as stipulated by the National Housing bank, with effect from 1 st October , 1991 are as Under:-

1.	Category	Rate of Interest (%) .
Individual	Upto Rs. 7500/-	10.0
	Rs. 7501 to Rs. 15,000/-	11.5
	Rs. 15,001/- to 25,000/-	13.0
	Rs. 50,001/- to 1,00,000/-	15.5
	Above Rs. 1,00,000/-	16.0 (Minimum)
2. Projects	For Public agencies and cooperative Housing societies.	Weighed average rate calculated on the basis of interested indicated at above, applicable to the apprtioned in respect of each individual plot or housing unit.
	For professional developers (builders) rental housing projects)Other than disadvantaged groups)	20
	For rental housing projects of disadvantaged groups viz. working women, police housing, plantation workers, etc. for dwelling units upto 40 Sq.m.	

[Translation]

Agreement with Japan

2572. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

Japan to reduce the settled purchase price of iron-ore by 9.11 percent has caused India a loss of Rs. 1600 crores;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the agreement signed with Japan in this regard?

(a) whether unilateral decision taken by

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Prices of iron ore are settled with Japanese Steel Mills (JSMs) every year based on international price trends. The price cut of 9.01% for lumps and 11% for fines and concentrates agreed to by Indian suppliers in the annual agreement for 1993-94 is the same as that settled by JSMs with other major suppliers of iron ore namely Brazil and Australia. The price cut would result in some loss in foreign exchange earnings as compared to previous years.

(c) Exports of iron ore to Japanese Steel Mills are being made under a five year long-term contract concluded in pursuance to a Memorandum of Agreement signed jointly by MMTC, NMDC and KIOCL with JSMs in Oct. '90. The contract provided for export of 11.53 - 13.75 million tonnes of iron ore per annum. The exact quantity within this range and prices are decided each year at the time of annual price negotiations. In terms of the annual agreement for 1993-94 reached with JSMs on 20 Jan. '93, a quantity of 10.2 million tonnes of iron ore is to be supplied to JSMs.

[English]

Violation of MVA, 1988

2573. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contract permit clauses of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 are continuously being violated by the permit holders by plying chartered buses in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected during 1992; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check such violations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Some instances of this nature have been noticed. During the year 1992 nearly 738 bus owners were prosecuted by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi for violation of permit conditions.

(c) Regular prosecution as well as special drives are being carried out by the Enforcement Branch of the Transport Department of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi to minimise violation of permit conditions.

Construction Companies in Public Sector

2574. SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Indian construction companies in public sector; and

(b) the number of works obtained in foreign countries by these companies, particularly in Arab countries during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Indian construction companies in the Central and State Public sector which are the registered members of Overseas Construction Council of India are:-

- (1) Indian Railway Construction Company (IRCON);
- (2) Projects & Equipments Corporation of India Ltd.;
- (3) Engineering Projects of India Ltd.;
- (4) International Air-Ports Authority of India;

- (5) Uttar Pradesh State Bridge Corporation (UPSBC);
- (6) Uttar Pradesh Rajkiya Nirmalan Nigam Ltd;
- (7) National Building Construction Corporation;
- (8) National Projects Construction Corporation;
- (9) Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd.;
- (10) Bridge & Roof Company (India) Ltd.;
- (11) Hindustan Prefab Ltd.; and
- (12) Indian Road Construction Ltd.
- (b) As reported by EXIM Bank of India, contracts secured by the above companies in the Arab region during the period April 90 to January 93 are listed below:

<i>Company</i>	<i>No./Year of Contract</i>	<i>Country in which secured</i>
Uttar Pradesh State Bridge Corporation	1/1991-92	Yemen
Indian Railway Construction company	1/1991-92	Saudi Arabia

US Investments and Collaborations

2575. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of U.S. business executives visited India recently; and

(b) if so, the details of proposals for U.S. investments and collaborations discussed/ finalized during the visit?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. No specific proposal for US investments and collaborations was discussed/ finalised.

Reduction in Defence Budget

2576. MAJ. GEN. (RETD) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a reduction in the Defence Budget over the years, in real

terms, taking 1 April, 1988 as base;

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

(c) the percentage of Budget utilised for pay and pension and for modernisation of defence forces, separately, during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). There are no established criteria for measuring annual budgetary allocations in real terms. The net Defence expenditure has been increasing from year to year, as shown below:

(Rs. in crores)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Net Defence Expenditure</i>
1988-89	13341.02
1989-90	14416.17
1990-91	15426.48
1991-92	16347.04
1992-93 (Revised Estimates)	17500.00

(c) The net expenditure on pay and allowance amounted top 32.7% in 1990-91, 34.1% in 1991-92 and 36.2% in 1992-93 (Revised Estimates), of the Defence expenditure.

Expenditure on Defence Pensions is not a part of Defence Budget. It is covered under the Civil Estimates. While there are no separate/specific budgetary heads for expenditure on the modernisation of defence forces, the Capital expenditure incurred by the Defence Services, representing outlays on the acquisition of durable assets like Aircraft, Ships, Heavy and Medium Vehicles etc. during the last three years was as follows:-

(Rs. in crores)

1990-91	4552.35
1991-92	4905.43
1992-93 (Revised Estimates)	5138.34

Container Terminal at Cochin Port

2577. SHRI V. S.
VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in respect of commissioning container transshipment terminal at Vallarpadam in Cochin;

(b) the details of foreign assistance likely to be taken; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT

(SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The proposal for establishing the container transshipment terminal has been advertised for obtaining private participation.

(b) and (c). As the details of the scheme have not yet been finalised, it is not possible to indicate these details at this stage.

Export Units

2578. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the norms laid down for monitoring the functioning of export units;

(b) whether the Government have issued show cause notice to a large number of export units which have not fulfilled export obligations under the advance licensing scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the total loss in term of foreign exchange due to that; and

(d) the action taken to expedite the processing of the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d). The Functioning of export units is not monitored. However, export obligations imposed under Advance Licensing Scheme are monitored by the various Licensing Authorities. A preliminary assessment indicates that since the inception of the Scheme, Show Cause Notices have been issued in only about 6.15% of the No. of licences issued. These Show Cause Notices are issued not only in cases where exporting units fail to fulfill export obligation in value terms but also in quantity terms. Further where exporting units submit incomplete documents Show Cause Notices may also be issued. The cases of default in fulfillment of Export Obligation estimated so far, is less than 2% of the No.

of licensees issued.

Constant efforts are made to complete action against such firms who have been issued Show Cause Notices and this may result even in their debarment apart from, fiscal penalty under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992.

Production and export of FCV Tobacco

2579. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Flue Cured Virginia Tobacco produced during the last year;

(b) the amount of Flue Cured Virginia Tobacco that was purchased by the domestic cigarette manufacturing companies;

(c) the quantity of Flue Cured Virginia Tobacco that was proposed to be exported during the current year;

(d) the amount of FCV Tobacco that was actually exported;

(e) the likely date by which the balance quantity will be exported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED). (a) A quantity of 166.28 Mkgs. i.e., 132.78 Mkgs. in A. P. and 33.50 M. kgs. in Karnataka was produced in 1992.

(b) 45.54 M. kgs was purchased directly by the domestic cigarette manufacturers on the auction floors in 1992 Andhra auctions. 8.66 M. kgs was purchased by

the domestic cigarette manufacturers directly in the 1991-92 Karnataka auctions.

(c) to (e). As against a target of 55,000 tonnes to be exported during 1992-93, a quantity of 51,758 MTs of FCV tobacco was exported during April, 1992 to February, 1993.

[Translation]

Recovery of sales tax from Business house

2580. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: SHRI B. L. SHARMA PREM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have to recover Central Sales Taxes amounting to crores of rupees from different organisations/business houses;

(b) if so, the collectorate-wise outstanding amount to be recovered by the Government; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government to recover the said amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c). Central Sales Tax is assessed, collected and retained by the concerned States themselves. Therefore the question of recovery of any outstanding amount of this tax by the Union Government does not arise.

[English]

National Commission on Labour

2581. SHRI SANDIPAN BHAIWAN THORAT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a National Commission on labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). The Indian Labour Conference held in September, 1992, recommended for the constitution of a second National Commission on Labour. The matter is under examination.

Functioning of Governing Boards of Stock Exchanges

2582. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the governing boards of Stock Exchanges have not been functioning properly in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken steps to evaluate the functioning of these boards;

(c) if so, the details of the irregularities detected ;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps, being taken to prevent such irregularities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS(DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (e). The functioning of the Governing Boards of the Stock Exchanges is regulated by the provisions in the Rules/ Articles of Association of the Exchanges. In the context of the need for improving the functioning of the Exchanges, Government had authorised

the Securities and Exchange Board of India(SEBI) in June, 1991 to conduct inspection of Stock Exchanges as a measure of investor protection. Accordingly, SEBI has been conducting inspection of Stock Exchanges which also covered an evaluation of the functioning of the Governing Boards of the Exchanges. So far, SEBI has conducted inspection of 13 Stock Exchanges and has also made enquires into the functioning of the Government Boards of Stock Exchanges at Delhi and Bangalore. Some of the irregularities detected by SEBI are the following;

1. Non- implementation of Government 's directives.

2. Non- implementation of the resolutions of the Board by the member brokers.

3. Non- implementation of Rules, Bye-laws and Regulations of the Stock Exchanges.

4. Ineffective mechanism for handling arbitration cases and grievances of investors.

5. Ineffective mechanism of market regulation.

2. SEBI has initiated action for revamping the Governing Boards of Stock Exchanges for ensuring orderly functioning of the Exchanges and investor protection. SEBI is also monitoring implementations of the recommendations contained in their inspection/enquiry reports by the concerned exchanges.

General Insurance Companies

2583. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE:
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of an action plan to reduce operational losses, all the four general insurance companies in the country continue to be under heavy operational losses / underwriting losses ;

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

(c) the action plan worked out to improve the working efficiency and check operational losses in these Companies , Company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b). The four subsidiary companies of the General Insurance Corporation of India have earned overall profits every year ever since their inception on 01. 01. 1974. They have also earned under writing profits almost every year barring 1988-89 , 1989-90, 1990-91 & 1991-92. The underwriting losses in these four years were Rs. 106.84 crores, Rs. 121.49 crores, Rs. 85.06-crores and Rs. 91.63 crores respectively . Even in these four years, the subsidiary companies together earned net profits amounting to Rs. 159.33 crores, Rs. 159.85 crores , Rs. 245.38 crores and 290.38 crores respectively.

The underwriting losses are mainly due to higher incidence of loss ratio in miscellaneous and Motor business due to substantial increase in cost of spare parts and repairs and the legal awards by Courts/ Tribunals in respect of Third Party motor claims . Substantial provisions of reserves for unexpired risks had also to be made due to growth in net premium income and this has also eroded underwriting profits.

(c) A common Action plan has been drawn up by the GIC for the Companies aimed at 10% reduction in motor claims ratio

and reduction in overall claims ratio by at least 3% over the previous year. A special Task Force has also been set up for strict implementation of the Action Plan.

Mutual Funds

2584. SHRI MATI PRATIBHA DEVI SINGH PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow private sector to set up mutual funds.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b). Securities and Exchange Board of India have notified regulations for mutual fund governing setting up of mutual funds in public sector, private, sector and joint sector . The regulations provide for conditions and procedure for registration of mutual funds, their constitution and management, operations of schemes, investment objectives and valuations policies, general obligation and inspection and disciplinary procedure in respect of default in Compliance with the regulations.

(c) Does not arise.

Private Participation in ship -building

2585. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to involve private sector and foreign collaborators in the ship-building industries thereto?

(b) if so, the details of the response from the foreign companies thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) : According to the new Industrial Policy announced by the Government in July, 1991, Shipbuilding Industry has been delicensed except for construction of war ships which has been reserved for the public sector. Further, mechanised sailing vessel upto 10,000 DWT have been allowed automatic approval for foreign technology and foreign equity participation upto 51% as per the laid down procedure. Entrepreneurs in the private sector can set up new shipyards in the country with foreign collaboration as necessary.

(b) Some of the foreign Companies have shown interest in technical collaboration with the Indian Shipyards.

[Translation]

Closed Industrial Units in Gujarat

2586. SHRI N. J. RATHVA:
DR. A. K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some industrial units in Gujarat are lying closed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount of money blocked at present in these units; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to revive these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the

House at the earliest.

Filling up of Reserved Vacancies

2587. SHRI N. J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of reserved posts belonging to Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes lying vacant in his Ministry and also in the Departments / Undertakings under his Ministry upto December 1992, category-wise;

(b) the dates from which these posts are lying vacant;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) The steps taken or proposed to be taken to fill up these vacancies expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Compensation to Victims

2588. SHRI SUBASH CHANDRA NAYAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great variation in the rates of Compensation paid by the Government to the victims of natural calamities, air, bus and train accidents, Communal riots and atrocities etc. ;

(b) if so, the rate of compensation to be paid in each such contingency;

(c) whether there is any proposal to bring uniformity in the payment of rate of

Compensation to all types of victims;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) if not , this reasons therefor?

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

[Translation]

Supply of Defence Equipments by private Industries

2589. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the defence equipments are being procured from the private sector industries;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) The steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the goods supplied by these industries are of the required standard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir; A variety of defence equipments /stores are being procured from the private sector industry. The items procured range from assemblies/ sub-assemblies / components of major defence equipment to items such as uniforms, blankets, boots, tents etc.

(c) All goods supplied for defence services, whether by the private sector or the public sector undertakings are accepted only after stringent test and inspection by the Defence quality assurance organisations which ensure that the supplies made con-

form to the specifications laid down.

Joint Exercise with Singapore Navy

2590. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA:
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI;

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the naval war-ships of India and Singapore recently made a joint exercise near port-Blair in the Bay of Bengal;

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

(c) the objectives thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c). Joint Navel Exercises were held with two Singapore navel Ships, a missile Corvette and a gun boat near Port Blair on 12 Feb. 1993 . From the Indian side, INS Anjadip, a petya class vessel and INS Kirpan, a Khukri class Corvette, participated in these Exercises which included manoeuvres, Search and Rescue Demonstration, Anti-Aircraft Tracking etc. The objective of the Exercise were the development of Navel skills and Competence and the promotion of mutual confidence between the two Navies.

[English]

Scheme for Export Oriented Units

2591. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:
SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Scheme for 100 per cent export units has been revamped to make it more attractive and simpler for entrepreneurs; and

(b) if so, the details of fresh incentives and facilities provided?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The package of benefits include extension of facility of International Price Reimbursement Scheme for iron and steel, a revised procedure of application and processing of the proposals, delegation of some specific powers of Board of Approvals/ administrative Ministries to the Development Commissioner of Export Processing zones and certain procedural simplifications.

National Highway No. 49

2592. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of work in respect of development of cochin - Madurai section of National Highway No. 49;

(b) the amount spent so far for development of this portion of the road; and

(c) the specific works proposed to be undertaken during the year 1993-94 for development of this portion of National Highway No. 49?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Improvement of accident prone locations and culverts are in progress on Cochin-Madurai Section of NH-49. For these works an amount of Rs. 134.596 lakhs have been sanctioned.

(c) The specific works proposed to be undertaken during the year 1993-94 for development of this portion of Highway No. 49 can be indicated only after the Demands for Grants are approved by Parliament.

[Translation]

Twenty-Four Hours Banking Service

2593. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any scheme for starting twenty-four hours banking service to make it more convenient and useful; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b): There is no such proposal under consideration. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have however reported that Bank of India, India Bank, Vijaya Bank, ANZ Grindlays Bank, Hongkong Bank and Citibank have installed Automatic Teller machines (ATMs). ATM is a self operated machine which can be used by the customer to make deposits, withdrawals, balance enquiries, lodging requests for new cheque books, transfer of funds, statement of accounts, etc. during as well as outside banking hours.

[English]

Linking of Madurai-Cochin National Highway with Cochin Port

2594. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made towards con-

necting the Madura Cochin National Highway to Cochin port so far; and

(b) The time by which the work on this road is likely to be Completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRIJAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). phase In portion of link road (from 0 meter to 3750 meters) connecting Cochin port to Cochin Bypass (NH - 47 A) is nearing completion . Construction work of phase ii from 3750 meters to 5920 meters started in March, 1993 is likely to be completed by 1997.

Rehabilitation of Ex-Servicemen

2595. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:

SHRI MOHANLAL JHIKRAM:

DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS

PATEL:

SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the various measures taken by the Union Government and the state Governments to help to ex-Servicemen and their dependents;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to undertake some new measure for rehabilitating former armed services personnel;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to strengthen the Sainik Boards and also to ensure that the ex-servicemen or their families (after their death) get all the admissible facilities within a reasonable time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI

MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (d). There is a comprehensive package of resettlement and welfare measures for the ex-Servicemen. The Central Government has provided reservation for ex-Servicemen in Group 'C' and Group 'D' posts in Central Government Departments , as well as Public Sector Undertakings , including the Nationalised Banks. Defence services personnel who have been disabled either in war or in peace time and whose disability is attributable to military service, are accorded Priority-I , while upto two dependants of Defence Services personnel killed / disabled in action (including war widows) are entitled to Priority-II (A) (disabled with over 50 percent disability / and ~~not~~ for employment, but disability attributable to military service) , for purposes of employment under Central Government , against Groups 'C' and 'D' posts . Most State Governments have also provided varying levels of reservation in civil posts in favour of the ex-Servicemen. Besides , a number of scheme are in existence to provide self- employment opportunities to ex-Servicemen. These include the SEMFEX -I Scheme which provides financial assistance to ex- Servicemen for setting up small industrial projects; the SEMFEX-II Scheme to encourage ex-Servicemen to take up gainful farm and non-farm activities in rural areas; and the SEMFEX-II Scheme to provide opportunities to ex-Servicemen , widows and disabled ex-Servicemen to set up khadi and Village Industries in their rural areas; allotment of Petroleum product agencies; allotment of Unit Trust of India agencies; transportation agencies for coal and petroleum products; price subsidy to ex-servicemen for small scale industrial units for products supplied to Defence Establishments, etc.

Ex-Servicemen are authorised free medical facilities in military hospitals and canteen facilities at the nearest CSD canteens. Two hundred and twenty six Sainik Rest Houses for Ex-Servicemen are in ex-

istence at different places all over the country.

Children of Defence personnel killed or disabled in action are entitled to educational concessions such as in the matter of fees, hostel charges, cost of uniform, etc. Seventy five percent concession in rail fare for travel in second class is given to all war widows. The recipients of gallantry awards are given 50% concession for air and second class rail travel. Thirty four war Memorial Hostels have been constructed in various Regimental Centres for providing accommodation to wards of war widows, war disabled and attributable peace-time casualties. A stipend of Rs. 400/- per month is paid to each eligible ward. Financial assistance for construction of houses and marriage of daughters is given to war widow, war disabled and attributable peace-time casualties by state Governments and the Kendriya Sainik Board.

Ex-Servicemen and their widows, who are in penury, are given financial assistance by the Kendriya Sainik Board, the Defence Minister's Appellate Committee, and the Rajya Sainik Board through their welfare funds. Grants are also given for special medical treatment of serious diseases. The Kendriya Sainik Board also give grants to paraplegic homes, cheshire homes and other charitable institutions to cater for expenditure incurred on ex-servicemen inmates.

Recently, Government has provided 10% reservation in purchases made by Defence establishments of low technology items, being manufactured by small scale units, owned by ex-Servicemen below 60 years of age in respect of items directly purchased from the civil market, provided the quality and price are competitive.

The facilities given to ex-Servicemen are reviewed from time to time and additions / alterations are made in the facilities schemes as per the requirements.

The recommendation of the High Level Committee regarding revitalisation of the Sainik Board Organisations has been accepted by all the State Governments / UTs and most of the recommendations have been implemented. The Central and the State Governments / UTs through the Kendriya Sainik Board and the Rajya Sainik Boards / Zila Sainik Boards, respectively, ensure that all admissible facilities are provided to ex-servicemen and their widows within a reasonable time frame.

Bank Finance for Road Construction

2596. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the transports Development Council has recommended that road construction should be treated as a core sector so that the private sector may get concessional finance from banks and give a fillip to road development;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government there to; and

(c) the steps taken to implement it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. An amendment has been made in the Acts governing Industrial Finance Corporation of India and Industrial Development Bank of India by which the activity of development, maintenance and construction of roads has been specified to be an "Industrial concern" so as to enable private sector to secure finance from financial institutions.

LIC Branches in Kerala

2597. SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up more LIC branches in Kerala during 1993; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas where these branches are proposed to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIMANTARY AFFAIRS(DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) Decision regarding opening of new Branch Offices is taken in the first quarter of the new financial year commencing April, 1993. The Process has been set in motion and the areas in which new branches would be opened in the state of Kerala would be decided at appropriate time.

Gold Smuggling

2598. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested in smuggling of gold during the last six months;

(b) Whether the smuggling of gold has declined after declaration of the existing liberalised economic policy of the Government ; and

(c) if so, the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASEKHAR MURTHY) (a) to (c). The quantity of smuggled gold seized after the introduction of the gold import scheme when compared with the seizures of previous financial years, as given below , who a declining trend . This is an indication that the smuggling of gold into the country is also on the decline. However, since smuggling is

a clandestine activity , it is not possible to estimate the extent of decline.

Gold Seized (in M. T.)

1989-90 1990-91 1992-93 (upto December, 92)

6.0	5.0	4.6	1.0
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670 persons (figures provisional) have been arrested throughout the country under the provisions of the Customs Acts 1962 during the last six months from september, 1992 to February, 1993 . Figures of arrest made for the smuggling of gold alone are not maintained separately .

Balance of Payment

2599. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
DR. P. R. GANGWAR:
SHRI SUBASH CHANDRA
NAYAK :

Will the Mininster of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have ascertained the final outcome during the current financial year so far by which the imports have risen much above the target over thee targets of exports;

(b) whether the policy of liberalisation has not improved the providing situation of blance of payment and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The value of exports , imports and balance of trade during the period April- December ' 92 , the latest period for which trade data is available , is given below:

	<i>Rs. Crores</i>	<i>US \$ Million</i>
Exports	37329	13075
Imports	47480	16830
Balance of payment	10151	- 3555

The export target for the year 1992-93 has been set at US \$ 20132 million (Rs. 57580 crores). No targets are set for imports. No doubt imports during April-December '92 increased by 16.5% in dollar terms over the corresponding period of 1991-92, but the increase appears large only because during 1991-92 drastic import compression was resorted to due to the Balance of payments crisis. In fact imports in April-December '92-93 in dollar terms, declined by 7.4% over the corresponding period in 1990-91.

(b) and (c). The early results of the policy of liberalisation have clearly shown an improvement in the prevailing situation of balance of payments. Despite the increase in imports to more normal levels during 1992-93, it has been possible to manage the balance of payments with a stable exchange rate and comfortable foreign exchange reserves throughout the year. Further, the dual exchange rate arrangement has now been eliminated and replaced by a unified rate of exchange. This is expected to provide a major boost to exports and encourage foreign exchange flows to improve the balance of payments. The other steps to improve balance of payments position include further review of the list of items for removing restrictions, making available adequate credit for exports, reduction in interest rate on rupee export credit, fiscal incentives for exports, measures to attract more foreign direct invest-

ment etc.

Agricultural production

2600. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total agricultural production during 1991-92 and the production of Kharif crops recorded during the current year;

(b) the value of the agricultural products exported out of the said production;

(c) the comparative details of the export made during each of the last three years;

(d) Whether the export of agricultural production declined in 1991-92; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken by the Government to boost its export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDIN AHMED): (a) The details of agricultural production during 1992-93 and the likely production during 1992-93 are given below:-

(Million Tones)

	1991-92 (Final)			1992-93 (likely)		
	Rabi	Kharif	Total	Rabi	Kharif	Total
1. Total Cereals	68.03	86.98	155.01	69.5	92.7	162.2
2. Total Pulses	7.61	4.44	12.05	8.5	6.0	14.5
3. Total Oilseeds	9.36	8.92	18.28	9.5	10.5	20.0

(Source: Ministry of Agriculture)

(b) to (e). Details of export of major agricultural commodities during the last three years are as below: -

(Rs. Crores)

Sl. No.	Commodity	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
1.	Rice	426.52	461.57	754.98
2.	Wheat	2.14	31.13	121.47
3.	Coarse grains	1.97	2.77	6.74
4.	Tobacco	175.04	263.39	377.20
5.	Spices	276.98	233.94	370.40
6.	Cashew	365.07	441.90	668.45
7.	Sesame & Niger Seed	137.52	91.06	101.19
8.	Ground nut	34.14	56.06	7.40
9.	Oilmeals	610.10	608.50	871.27
10.	Shellac	14.89	17.55	25.10
11.	Sugar & Molasses	32.51	37.57	144.23
12.	Floriculture Products	7.27	7.87	13.16
13.	Fruits and Vegetables	201.90	213.25	348.96
14.	Processed Fruits & Juices	68.39	60.40	88.38
15.	Misc. Processed items	142.09	152.30	243.99
16.	Meat preparations	113.70	139.84	230.52
Total :		2610.29	2819.38	4373.53

(Source: DGCI & S)

Government is keen to promote export of agricultural commodities. However, it is the policy of the Government to do so in a manner that domestic availability of items of mass consumption is not affected. Government have already taken a series of measures to improve policy environment for exports, which is a continuous process. These policy measures were further reinforced by the import export policy which came into force w.e.f. 1st April, 1992 for a period of 5 years. Introduction of unified exchange rate will prove to be beneficial in the export of agricultural commodities. Specific steps taken or proposed to be taken to encourage exports of agricultural commodities are as below:

(1) Defining agricultural activity as a manufacturing activity in the Import Export Policy, 1992-97.

(2) Doing away with compulsory pre-shipment inspection on the export of agricultural and food products subject to certain conditions.

(3) Increase in production and productivity of important items such as fresh fruits and vegetables, spices, cashewnuts, oilseeds, basmati rice, etc.

(4) Aggressive marketing in the potential countries through participation in exhibition, holding of Buyer-Seller Meets and interaction with importers.

(5) Quality assurance programmes.

[English]

Export of Foodgrains and Pulses

2601. SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA DEEPA:

SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to export wheat, rice, other coarse foodgrains and pulses etc. to such countries where the markets have not been explored so far;

(b) if so, the details of efforts made and the names of countries to which these items are likely to be exported; and

(c) the extent to which such exports are likely to effect our domestic requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c). Government is keen to step up exports and accord high priority to exports of agricultural items. Exports of items of mass consumption like wheat, rice, coarse grains and pulses are, however, regulated so as to ensure that these exports do not have any adverse fall out by way of shortages or spurt in prices in the domestic market. Export of these items is subject to price, quota or licence restrictions. Major markets for our rice are U.K. and West Asian countries like Saudi Arabia, Jordan, UAE etc. As for pulses and coarse grains these are exported in very small volumes and mainly to the West Asian countries.

Smuggling in the Sea-Coast Area of Gujarat

2602. DR. K. D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the rampant smuggling in the sea-coast area of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details of the cases detected during the last three years;

(c) the countries from which goods are smuggled; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to curb this smuggling?

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

CHANDRASEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) to (c). The coastal areas of the state of Gujarat continue to be sensitive to smuggling of mainly gold and silver organised by syndicates operating from certain countries of west Asia. The number of major seizures effected and the value of contraband seized thereof, in these areas during the last 3 years are given below:-

Year	No. of major -Cases	Value off gold / silver (Rs. in crores)
1990	6	31.88
1991	4	16.54
1992	5	19.62

(d) The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified. The Customs formations have been equipped with vessels, vehicles, fire-arms, etc. Sophisticated equipment such as metal detectors, night vision binoculars are being increasingly utilised. A telecommunication network has also been provided where considered necessary. Close coordination is being maintained among all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling.

In addition, the gold and silver import schemes have also been introduced to inter alia curb smuggling of these items.

[Translation]

Alleged Sale of Liquor issued to defence personnel

2603. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases of alleged sale of the liquor issued to defence personnel in the open market has come the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the number of defence personnel booked during the last three years;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check such cases; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to withdraw the subsidy given by the Government on the liquor supplied to military canteens; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). A few cases of alleged unauthorised sale of liquor by Defence personnel came to Government's notice in the last three years. Provisions already exist for curbing such cases. Punishment is appropriately awarded by the competent authorities in the concerned Formations.

(d) and (e). There is direct subsidy on the liquor supplied to Armed Forces.

[English]

Recovery of SBI Advances from States

2604. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether state Bank of India is presently in quandary over the crores of rupees advanced by it to states;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the recovery of such advances from several States have become doubtful;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to

recover the advances from states?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED). (a) to (e). The banks provide loans to credit worthy borrowers institutions in all the states for taking up economically viable activity. The loans are sanctioned by banks after the credit worthiness of the borrower has been ascertained. However, in the operations of the accounts certain debts are likely to go bad for various reasons creating thereby overdues.

Outstanding advances and overdues in respect of state Bank of India as on March 1990 March 1991 and september 1991 (latest available) is given below:

As on	Outstandings	Overdues	Percentage of overdues to outstandings
March 1990	25964	3819	14.71
March 1991	29902	4220	14.11
September 1992	28847	4308	14.94

Reserve Bank of India has issued various guidelines to all public sector banks, including state Bank of India, to reduce the amount of overdues and also to improve the recovery performance of the commercial Banks in respect of their advances to various sectors. Some of the important guidelines are as follows:

1. Banks have been impressed upon to institute a viable recovery system with a view to help recycling the scarce resources of the banks to the needy and productive sectors of the economy on the one hand, and to improve the profitability and viability of the lending banks, on the other.

2. The Chief Executives of the banks have been advised to pay their personal attention to the monitoring of large advances.

3. Introduction of a comprehensive and uniform grading system to indicate the health of individual advances for the purpose of their effective monitoring and follow up.

4. To keep a watch on the recovery of top sticky accounts.

5. taking corrective action where advances are found to have become sticky.

Translation]

Loan by IFCI

2605. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the details of loans provided by the Industrial Finance Corporation of India, (IFCI) during each of the last two years, State-wise;

(b) the category-wise number of large, medium and small industries in the country / which have been provided loans by the Corporation during the above period;

(c) whether any irregularity in providing financial assistance and ignoring the priority sectors has been noticed during the above period ;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Corporation for promoting industrial development in the backward areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED):
(a) The state-wise details of financial assistance sanctioned and disbursed by the

Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) during the years 1990-91 and 1991-92 are given in the statement .

(b) IFCI has reported that it normally considers, applications for financial assistance in respect of projects with a capital cost above Rs. 5 crores. The term finance requirement of projects costing less than Rs. 5 crores are normally expected to be met by the state- level Financial Institutions and banks. A Statement showing capital cost-wise details of assistance sanctioned for new projects by IFCI during the years 1990-91 and 1991-92 is given at statement .

(c) and (d) : No irregularity in the matter of extension of assistance by IFCI has been brought to the notice of the Government by the institutions statutory auditors. Further , IFCI lending has also been in accordance with the industrial policy laid down by Government.

(e) Prior to August, 1991, IFCI had been providing the necessary financial assistance to industries being set up in the backward areas after giving necessary relaxations in the norms and terms and conditions like promoters, contribution, rate of interest, convertibility option, and permissible debt-equity structure. Pursuant to deregulation of interest rates concessionality has been withdrawn. However, IFCI continues to assist viable projects set up in the backward regions of the country.

STATEMENT

(Rs. in crores)

S.No	State	Assistance Sanctioned	Assistance Disbursed	Assistance Sanctioned	Assistance Disbursed
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	310.96	150.36	144.53	157.52
2.	Asam	13.05	14.82	17.98	16.75
3.	Bihar	23.08	5.44	6.38	12.70
4.	Goa	10.88	12.25	15.90	13.85
5.	Gujarat	448.16	187.04	341.45	187.37
6.	Haryana	86.24	53.887	80.44	70.54
7.	Himachal Pradesh	59.18	14.17	100.71	35.34
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	5.00	0.42	9.02	1.13
9.	Karnataka	151.32	80.91	80.90	52.06
10.	Kerala	8.20	10.90	16.97	12.20
11.	Madhya Pradesh	224.80	128.62	184.26	100.32

(Rs. in crores)

S.No	State	Assistance Sanctioned	Assistance Disbursed	Assistance Sanctioned	Assistance Disbursed
1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Maharashtra	626.20	251.96	436.16	293.06
13.	Manipur	-	0.38	-	-
14.	Meghalaya	-	0.36	0.13	0.28
15.	Orissa	52.09	62.57	40.39	42.28
16.	Punjab	144.77	104.95	136.68	85.28
17.	Rajasthan	155.90	80.47	146.21	90.09
18.	Sikkim	-	-	0.06	-
19.	Tamil Nadu	192.32	124.23	196.82	115.75
20.	Uttar Pradesh	291.12	204.20	387.49	289.61
21.	West Bengal	79.86	46.08	3432.57	33.44
22.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	0.45	0.30	-	0.14

(Rs. in crores)

S.No	State	Assistance Sanctioned	Assistance Disbursed	Assistance Sanctioned	Assistance Disbursed
1	2	3	4	5	6
23.	Chandigarh	7.62	2.14	1.27	1.08
24.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	14.47	4.77	0.70	2.54
25.	Daman & Diu	1.96	0.98	0.68	1.57
26.	Delhi	40.71	23.14	87.34	25.89
27.	Pondicherry	16.72	9.60	4.17	14.39
Total		2965.06	1574.94	2869.21	1605.18

STATEMENT

(Rs. in lakhs)

Capital Cost	No. of Projects					Amount Sanctioned	
	1990-91	1991-92				1990-91	1991-92
1	2	3	4	5			
Up to Rs. 5 Crores	49	12	57.99	25.36			
Rs. 5 crores to 10 crores	48	29	83.73	72.63			
Rs. 10 crores to 20 crores	42	29	106.94	100.28			
Rs. 20 crores and above	84	50	887.76	924.40			
Total for New Projects	223	120	1136.42	1122.67			
Assistance for Other Projects Expansion/Modernisation Etc.	737	488	1828.64	1746.54			
Grand Total	960	608	2965.06	2869.21			

[English]

Policy Holders Housing Scheme of LIC.

2606. SHRI DHARMA BIKSHAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the life Insurance Corporation has introduced any policyholders housing scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the target fixed for construction of houses in Andhra Pradesh during Eighth Five Year Plan under the above Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a). Yes , Sir.

(b) Under the scheme, house are constructed and sold to the policyholders by drawing lots. LIC has so far constructed 3710 Residential Units. As on date, construction of 1229 units are in progress.

(c) 200 Residential Units are proposed at Vishakhapatnam.

Securities and Exchange Board of India

2607. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assesment has been made about the working of securities and Exchange Board of India since the enforcement of the SEBI Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any loopholes have been found therein including the exploitation by several promoter companies to dilute the public shareholding in their ventures and in clearance of new issues; and

(d) if so, the steps being dtaken by the Government to streamline the working of Securities and Exchange Board of India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b). SEBI was set up in January , 1992. The SEBI Act was passed in April 1992 with the first regulation being notified only in October , 1992 . The First audit report of SEBI by the Comtroller and Auditor General's Office is Expected to be completed soon .

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Contribution of Nationalised banks to Institutions / Organisations

2608. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the amount contributed by each of the public sector banks and foreign banks to various institutions / organisations during 1991 and 1992. institution / organisation - wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : The data reporting system does not renerate the required information.

[Translation]

Bihar Plateau Development Project

2609. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the districts in Bihar where the Bihar Plateau Development Project is proposed to be implemented with the world Bank assistance;

(b) the amount of such world bank assistance proposed to be spent in each district; and

(c) the target fixed for implementation of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRARAHMED):

(a) The Bihar Plateau Development Project is proposed to be implemented in nine districts viz . Ranchi, Gumla, Lohardagah, Garhwa , Palamau, Singhbhum (West) , Dumka, Sahibganj and Godba of Chhota Nagpur and Santhal Parganas region of Southern Bihar.

(b) and (c). District wise allocation of funds have not been specified in the loan documents. The project is desinned to be implemented in five years and project completion is expected by December 31, 1997.

Deposits under Vartous Schemes from Uttar Pradesh

2610. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) the amount deposited in small savings schemes, Unit Trust of India, National Savings Schemes and nationalised banks from Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years and the current year , upto, December, 1992.institution wise:

(b) the names of the top five Districts which have deposited maximum amount during the above period and the extent of

amount deposited, institution - wise ; and

(c) the financial institutions out of them which have made the fund available to the Government of Uttar Pradesh alongwith the extent of amount provided and the conditions on which the amount was made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRARAHMED)

: (a) The net collections in small savings in Post Offices in Uttar Pradesh are as follows:-

<i>(Rs. in crores)</i>	
1989-90	1132.34
1990-91	1542.57
1991-92	828.08
1992-93 (upto December 1992)	423.38

Information in respect of Unit Trust of India and nationalised banks will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) and (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Expansion of Bank Branches

2611. SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN THORAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector banks operating in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Goa have sought premission to expend their branches during the current years ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the places identified therefor, state-wise; and

(c) the decision taken by the RBI in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (c). Under the new branch licensing policy of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the banks have to forward their applications through the concerned state Governments after obtaining approval from the District Administration for opening branches in rural areas. As regard semi-urban centres, RBI has allotted a specific quota to individual Scheduled Commercial Banks (excluding Regional Rural Banks) for opening their branches at these centres of their choice during the period ending March 31, 1995. No quota has been fixed for any State as such. Regarding opening of bank branches at Urban / metropolitan/ port Town centres, based on the 31st of underbanked / underbanked localities in these centres identified by the working Group constituted for the purpose, RBI has allotted the localities to the banks as per their entitle quota in August, 1991.

Recently, RBI has further liberalised the branch licensing policy. Banks are now free to open their branches at semi- Urban / Urban/ Metropolitan/ port town centres on their own provided they attain the revised capital adequacy norms and prudential accounting standards by the prescribed dates.

The State -wise list of centres allotted to public sector banks for opening branches in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Goa is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Taxes Written Off

2612. SHRI M. V. V. S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have written-off a huge amount of Central taxes;

(b) if so, details thereof during 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93; and;

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c). No, Sir. The amounts written off are insignificant when compared with the total collection of Central taxes every year. The amounts of Central excise dues written off or remitted under section 5 of the Central Excises and Salt act, 1944 during the financial years. 1990-91 and 1991-92 were as follows;

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amounts Written off (Rs. in Crores)</i>
1990-91	12.61
1991-92	11.52

The amounts of Customs duty written off in these two years were as follow:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amounts Written off (Rs. in Crores)</i>
1990-91	0.30
1991-92	0.29

The amounts of direct tax demands written off during these two year were as follows.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amounts Written off (Rs. in crores)</i>
1990-91	6.02
1991-92	5.48

The figures for 1992-93 will be compiled after the financial year is over.

Only irrecoverable demands are written off or are remitted under Section 5 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 in respect of excisable goods which due to natural causes are found to be deficient in quantity.

Seizure of Narcotics

2613. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:
PROF. K. V. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Narcotics Control Bureau officers made a big haul of Methaqualone in Bombay and Ganja in Assam during January, 1993;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the persons apprehended in this regard; and

(d) the remedial steps taken by the Government to check smuggling of drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Methaqualone was seized in Bombay on 20 / 21st January, 1993. No big seizure of Ganja has been made by the narcotics

Control bureau in Assam in January, 1993

(b) The officers of Narcotics Control Bureau, Bombay made a seizure of 3200 kgs. on methaqualone powder and 150 kgs. of Methaqualone in granule form during the night of 20 / 21st January, 1993. The drug was attempted to be smuggled out through an export consignment.

(c) Two persons have been arrested.

(d) Arrangements for gathering of intelligence and exchange of intelligence between the different agencies have been streamlined. Training is being imparted to the enforcement officers of various agencies to improve their effectiveness. The fencing of a part of the Indo Pakistan border has also checked smuggling to some extent. The strength of enforcement agencies in the border areas has been enhanced. Equipment has also been supplied to some enforcement agencies to improve their mobility and communication facilities in the border areas.

Import and Export of Foodgrains

2614. SHRI SOBHANA DREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of rice, wheat and coarse foodgrains exported / imported during each of the last three years; and

(b) the average price per ton of rice, wheat and coarse foodgrains in the international market during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (b) . A statement is attached.

Imports

Commodity	1989-90		1990-91		1991-92	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Rice	5,44,485	29290.92	66,038	3918.44	12,117	1094.42
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Wheat	39,649	2141.52	62,590	2227.12		Not available
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Other	94,871	2439.64	1,399	35.23	1,858	41.66
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Source: B.G.C.I & S. Calcutta

International Export Prices

US \$ Per Tonne

	1989-90			1990-91		
	1989	1990	1991	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
1. Rice (Thai 100% 2nd order)						
		305	278		302	
(July-June)						
2. Wheat (Us No. 2 hard winter)				161	118	150
3. Sorghum (US No. 2 Yellow)				105	104	110

Source F.P

Construction of Houses in Karnataka Under "Ashraya" Scheme

2615. SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of house constructed in Karnatrake under" Ashraya scheme which is under execution since 1991; and

(b) the financial assistance provided to the above scheme by the government financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b). National Housing Bank (NHB) has reported that during 1992 the Government of Karnataka has announced a mass housing programme called "Ashraya" and the same is to be implemented by Karnataka state Housing Board. NHB has not extended any financial assistance to the "Ashraya" Scheme " as such NHB has no information regarding the number of houses constructed. NHB has however, by the end of January, 1993 under its finance Scheme provided Rs. 5.22 crores to the special rural Housing Debentures of Kamataka state Co-operative Agricultural and Rural Development Bank Limited. By the end of January, 1993 NHB has made specific disbursal in the State of Kamataka in respect of land Development and shelter prooject amounting to Rs. 2 crores.

[Translation]

Accidents of I. A. F. Aircraft and Helicopters

2617. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the Indian Air Force

(I. A. F.) aricraft and helicopters which met with an accident during 1992;

(b) whether enquiry committees have been constituted to enquire into these accidents;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof ; and

(d) the measures taken to avoid such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a): Twenty nine (29) I A F arrcdraft, including helicopters, met with accidents in 1992.

(b) Court of Inquiry is held in each accident.

(c) These accidents were caused due to human error (air crew) , technical defects, bird strike, natural and operational risks, etc.

(d) Every accident is investigated by a Court of inquiry comprising concerned specialists. Based on the recommendations of the Court of Inquiry, follow up action is taken to prevent recurrence of similar accidents . Whenever any adverse trend or weak area is observed, special joint studies are carried out with the help of specialists from the manufacturers and users to closely examine the problem and take suitable remedial meeasures.

[English]

Central Assistance for power projects

2617. SHRID. VENKATESWARARAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has suggested for reduction in the quantum of Central assistance to the States for power projects.

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

(c) whether the World bank has pointed out that the Government of India have failed to fully utilise the World Bank aid for power projects; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRARAHMED)

: (a) : No, Sir.

(b) . Does not arise.

(c) and (d) : Utilisation of world Bank loan is dependent on the time profile of the project. In some projects the implementation schedule gets affected by factors like inadequate counterpart rupee fund availability, procurement delays, rehabilitation & resettlement issues and land acquisition problems.

Motor Cycle Taxis

2618. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a final decision regarding introduction of point to point motor cycle taxis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the routes on which these are likely to ply in the beginning and the fare structure proposed for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Capital Territory of Delhi have decided to introduce

point to point motor cycle taxis with a view to cater the need of single passengers and to provide cheap transport facilities. The Motor cycle taxi will run from any point depending upon the requirement of the commuters as in the case of auto-rickshaws. The fare structure is to be determined at the time of grant of permits.

[Translation]

Bid for Various Contracts by Domestic Companies

2619. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have permitted the domestic companies to bid for various contracts in terms of any foreign currency on par with other foreign bidders;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce any liberal foreign exchange scheme for these companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRARAHMED).

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian bidders have been permitted to bid in any currency (including Indian Rupees) and receive amounts in such currencies on par with foreign bidders, in those cases where the Central Government has authorised bidding procedures enabling foreign companies/entities to bid for the supply of goods and services and bids are invited

Where such Indian bids are denominated in foreign currency, the Indian bidders have been allowed not only the benefit of modified LERMS (i. e. conversion at the prevailing market rate and the retention of 15 % foreign exchange) but also the benefits specified in para 122 of the Export and Import policy 1992-97.

(c) to (e) . Indian project / service exporters have been granted general permission to open foreign currency bank accounts abroad, temporary site offices, payment of agency commission and availing of temporary bridge finance abroad , as may be approved by the competent authority. They have also an option of maintaining in their Exchange Earners' Foreign Currency (EEFC) accounts in India , 15 % of the project earnings repatriated to India.

Moreover under the modified Liberalised Exchange Rate Management system effective from 1st March , 1993 , such Indian bidders are allowed to convert 100 % of their foreign exchange earnings at the prevailing market rate.

In view of the foregoing , there is at present no proposal to introduce any further liberal foreign exchange scheme specifically applicable to such companies.

[English]

Export Items

2620. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
SHRI MAHESH KONODIA:
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 34 export items have been identified which need special attention in order to accelerate the pace of export;

(b) if so, the names of those items ; and

(c) the details of the special attention to be provided to these items and the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) 34 export items called 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, agro-chemicals, 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, granites, handtools, internal combustion engines and parts, industrial castings and forgings, tomato paste products, tropical fruit juices , pulp & concentrates, preserved mushrooms, readymade garments, rice, software packages, system software, network, computer aided design / computer aided manufacture, spices, sugar, molasses, alcohol including ethy alcohol, sugar machinery, synthetic and man-made textiles, and tyers.

(c) The recommendations made by trade groups in respect of these items have been examined and several decisions have already been taken in this regard which include reduction in interest rate on export credit, directions 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 packing material in the country and simplification of procedures relating to bank guarantees for fulfilment of export obligations. In the Budget for 1993-94 , full convertibility of the Rupee on trade account has been introduced and customs and excise

duties have been reduced, particularly those on raw materials and capital goods. This will give a boost to our exports by enhancing the competitiveness of these items.

Opium Cultivation

2621. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the area under opium cultivation in India, state-wise;

(b) the incentives given to opium cultivators; and

(c) the procurement price of opium during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) The area licensed for opium poppy cultivation in India, state-wise during the year 1992-93 is as under:-

<i>Area in hectares</i>	<i>(provisional)</i>
Madhya Pradesh	6857
Rajasthan	4391
U. P.	24

(b) performance Reward was paid to poppy cultivators at the rate of Rs. 100 per kg. on the quantity of opium tendered by them in excess of the yield of 44 kg. per hectare of opium at 70c during the crop year 1991-92. From the crop year 1992-93, poppy cultivators are eligible for incentive of Rs. 500 per kg. in respect of quantity of opium tendered by them in excess of 45 kgs. upto 60 kgs. per hectare at 70c and of Rs. 1000 per kg. for the excess quantity of opium tendered by them above the yield of 60 kgs. per hectare at 70c.

(c) The procurement price of opium at 70c during the last three years was as under:-

	<i>Years 1990-91 and 1991-92</i>	<i>Rate per kg.</i>
(i)	If the average yield of a cultivator was up to 34 kgs. per hectare.	Rs. 175
(ii)	If the average yield of a cultivator was above 34 kgs. per hectare.	Rs. 205
	Year 1992-93 Uniform price of Rs. 250 per kg.	

Expansion of LIC in Rural areas in Andhra Pradesh

2622. SHRI DHARMABIKSHAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Life Insurance Corpo-

ration is being expanded in rural areas;

(b) if so, the number of new branches of Life Insurance Corporation in rural areas in Andhra Pradesh at present as compared to urban areas; and

(c) the number of new branches of LIC

proposed to be opened in rural areas in Andhra Pradesh during Eighth Five year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRARAHMED) : (a) . Yes Sir.

(b) The number of Branches in rural and urban areas in Andhra Pradesh is as under:

Rural area - 119

Urban area - 44

(c) Decision regarding opening of new Branch Offices is taken in the first quarter of the new financial year commencing April, 1993. The process has been set in motion and the areas in which new branches would be opened in Andhra Pradesh would be decided at the appropriate time.

Bank Branches in Orissa

2623. SHRI ANADICHARANDAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for Orissa under the programme of expansion of branches of public sector banks during 1991-92 and 1992-93:

(b) the number of licences issued by RBI for the opening of the branches of these banks during the above period and the location thereof ; and

(c) the details of the places in the State where bank branches could not be opened even after the clearance from RBI ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRARAHMED) : (a) No specific target has been fixed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for opening branches of public sector banks in Orissa during 1991-92 and 1992-93.

(b) The number of licences issued by RBI for opening branches of these banks in Orissa during the above period and the locations thereof are given below:

<i>Name of District</i>	<i>No. of licences issued</i>	<i>Name of centres / localities</i>
Cuttack	8	Seminar chhack, Biju Patnaik Chhack, Mani Sahoo Chhack, Jobra, Gopalpur (out growth of Cuttack City) , Jagatpur, pithapur janjir Mangla.
Ganjam	2	Braja Nagar , Gopalpur Port.
Bhubaneswar	12	Orissa State housing Board Colony, Chandra Shekharapur, IRC Village-near indradhanu Market complex, Unit II Market, Kapila Prasad Market Complex , smanctarapur, Satsang Vihar, Ashoka Market , Jagamara, Laxmi Sagar, Goda Gopinath Prasad , Malisahi, BJB Nagar.

<i>Name of District</i>	<i>No. of licences issued</i>	<i>Name of centres / localities</i>
Puri	5	Swargadwar, Chakra Tirth Road (Sunera Ganranga) Nabakakbar Road (Gundichavri) Loknath Road, Municipal Market (Daitapad sahi).
Sambalpur	5	Gosala (Chiplima) , Sakhi Gopinath, Dhan-kauda, SFCI Complex , Jyoty Vihar.
Sundergarh	5	IDI Colony (Desai Nagar) Chend HSG Colony, Nag Market Complex Kuelnagar, Vedvyas chhack, Fertilizer Township.

(c) The places in Orissa where bank branches could not be opened are given below:-

<i>Name of District</i>	<i>No. of pending licences</i>	<i>Name of centre / localities</i>
Cuttack	4	Semjinar Chhack, Mani Sahoo Chhack, Gopalpur (Out growth of Cuttack City), Janjir Mangla.
Ganjam	2	Braja Nagar , Gopalpur post
Bhubaneswar	5	TRC Village -Near Indradhanu Market Complex, Unit II Market, Kapila Prasad Market Complex, Satsang Vihar, Ashoka Market, Mai Isahi.
Puri	3	Narakaifrar Road (Gundi Chavri) Loknath Road Municipal Market (Daitapad Sahi).
Sambalpur	4	Gosala (Chiplima) , Sakhi Gopinath, Dhankauda SFCI Complex (Ajacent to USF Buria) .
Sundergarh	2	IDL Colony (Des: i Nagar) , Chend HSG Colony.

Calcutta Dock

(a) whether European lines are keen on using Calcutta dock system;

2624. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT
be pleased to state:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Nepal's emergence as a major importer of western products and the provision of container traffic facilities has offered great potential for multi-dimensional approach towards the utilisation and improvement of the Calcutta dock system ; and

(d) if so, the details of the special facilities provided by the Calcutta port Trust to Nepal for cargo transaction from the Calcutta Dock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) . Yes , Sir. At present 15 European lines are operating feeder / break bulk liner vessels through Calcutta Dock system. A Russian line is expected to commence operation between Calcutta and Russia shortly.

(c) and (d) . There has been steady growth of cargo imported by Nepal through Calcutta Dock system . The figures for last three years are as under:

(in tonnes)

1990-91	2,87,04
1991-92	3,43,603
1992-93 (Upto Feb. 250)	3,50,148

Calcutta port Trust have provided following facilities for smooth flow of traffic through Calcutta Dock system:-

1. Covered accommodation & open yard space to Nepal Transit Warehousing corporation Ltd.

2. Adequate facilities for berthing of vessels carrying Nepal cargo.

3. Demurrage free time of 7 days.

4. Free time of 3 days for formation of rakes for movement of goods by rail.

[Translation]

Misuse of Stolen Rep Licences

2625. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of REP licences were stolen before the announcement of the present liberalisation of EXIM policy;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received by the Government in this regard, particularly from Kanpur and Delhi Zones, State-wise;

(c) the details of amount involved in each case;

(d) the number of duplicate licences issued by the Government to such exporters, State-wise ;

(e) whether these stolen licences are being misused in the country at present ;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government have conducted and if not the reasons therefor?

(h) if so, the outcome of the inquiry and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) . (a) to (h). A number of representations were received relating to loss of REP Licences. The relevant information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

French Aid

2626. SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN THORAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of French aid received and expected to be received during the current financial year and how does it compare with the aid received from France during the last year;

(b) the total amount of aid tied to specific projects received from France during the current financial year; and

(c) The details thereof project - wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) A total amount of FF 568.2 million has so far been secured from France during the current financial year as compared to an amount of French Francs(FF) 299.4 million secured from France during the last financial year. No additional assistance is expected to be received from France during this financial year.

(b) and (c). The French assistance secured during the current financial year is tied to the following projects:-

Projects	Amount
1	2
1. Financial support to expand bilateral trade relations and to promote Indian exports to France	FF 7.00 million (Grant)
2. Feasibility Study for Coal Briquetting Equipment	FF. 1.20 million (Grant)
3. Static VAR Compensators for Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board	FF. 96.00 million (Mixed Credit)
4. Shor Circuit alternator for Central Power Research Institute	FF. 79.00 million (Mixed Credit)
5. Reheating furnaces for Rourkela Steel Plant	FF. 66.00 million (Mixed Credit)
6. HVDC back to back stations in Chaidrapur	FF 319.00 Million (Mixed Credit)
Total	F.F. 568.20 million

Auction of Tobacco

2627. SHRI DHARMA BIKSHAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that tobacco is being sold outside the auction controls in Andhra Pradesh:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures have been taken to regulate auction of tobacco to safeguard the interests of tobacco growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CO-OPERATIVE AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise .

(c) Steps have been taken to ensure correct weighing, proper classification of tobacco offered for sale, timely payment of sale proceeds, and create healthy competition among buyers on the auction floors to

safeguard the interests of the tobacco growers.

[Translation]

ADB Assistance

2628. SHRI LALIT ORAON:
SHRI G. M. C. BALAYOGI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the project-wise details in regard to the four projects for which the Asian Development Bank had assured assistance during the year 1992;

(b) the names of the projects, out of the these, on which construction work has commenced; and

(c) the present status thereof, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (c). The project-wise details of the four projects approved by the Asian Development Bank in 1992 are given below:-

	Project	Amount (US\$ million)			Present Status
		1	2	3	
i)	Power Efficiency Sector		250.00		The loan Agreement was signed on 23.4.92 Construction work is yet to commence.
ii)	Finance Sector Programme		300.00		The Agreement was signed on 15.12.92 & an amount of US \$ 150m was utilised.
iii)	Coal Ports Projct		285.00		The loan agreement signed on 12.2.93 is yet to be declared effective.
iv)	Energy Conserva Improvement Pro		147.00		The agreement is yet to be signed.

**Preparation of Credit Plan by
Nabard**

2629. SHRISHRAVANKUMAR PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has prepared any state-wise credit plan to meet the credit requirement of rural sector during the Eighth Five year plan ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the general strategy and guidelines adopted highlighdting new thrust areas , state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER

OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS(DR. ABRAR AHMED)
: (a) and (b) . The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) prepared potential Linked Credit Plans (PLPs) in respect of all districts in the country for supporting agriculture and rural development . The state Credit plans are accordingly prepared by NABARD based on the projections made in the District PLPs. The State plans are deliberated in detail with the state Governments and banks to involve them in the credit planning process.

The position of refinance estimates for schematic lending State- wise during the Eighth Five year plan period (1992-93 to 1996-97) as prepared by NABARD is furnished in the Statement below.

STATEMENT

Refinance estimates for schematic lending State-wise during the VIII Five Year Plan period (1992-93 to 1996-97)

States/Union Territories	Refinance (Rs. in lakhs)					
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
Chandigarh	17	21	24	28	28	
Delhi	95	95	102	105	117	
Haryana	12573	13186	14713	16703	18182	
Himachal Pradesh	2099	3078	3539	4070	4681	
Jammu & Kashmir	1039	1560	1661	1853	1997	
Punjab	15403	16694	18493	20054	21753	
Rajasthan	10554	27718	31060	34648	39409	
Arunachal Pradesh	265	300	320	345	375	
Assam	7453	8342	9438	10375	11604	
Manipur	473	494	543	605	660	

States/Union Territories	Refinance (Rs. in lakhs)					
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
Meghalaya	495	574	656	754	866	
Mizoram	102	117	135	155	178	
Nagaland	65	100	138	190	259	
Tripura	760	1405	1594	1789	2019	
Chikkim	140	743	769	324	313	
Bihar	12466	133368	14029	14719	15462	
Orissa	6067	9473	10741	11983	12931	
West Bengal	17357	20187	22075	23895	26221	
Andaman & Nicobar	82	88	97	105	119	
Madhya Pradesh	15540	28125	22475	25150	28228	
Uttar Pradesh	42346	47038	52832	60872	67563	

States/Union Territories	Refinance					
	(Rs. in lakhs)					
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	74	95	109	132	159	
Gujarat	13009	14490	16160	18115	20405	
Goa	384	612	705	663	866	
Maharashtra	60090	67646	77495	81674	96618	
Andhra Pradesh	24567	28661	31617	33122	35682	
Karnataka	20300	22657	25313	28414	32003	
Lakshadweep	3	3	4	4	5	
Kerala	10768	22876	24573	26929	28986	
Pondicherry	195	199	211	243	265	
Tamil Nadu	18755	19022	19898	22403	24217	
Total	294335	360478	400949	443420	492119	

Coal supplies to Tobacco Growers

2630. SHRI DHARMA BIKSHAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate coal supplies have been made to tobacco growers for the current season;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure adequate coal supplies to the growers in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b). For the current Andhra Crop curing season (1992-93) a total number of 10,030 barn-holders applied for 90,270 M T of coal. As against this, 8683 barn-holders were supplied a quantity of 74,156 M T of coal between October, 1992 and 15th February, 1993.

(c) Tobacco Board maintained close liaison with the singareni collieries, Andhra Pradesh State Trading Corporation, The Railways and the Government of A. P. and ensured supply of coal to all the needy farmers in time.

Working Capital Requirement of Small Scale Industries

2631. SHRI DHARMANNA
MONDAYYA SADUL:
SHRI GEORGE
FERNANDES:
SHRI MANORANJAN
BHAKTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to relax / enhance the Percentage of small; scale Industrial sector stringent working capital requirement;

(b) whether Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry has also made any representation in this regard:

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the present percentage of big and small scale Industrial Units working capital requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available and permissible under the rules.

Need Based Approach for Small Scale Sector

2632. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any shift has been made by the Government from security - oriented approach to need based approach in the banking policy for small Scale Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether credit squeeze is likely to be applicable to small scale units having borrowings upto Rs. one crore; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIA-

MENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED)

: (a) There has been no recent shift made by Government from security- oriented to a need based approach.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Foreign Financial aid to States

2633. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the planning Commission has formulated a policy to give entire amount to State received as foreign aid through

World bodies for development of projects:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total foreign aid given to each State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED):

(a) and (b) . It has been decided that an amount equivalent to 100% disbursement on account of externally aided projects would be released to states as Additional central assistance in all sectors with effect from August, 1992.

(c) Additional Central assistance released to each state in the last three years is given in the Statement below.

STATEMENT

Additional Central Assistance Released to States/ Rs. in lakhs)

S.No	State	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3808.91	6805.15	29077.13
2.	Arunachal Pradesh			
3.	Assam	6.45	264.88	173.88
4.	Bihar	1261.7	1938.82	1729.31
5.	Goa			
6.	Gujarat	13598.55	17288.94	44540.86
7.	Haryana	2154	3521.07	3249.44
8.	Himachal Pradesh	575.01	2198.72	3167.01
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	689.24	691.77	712.67
10.	Karnataka	4480.44	5791.43	13844.55
11.	Kerala	2486.67	4612.52	4367.36

S.No	State	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
1	2	3	4	5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	8938.53	4780.79	9614.19
13.	Maharashtra	10307.76	13986.04	22865.09
14.	Manipur			
15.	Meghalaya			
16.	Mizoram			
17.	Nagaland			
18.	Orissa	5812.82	4696.39	7806.97
19.	Punjab		400.31	1634.24
20.	Rajasthan	935.22	1244	3989.37
21.	Sikkim			
22.	Tamil Nadu	9548.72	14260.94	24155.54
23.	Tripura	405.78		
24.	Uttar Pradesh	23978.96	29268.66	84557.66
25.	West Bengal	4915.34	4109.82	8848.7
	Total	93905.04	115905.2	264.334

Replacement of Public Sector Taxable Bonds

2634. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government propose to replace public sector taxable bonds by debentures; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) . No, Sir. The Government however propose to require public sector companies seeking to raise debt securities in the market to gradually conform to the SEBI guidelines governing issue of debentures.

Committee on Sick Public Sector Undertakings

2635. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government have since considered the Report of the Ghatowar Committee on sick public sector undertakings; and

(b) if so, the action taken on the recommendations so made by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) . Report of the Ghatowar Committee on sick public sector units was placed before the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Labour on 12. 11. 1992. This Report has since been forwarded to Administrative Ministries concerned for appropriate action.

Dust - Related Diseases in workers

2636. SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have made any study to identify the factories / industrial units in the country causing dust-related diseases among the workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures contemplated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) . According to information available in this Ministry, some studies carried out in the past in some factories / units in which workers were exposed to asbestos, silica, cotton, coal and metallic dusts, revealed the following incidence of occupational diseases, during the course of studies.

<i>Occupational Disease</i>	<i>Number of workers Examined</i>	<i>Incidence (%)</i>
Asbestosis	712	7.2
Silicosis	2033	27.6
Byssinosis	1241	8.8
Coal Workers Pneumoconiosis	950	18.8
Lead Poisoning (Due to exposure to fumes and dusts)	363	9.8

The permissible levels of exposure in the work environment in respect of asbestos, silica dust, cotton dust, lead, manganese and other toxic chemicals etc. have been laid down under the Factories Act, 1948. The industries which handle asbestos, silica (glass & ceramic etc.) Coal, lead and its compound, non-ferrous metallurgical industries, insecticides and pesticides etc. have been included in the list of industries involving hazardous processes, under the Factories Act, 1948. A new chapter for regulating safety and health aspects in the hazardous process industries has been incorporated in the above act in the year 1987. The provisions of the Act are required to be complied with by the Occupier of the Factory and enforced by the respective State Governments / Union Territory administrations.

Mining and export of granite stone

2637. SHRI V. DHANANJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether mining of granite stones is rampant in many parts of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether granite slabs are being exported in large quantity;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned during each of the last three years by exporting granite stones by each of these states;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to regulate mining operations and export of granite slabs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Substantial quantities of granite stones are being mined mainly for export in many parts

of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) State-wise export statistics are not being compiled. Total exports of granite and granite products during each of the last three years were as under:-

Year	value	(in Rs, Crores)
1989-90		147
1990-91		227
1991-92		380

(d) and (e) Granite is not a major mineral and mining thereof is, therefore, regulated by the respective state Governments. Granite slabs being value-added products, there is no proposal to regulate export thereof.

[Translation]

Dunkel's proposal

2638. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have accepted the Dunkel proposal in toto in agricultural sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the anticipated impact of its adoption in agricultural sector; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to plug the loopholes in the proposed Dunkel proposal?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). An analysis of the Dunkel

proposals shows that they would not affect our ability to follow our own agricultural policies and programmes. Government would ensure that the agreement on agriculture under the Uruguay Round Negotiations does not affect the domestic subsidies given to agriculture or our ability to carry on public procurement operations and the public distribution system. It will also be ensured that we do not have to give any minimum market access commitment for the improve of agricultural products. In the area of intellectual property rights, it will be ensured that the system of plant variety protection to be introduced by us does not affect the rights of the farmers or the researchers.

[English]

**Programme for exporting
Foodgrains and Horticultural Products**

2639. SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has worked out a crash programme to export foodgrains and horticultural products to fill the widening trade gap; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the items likely to be covered under the said programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b). Government accords high priority to promotion of agricultural exports. However, the policy of the Government is to do so in a manner that domestic availability of items of mass consumption is not affected. Steps taken or proposed to be taken to encourage exports of agricultural commodities are as follows:-

(i) Introduction of a unified exchange rate;

(ii) Change in the definition of "manufacturing activity" in the Import Export Policy 1992-97 so as to bring agricultural activity also within its scope;

(iii) Doing away with compulsory pre-shipment inspection subject to certain condition'

(iv) Aggressive marketing in the potential countries through participation in exhibitions, holding of buyer seller meets and interaction with importers;

(v) Taking up quality assurance programmes.

Items chosen for special thrust are basmati rice, spices, fresh fruits and vegetables, processed foods, floriculture items and marine products.

12.00 hrs

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received the following message dated the 11th March, from the President:-

"I have received with great satisfaction on the expression of Thanks by the Members of the Lok Sabha for the Address which I delivered to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 22nd February, 1993"

[Translation]

SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY (Coimbatore): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, a Congress M.L.A. has been attacked in Tamil

Nadu. Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to a violent attack on an active Congress-I member in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. On his way to Legislative Assembly premises, Mr. Peter/alphon, a Legislative /Assembly Member from the minority community was brutally attacked by goondas who belong to ADMK Party.

[English]

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We want your intervention.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI KUPPUSWAMY: Violence has been let loose by the ruling party there. This sort of violent attacks have become a recurrent feature now. This is not the first time that Cong-I leaders and workers are attacked in Tamil Nadu due to political intolerance on the part of ruling ADMK.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you one by one. You sit down please.

SHRI KUPPUSWAMY: Earlier Mr. Chidambaram when he was as union Minister he was attacked. Later there was an attack on Union Minister Mr. Arunachalam. Even a member of this august House Mr. Sundar Rajan was attacked. There was an attempt on my life in Coimbatore when the Airport was inaugurated. I was attacked by AIADMK men and my car was also attacked and damaged.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Other Members should sit down when he is speaking.

[Translation]

SHRI KUPPUSWAMY: When I was arranging a communal amity meeting in Tirupur, ADMK men prevented the holding of the meeting and they burnt the dais at the venue of the public meeting. Violence cults is fast spreading and violence is being let

loose in Tamil Nadu. Law and order is very much disrupted and it is at its worst now.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to reply.

[Translation]

SHRI KUPPUSWAMY: I would also like to bring to your notice another problem. At a time when violence is let loose on political workers shelter is being provided to certain communal elements belonging to organisations like RSS and Bajrang Dal. Some of the communal elements who are being searched by central security forces have sought asylum in Tamil Nadu. Ironically they are getting protection in Tamil Nadu. Ironically they are getting protection in Tamil Nadu. Hence I feel that Home Minister must come out with a Statement.

[English]

SHRI M.R. KALANJHAR JANARDHANAN (Tirunelveli): He is misleading the House.

[Translation]

SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY: Congress men are being continuously attacked like this by ruling party men there. This sort of violence we have never seen in public life before. This was not so when late Annadurai and MGR were Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu. This is happening only now. When late Kamaraj was Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, there was a peaceful atmosphere. In the Public life of Tamil Nadu, there was EVR Periyar, Bhaktavatsalam and later Annadurai. The peaceful atmosphere continued till when MGR was there. Now, during the present regime peace has gone and the atmosphere is very much surcharged and vitiated. Minority people are being attacked. Those who have tread the path of Dravidian movement are now joining hands with Hindu communal elements

Centre must take note of this and Union Government must initiate action to put an end to this violent cult fast spreading in Tamil Nadu. Since violence against people of minority community and downtrodden is on the increase, I request the Home Minister to come with a statement about these incidents in Tamilnadu. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding the one incident which took place, I would like to say that it is an unfortunate incident. I do not defend the accused. (*Interruptions*)

Sir, please allow me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. Only your statement is being recorded and none else.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: I do not defend that accused. It is an unfortunate incident. The same matter was raised in the Tamil Nadu Assembly also in the morning. The Speaker expressed regrets and our Chief Minister also expressed her regrets and condemned the incident. She assured the House that strong action would be taken against the accused person. She has explained it. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P.G. Narayanan, you please continue. Only your statement is being recorded. Please continue.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: The incident took place outside the Assembly I can say that it is a clear conspiracy and a stage-managed incident of the Congress people to stall the proceedings of the Assembly today in Tamil Nadu. The fact remains that the MLA Shri Peter Alphones yesterday issued a provocative statement and made highly damaging personal attacks against our Chief Minister if filthy language.... (*Interruptions*) I submit that it is a conspiracy created by the Congress people who wanted to stall the proceedings of the Assembly which starts today there. It is a planned incident... (*Interruptions*) As far as this incident is con-

cerned, our Chief Minister assured that action would not taken. A case was registered. The police are tracing the accused. The real accused will be arrested very soon. As a first step, the Chief Minister has expelled Sudha Gopal, the first accused, from the party today. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You made your point very well. Very good. You made it very forcefully. Now, you please sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, political murders are being committed in Uttar Pradesh for the last two or three years. Our party leader late Shri Sharda Prasad Rawat and the then Deputy leader of the party in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly late Shri Mahendra Singh Bhati were also assassinated in broad daylight. Taking into view the seriousness of the matter and the fact that a lengthy debate was held on it in the dissolved Legislative Assembly, the then Uttar Pradesh Government has referred the issue to the Central Government for investigation by the C.B.I. We brought this issue our times into the notice of the Government in various ways. Once, we along with Shri Rabi Ray and others five or seven hon. Members had met the hon Minister of Home Affairs and apprised him of the seriousness of this incident. Time and again he had given firm assurance to us to hold an inquiry thorough the C.B.I., but nothing has been done so far in this regard. He was the leader of the masses of that way the political murders are being committed in Uttar Pradesh political parties have unanimously demanded the C.B.I. enquiry of this incident. But the Government has neither taken any decision in this regard so far no it has ordered a CBI enquiry into it.

I met the hon. Minister of Home Affairs three days ago and talked with him. He told me that the Government is likely to order an inquiry into it very soon. When I told him that we shall raise it in this august House, he

replied that we may do so.

I would like to say that this incident is very serious one. The sentiments of the local of the public are associated with it. I therefore, urge the Government not to procrastinate this issue and hold enquiry into it immediately. He was our Deputy Leader. He was a great leader of that area. All political parties had unanimously demanded the C.B.I. probe into the matter, but the probe has not been started so far. Through you, I would like to request the Government to pay attention to this incident and hand over this case to the C.B.I. for investigation, so that we may get justice and the wave of political murder started in Uttar Pradesh may come to stop.

[*English*]

SHRI B. AKBAR PASHA (Vellore): Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to make a reference to the proposed rally by the BJP in Madras City on the 21st of this month which happens to be a Muslim festival day., This festival is something like Maha. Shivaratri. (*Interruptions*)

Please allow me to speak. You can reply later. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. You have completed now.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Banakura): Mr. Speaker, Sir. with your permission I want to raise a very important issue in this august House. Lck-out has been declared in the Modi Steel Factory in Modinagar. The Uttar Pradesh Government has declared this lockout illegal. In spite of this, there are tow and a half thousand labourers, of which 900 labourers are permanent who have not been paid their salaries since December. Though the lockout of the factory has been declared illegal, yet the proper measures to life the lockout are not being taken by the Government there.

Now we would like to request that since there is President Rule in Uttar Pradesh, responsibility rests with the Central Government. The hon. Minister of Labour, the hon. Minister of Industry should help to lift the ban. In this connection we have written letters to Shrimati Krishna Sahi also as she has also some responsibility in this regard. Yesterday, we met the hon. Minister of Labour and we demanded that since two and a half thousand workers along with their dependents who together come to about 20 thousand are dying of starvation and they are not getting food. The Central Government and the Ministry of Labour should take immediate measures to lift this lockout, help release the salaries to 2500 workers among whom are 900 permanent workers. Mr. Speaker. Sir, I demand that you too should issue directions to the Central Government in this regard as the hon. Minister of Industry Shrimati Krishna Sahi is present in the House she should make some efforts to help life the lockwout and release the workers salaries. She should also say somethingout it.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, you have spoken very chaste Hindi. Please take your seat.

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (Sasaram): Mr. Speaker, Sir, crores of rupees of Bihar Government are outstanding against the Central Government. The Central Government should pay that amount to the Bihar Government immediately. For instance. Rs. 7 crore are outstanding on account of the royalty on minerals of the Bihar Government and nearly Rs. 206 crore of Department of Family Welfare are due ton the Centre. The Bihar Government is presently passing through unprecedented economic crisis. On the one hand, there is severe drought in Palamau, Garhwa, Daltanganj, Rohtas and Bhabhua districts. The drought conditions in Garhwa and Dalotanganj districts are so severe and heartrending that it has posed a very difficult problem, before Bihar Government. Therefore, the Bihar Government should have been provided special funds. But instead of providing additional funds the arrears of the Bihar Government are not being paid to it. Mr. Speaker,

Sir, the economic condition of Bihar is so serious that it is even not in a position to given the salaries to the staff and officers of may departments and corporations. I, therefore, through you demand the Central Government to pay the outstanding amount of the Bihar Government immediately (*Inter-rptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I allowed you to speak and you have completed Now, please do not go back and forth like this. Shri Mrutyunjaya Nayak:

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK (Phulbani): May I remind you, Sir, that in this very august House, time an again, I sought your protection with regard to the settlement of the land issue pertaining to those people who are the permanent residents of my parliamentary constituency in my House State.

Sir, even after 45 years of independence, the people of my constituency have been denied the right to their due quota of ownership on their land. In the Chief Ministers' Conference held at New Delhi, the Prime Minister had also given specific directives and you have also been very much pleased to take up this particular issue with the Government.

I once again, earnestly and fervently request you kindly to intervene in the matter and give a specific directive to the State Government as well as the Government of India

[*Translation*]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA(Pali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to cite an example as to how the Pakistani Embassy is indulging in propagatnds against India in America and I would like to submit to the Minister of External Affairs that the Embassy has written a letter in which it has been stated that the Supreme Court has given its judgement on the Ram-janmabhoomi issue.

It has been stated in that judgement that there was no temple of any Hindu god at that site. It is a letter given by an Under Secretary of the Embassy and has appeared in all the newspapers of the United States of America. I would like to submit that the Ministry of External Affairs or Shri Siddharth Shanakar Ray, Indian Ambassador to U.S.A. has not reacted to its as a result of which wrong signals reach the world media. False propaganda is made and misconceptions are created about India in the world.

I request that the Ministry of External Affairs should make inquiry in this regard and contradict the propaganda being made by the Pakistan Embassy there. It is a mater of consideration as to why did Embassy or Shri Sidharth Shankar Ray not contradict this false publicity.

Only yesterday, the hon. Prime Minister has said we would take a decision in this matter only after the Supreme Court has given its whereas verdict it is being publicise there that the Court has given its verdict that there was no Ram temple at that place.

I request the Government to contradict the statement and issue appropriate directions to the E mbassador in this regard.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Mr. Speaker Sir, I am very thankful to you for giving for the last eleven days. This pertains to the progress of relief and rehabilitation for these unfortunate people who were affected by the recent violence in Ayodhya. As you know, 17 persons were killed, 458 houses were brunet, 58 shops were burnt an dlooted and nearly five thousand persons were displaced immediately after December 6th tragedy in Ayodhya. They took shelter in various places. Now they were waiting for the Government relief and rehabilitation programme as announced.

According to my information the Government have paid Rs. 2 lakhs each to the dependents of sixteen persons killed. But in other respects, for example with respect to the houses that were damaged, the shops

that were looted there has been virtually no progress at all. Against the estimated loss of roughly Rs. 10 crore only Rs. 5 7 lakh have been spent so far. I have brought this matter to the attention of the Government and I have requested them that the distressed and the riot-stricken people of Ayodhya should be treated as a special case and every effort should be made, so that they can go back and live in dignity in their own Town. I hope that the hon. Minister of Home Affairs or the Minister of State for Home Affairs shall look into this distress of the people who are very courageous they are now beginning to return to Ayodhya and are trying to make build a new life for themselves. They are determined to stay at Ayodhya at any cost.

A young man of Ayodhya told me:

[*Translation*]

It can be a matter of debate whether Lord Ram was born there or not but it is not an issue of debate that I was also born in Ayodhya and if I was born in Ayodhya. I would live there and die there. Nobody can force me to leave Ayodhya. To bring back such courageous and brave people to Ayodhya I request the Government to look into their matters sympathetically and provide them an amount as compensation so that they may build their houses and live there.

[*English*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Yesterday something very important happened in the House. That was the presence of a Chief Minister of a particular State in the House. That was mentioned and you also kindly made an observation.

When such a thing occurred, both the Leader of the Opposition and myself were Members of Rajya Sabha. Shri Jayachandra Singh who was the Chief Minister of Manipur was there. In that context we had referred to the rulings in the two Houses.

For the information of the House, I want to read out from Kaul and Shakdhar, Page 816 concerning this matter.

"Where a Member of either House of Parliament is appointed a Minister in a State, but does not resign his seat in Parliament, he incurs no disqualification and continues to be a Member of that Houses as well as Minister in the State for a period of six months without being elected to the State Legislature...

The next sentence is this:

"Such a Member, if he comes to the Houses, is not entitled to participate in the proceedings of the House or to vote"

Sir, when we discussed this in the Rajya Sabha, I remember, it was mentioned that in the Lok Sabha he is prohibited from voting and participating. But, no such ruling existed in the case of Rajya Sabha; and therefore, in the Rajya Sabha, the situation was like this:

"However, as a matter of propriety, he should not attend the House on his holding the Office of Minister in the State".

That was the kind of ruling that was available there. Yesterday, some reference was made that a crucial voting is going to take place and therefore everyone who is a Member of the House was invited to the House by the ruling party, etc. But this is explicit that he can neither vote nor participate in the debate, according to Kaul and Shakdhar. I simply wanted to draw your attention and the attention of the House that this is a kind of restriction that is imposed on such persons.

SHRI LAL. K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel extremely grateful and I would compliment Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee for having drawn the attention of the House and your attention to the earlier ruling because when I raised this matter

yesterday. I had in mind the ruins of the Rajya Sabha, where too I had occasion to raise this matter. In Rajya Sabha, the ruling given by the Chair was that it was not proper; but at the same time, the Chair could not impose or prevent him from voting or participating, or something like that. The Chair repeated it again and said, "I leave it to the Member-concerned to do what he wants to do".

Yesterday I think, what you said, Sir, was correct in so far as what you said goes, namely that you cannot protrude him from being present here; but in view of the ruling given earlier by the Chair, either that ruling is discarded because of yesterday's ruling it become subverted, or then what was said yesterday can be supplemented by emphasising at least that it was not proper for any Member who has become a Minister. This is in the case of Minister; and what has happened is still worse that he was the Chief Minister of a State. Functioning as such, he come to the House only because the ruling party felt that maybe, they may be forced to a situation of division and voting, and so, his assistance may be necessary. But the fact is that this is not proper; and he is discharging a very vital constitutional duty in the State and therefore, even though technically he may continue to be a Member of this House for six months, it is not proper for a Member of that kind to attend the House also. Some such ruling which is in consonance and in conformity with the decisions given by your predecessors is called for. I compliment Shri Chatterjee for pointing out this fact.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, I also referred to it yesterday. I spoke from my recollection; if my recollection is wrong, I shall stand corrected. But, I am told that there might have been another occasion when another Chief Minister might have voted. Therefore I requested the Secretariat to find that out, as to whether any such thing had happened. Sir, I said it; of course, I said and I repeat it that it is certainly a matter of propriety; and that in a federal government structure or even if it is a quasi-federal structure, the presence of a Minister

in the State in the State or a Chief Minister for that matter, inside Parliament is to say the least absolutely incongruous. Therefore, the propriety demands that he should not be present here. But it seems that there is a definite ruling so far as the Lok Sabha is concerned, by your predecessor. I think the ruling is mentioned in Kaul & Shakhdar.

Therefore, this matter, for the healthy parliamentary tradition, should be finally decided once and for all. Since this matter is coming up; and the Government being in a somewhat tenuous position, it may inviting them off and on, I do not know. Therefore, let it be decided once for all.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Sir, yesterday's issue is over. So, you can give a considered ruling on Monday so that it obtains all the earlier rulings and yesterday's situation. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Right

[*Translation*]

SHRI RABAI RAY (Kendrapada): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have nothing to say about the ruling given by you yesterday because you have given your considered opinion according to the provisions of the Constitution. Yesterday, when Reddy Saheb came in the House, this thing naturally came to my mind and I think it would have come in the minds of all hon. Members that without going into legal complications we can conclude that since he is a Chief Minister and has voluntarily given up the responsibility of the Minister of law to go there it is somewhat very strange to note that he is present in the House in this manner. Such an incident has taken place earlier also. At that time a strident round the Lok Sabha. There is already a ruling in this regard that such a member is not entitled to participate in the proceedings of the House or to vote. When there is such a provision I would like to request that the Member, who is likely to resign voluntarily from the Membership of Lok Sabha should not be allowed to attend the House. Keeping in view natural justice and gratefulness because he has opted to

remain in Legislative Assembly and he is waiting for Assembly election. Perhaps Reddy Saheb would be nominated for the Assembly and the Election Commission has fixed the date. There is some confusion in this regard. Therefore, an integrated ruling for future may be given in order to remove confusion. This is my submission.

SHRI SHARADDIGHE (Bombay North Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very interesting point has been raised by Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee and also discussed by several senior leaders of this House. Yesterday, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, who is also a Member of this House, attended the House and the point was raised yesterday itself. You were good enough to give a ruling that you cannot refrain him from attending the House.

What is sought actually now is the revision of that ruling or perhaps to give a considered ruling, as one of the hon. Members has said, on this point. My submission is that rulings are not given by the Speaker in vacuum. That point has not arisen today at all. When the point arose yesterday, ruling had been given.

When the point arises next time, then only your attention can be invited to the several precedent and then give a ruling. But you ask the Speaker to give a ruling at any time in vacuum when the point is not before the House at all. I think, it will not be proper and will not be proper and will not be in the good tradition of the parliamentary democracy. If next time any point arises, then, the hon. Members will be entitled to argue on these points. Then, the presiding officer may give a ruling. But in a vacuum, a ruling should not be given.

MR. SPEAKER: Now I would like to get enlightened by Mr. Patra.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA (Balasore): Sir, I want to furnish before the august House that the ruling which has been shown by some hon. Members here is that the Member will either be elected or, in turn, a Minister of any State will not give vote or

he could not take a part in the deliberations of the House. One thing is there. Till today, there is no amendment of the rule of the Constitution-the procedure of the House. That is why, I feel to submit before you and the august House that it would be the glory and pride of the whole House if some Chief Minister comes here to attend Parliament. This is my opinion. Honourable Members may laugh at me. It would be the privilege of the House that there is no difference between a Member of Parliament and a Chief Minister of a State. I want to submit before you that we feel proud of it that there is no difference between a Member of this House and a Member who is in charge of the State as the Chief Minister. That is why, I say that even if amendment comes it should continue.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to repeat what I has said yesterday.

"We are in a situation in which we find ourselves that we are likely to put a strict interpretation on the constitutional provisions. The Presiding Officer is not in a position to preclude Mr. K. Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy from attending this House or doing anything else which he can do as per the Constitution".

I have read my words. But there are two aspects of this thing. The first aspect is that ruling is being discussed on the floor of the House but then it is an exercising in trying to come to correct conclusions on constitutional and legal matters and this House is a ground for battle of wits rather than a battle of any other kind. So, an exercise of this nature is allowed exceptionally and when it pertains only to constitutional matters, sometimes reluctantly, unwillingly and sometimes willingly.

I do agree with Advaniji that this is a matter on which a sudden reaction should not be given. I will go through the constitutional provisions very carefully and I will try to hear you if you have to say anything on this point and then pronounce my ruling on

[Translation]

SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR (Khandwa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House the loss worth lakhs of rupees suffered in Madhya Pradesh especially in Khandwa district due to hailstorm the recent by. Crops were destroyed and houses were damaged. The Government have not provided any facility in the name of relief and the farmers have to face a lot of problems. Through you, I would like to request to the Government to conduct a survey about the loss suffered due to hailstorm and provide relief at the earliest.

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU (Secunderabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 19 persons died in the incident that occurred on 9th of this month is Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh and several persons are in serious condition in the hospital. Through you I would like to request to the hon. Minister that no reaction of Government has been received so far on this incident. There is no information as to how this incident occurred. According to the Government's source of information perhaps 120 persons set fire by sprinkling kerosene. Same incident has also occurred during last year. At least 60 persons died in that incident. Through you I like to say that keeping in view that 120 persons have become activities, the hon. Minister should send para-military forces in maximum number so that peace security may be maintained in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI RAM SAGAR (Barabanki): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to an important matter of public interest. The problem of seepage has arisen in a very vast area on the banks of Kalyani river in Barabanki district as a result of which thousands of acres of land has become uncultivable. Green Orchards are withering away, the houses are damaged and the problem of fodder has arisen. It is a very serious problem for the farmers of that area. Several agitations have been launched on

this issue and the Government of India had given an assurance to resolve the problem of seepage. But I have come to know that the proposed solution of the problem is very expensive and due to the paucity of funds the problem has not been solved so far.

Sir, through you I demand from the Government that the Cyphen of Indira canal and Sharada Paralled Branch Canal may be widened and problem arising out of seepage of river Kalyani may be solved by depending the same river with a view to provide relief to the people of district Barabanki. Through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government to this problem.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur): Sir, most humbly and respectfully I want to submit that law and order situation in the Eastern and the Western district of Uttar Pradesh and particularly in Delhi has deteriorated. Just now you have heard that Pramod Kumar, the dry fruits merchant was kidnapped three four days before. (Interruptions) Just day before yesterday Mukesh Jain the Manager of Pashupati According was kidnapped. When he was coming to his house, the kidnappers entered his house and dragged him out, fired at him and when his security guard came this rescue, he was short dead and till date, there is no clue to Mukesh Jain. The business community around Delhi is quite worried and due to it there is an atmosphere of fear and terror. Such incidents are continuously taking place in Ghaziabad. Such incidents are also taking place in Banaras and Ghazipur. I would like to submit to you that you should issue directives to the Government to come forward with a reply to it. (Interruptions)

12.43 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

I again submit to you that a statement should be given on it. I don't know whether the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister is ready to make a statement on it or not (Interruptions). The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is listening to it. I would like to submit that he should assure us as to what

action is being taken on it and what action the Government is taking on it. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): It is my charge on the Government it is in connivance with criminal gangs and that is why there is a spate of kidnappings. (*Interruptions*) Such incidents are continuously taking place at Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh. (*Interruptions*) The incidents of kidnappings and murders are taking place and the Government is keeping mum. Only the Central Government is responsible for all such incidents. I would like to submit that the hon. Minister should make a statement on it. (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government is conniving with them in these incidents and they have received its patronage. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister may please tell us as to what action has been taken by the Government into this incident when he was dragged out of his house the day before yesterday. (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir are you issuing directives to the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to make a statement. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, would you like to respond?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You cannot expect a reply from the Treasury Bench immediately.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: You may please issue directives to the hon. Minister to give information regarding the development in this case. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: If an immediate action is not taken in this it may prove dangerous to someone's life. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you expect the Government to reply immediately? I have called Malini ji.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the report submitted by a delegation of four national organisations which visited the women in the riot affected areas of Ahmedabad, Bhopal and Surat. In this Report we find several very significant factors. We find the women delegation pointing out that the riots in all these places were not spontaneous at all but they were manipulated by different political parties which are trying to sow the seeds of communalism in the mind of the people, particularly the BJP, Bajrang Dal and RSS, and also by unscrupulous elements who were trying to make profits out of the sufferings of the people. Role of the some of the private housing societies has been particularly pointed out by the women in the delegations.

It was also found that while there have been cases of atrocities against both men and women, it was particularly the women of the minority communities who came under special attack during these riots. There were also of course, instances of women of two communities saving each other in their times of needs. But, these cases have not been highlighted in the media at all. They have been silent on this.

Again, we find that the sheer scale and the instansity of attacks defies all description. I am not going into these brutal details—generally these are called brutal but I have not heard of any beast committing such acts against other nests of the same species

We also find that so far as relief and rehabilitation is concerned, there is very

serious confusion in these localities and apart from confusion because because of bureaucratic neglect the women, who in most of these cases have lost their husbands or their fathers, are unable to take advantage of the relief that has been promised by the Government.. For instance in Bhopal, a talk with the Chief Secretary revealed that out of 138 affected households only 21 Members were found to belong to the so called employable category and only 8 fulfilled the educational qualifications stipulated by the Government. Also, there is a great deal of confusion in the matter of Government bonds which is one of the ways in which relief is being given. I would just say Sir, that the Government must not think that just because the riots are over, things are all right. The scars and wounds are still there.

There has been a communal divide and re-allocation of population on communal lines and as a result of that, we find that the danger of such communal outbursts is increasing day by day. This has not been mentioned in the Presidential Address not in the Prime Minister's reply. I would urge upon the Government to constitute a special cell in conjunction with the women's bodies and see that these scars are healed without delay and the fears in the minds of the people may be allayed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: By 1 o'clock, submissions, Papers to be Laid on the Table shall have to be completed. Question Hour comes to an end at the stroke of 12.00. Similarly, Zero Hour should also come to an end at 1 o'clock.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yesterday, the Zero Hour continued till 1.40 p.m. Most of the senior Members were raising points with the result that the juniors were deprived of their chance to have a say during Zero Hour. It is not fair on our part.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister of State for External Affairs and assured the House that the Passports will be issued within a period of

one month. But the experience is quite contrary. The Regional Passport Office of Calicut which covers.....

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN (Chirayinkil): Sir...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI L. AHAMED: Sir, the Regional Passport Office of Calicut which covers six districts in Kerala, takes about one-and-a-half years to issue a Passport. There are, now, Sir, 50,000 applications pending. If the present state of affairs continues, a man who applies for a Passport will get his passport only after five years.

Sir, the issue regarding the Regional Passport Office of Calicut had been raised in the House several times.

MR. DÉPUTY SPEAKER: You complete it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, I may be protected.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are being protected. Whatever you are saying is going on record. Therefore, why do you worry?

SHRI E. AHAMED: The Ministers are here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Ministers are also carefully and consciously hearing what you are saying.

SHRI E. AHAMED: The Minister in charge of External Affairs is here that is why I am raising.

(Interruptions)

Those people who wanted to go to other countries, especially the Gulf countries, the

are facing a lot of difficulty. It is because they have to go to Gulf countries for employment. Since there is no employment in this country, therefore, they want to go to the Gulf countries. They are not able to obtain the Passports from the Regional Passport Office at Calicut.

There are four laminating machines in Calicut and out of which, one is only working. When these machines are not functioning how can the ordinary man get the Passport?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the Zero Hour is over. I am going to other subjects. Now, Papers to be laid on there Table of the House.

12.53 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report on review of the Working of Coffee Board

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coffee Board for the year 1991-92.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Coffee Board for the year 1991-92.

(2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No LT-3546/93]

Notification under light House Act, 1927 and Annual Administration Report and Review on the working of Mormango Port Trust for 1991-92.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 34 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th January, 1993 directing that with effect from the day following the expiration of thirty days from the 7th January, 1993 Light-dues shall be payable at all ports in India in respect of all Foreign Going Vessels, Home Trade Vessels and Sailing Vessels described in the Notification under sub-section (4) of section 10 of the Lighthouse Act, 1927.

[Placed in Library. See No LT-3547/93]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mormugao Port Trust for the year 1991-92 together with accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Mormugao Port Trust for the year 1991-92.

- (3) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above

[Placed in Library See No. LT- 3540/ 93]

Notifications under Export (Quality Control Inspection) Act

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN

[Sh. Kamaluddin Ahmed]

THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): I beg to lay on the Table.

A copy of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under subsection (3) of section 17 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963:-

- (1) The Export of Foreign Fish and Fishery Products (Quality Control and Inspection) Amendment Rules, 1992 published in Notification No. S.O. 2760 in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 1992.
- (2) The Export of Canned Fish and Fishery Products (Quality Control and Inspection) Amendment Rules, 1992 published in Notification No. S.O. 2761 in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 1992. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3549/93]
- (3) The Export of Dried Fish Inspection (Amendment) Rules, 1992 published in Notification No. S.O. 2989 in Gazette of India dated the 5th December, 1992.
- (4) S.O. 2990 published in Gazette of India dated the 5th December, 1992 repealing the Export of Fish Meal (Inspection) Rules, 1980. [Placed in Library See No. LT-3550/93]

Central Excise and Salt Act 1944

Notifications under Customs Act 1962 and Annual Report of and review on the working of Deposit Insurance Credit and Guarantee Corporation, Bombay 1991-92

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(!) A copy each of the following Noti-

fications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:-

- (i) G.S.R. 19 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding the Baggage (Conditions of Exemption) Rules 1975.
- (ii) G.S.R. 20 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 137/90-Cus. dated the 20th March, 1990.
- (iii) G.S.R. 21 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 204/84-Cus dated the 20th July, 1984.
- (iv) G.S.R. 22 (E) published in gazette of India dated the 15th January 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding the Notification No.205/84-Cus. dated the 20th July 1984.
- (v) G.S.R. 57 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th February, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to certain Notifications mentioned in the table annexed with the Notification.

- (vi) G.S.R. 78(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 203/92-Cus. dated the 19th May, 1992.
- (vii) • G.S.R. 88(E) to G.S.R. 172(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding Customs duty changes and exemption in the context of Budget proposals pertaining to Indirect Taxes announced by the Finance Minister in Lok Sabha on the 27th February, 1993. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3551/93]
- (2) A copy of the Notification Nos. G.S.R. 173 (E) to G.S.R. 248(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding Central Excise duty changes and exemption in the context of Budget proposals pertaining to Indirect Taxes announced by the Finance Minister in Lok Sabha on the 27th February, 1993 under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3552/93]
- (3) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Housing Bank for the period from the 1st July, 1991 to the 30th June 1992 along with Audited Accounts under sub-section (5) of section 40 of the National Housing

Bank Act, 1987 [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3553/93]

- (4) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation, Bombay for the year 1991-92. (Placed in Library See. No. LT-3554/93]

Notification under navy Act 1957

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI

MALLIKARJUN): I beg to lay on the Table:-

A copy of the Notification No. S.R.O. 229 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th October 1992 declaring services in Andaman and Nicobar Islands as active service for a period of five years from the 6th January 1993 issued under section 3 of the Navy Act, 1957. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3555/93]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Vidyacharan Shukla;

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sriballav Panigrahi, when your name was called, you did not make use of this opportunity. Now, we have gone ahead. It is not good on the part of the Members to drag on the Zero Hour like this. Kindly cooperate with the Chair.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI.

(Deogarh): When the house was in order, was it my fault? (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The house was in order. You kindly allow the Minister to make a statement. Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)

12.55 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing 15th March, 1993, will consist of:-

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order paper.
2. Discussion on the Resolutions seeking disapproval of the following Ordinances and consideration and passing of the bills replacing these Ordinances:-
 - (a) The Oil fields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Ordinance, 1993.
 - (b) The Foreign Exchange Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 1993.
 - (c) The Acquisition of certain area at Ayodhya Ordinance, 1993.
3. General Discussion on the Railway Budget for 1993-94.
4. Discussion on the Resolution regarding recommendations of Railway Convention Committee.
5. Discussion and Voting on:
 - (a) Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1993-94.
 - (b) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1992-93.
6. General Discussion on General Budget 1993-94.

7. Submission to the Vote of the House the Demands on Account (General) for 1993-94.

8. Discussion and Voting on Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1992-93.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (1) Need to convert crossbar telephone system into electronic exchange at Ajmer a city famous historical for religious harmony.
- (2) Need to mobilise more resources for the development of Ajmer and Pushkar from the tourist point of view.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: (Jhansi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the week's agenda:

- (1) The Bundelkhand Development Board should be set up at the earliest to eradicate backwardness of 21 districts of Uttar Pradesh and Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh.
- (2) As per the approved proposals by the Uttar Pradesh Government, Tehsil headquarters should be set up at Tehroli in Jhansi district and Madhavargh in Jalaun district.

13.10 hrs.

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. Discussion on the International situation with special reference to the inter-state

ations in the SAARC region.

2. Discussion on the atrocities on Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Minorities.

SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH (Washim): Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the Next Week's agenda.

1. Need to have communication plans in Individual Ministries and Departments in consultation with Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for formulation of Budget Estimates for Government Advertisements in the Directorate of Information and Broadcasting.

2. Discussion on the necessity of adoption a clear and articulate policy document on Government Advertisements.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: (Ernakulam): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I request that the following inter may be included in the next week's agenda:-

Need for early settlement of strike by Flight Engineers of Air India to provide relief to the stranded passengers.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

(1) A motion needed to include Bhurji (Bharbhujia) community in the list of Scheduled Castes should be brought.

(2) Permission should be granted to construct a bye-pass at the National Highway No. 24 at Bareilly city.

[English]

SHRI BALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. Implementation of Jawahar Rojar Yojana and association of Members of Parliament with it.

2. Formation of autonomous regional development boards or Councils in different backward areas including one in Western Orissa with funds provided by the Union Government directly.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. Need for early clearance of Mangalore Super Thermal Power Project and conversion of Bangalore-Mysore-Mercara-Mangalore Road into National Highway.

2. Discussion regarding De-Pooling of Coffee by making amendments in the Coffee Act.

13.00 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 1992-93

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): Sir I beg to present:

"A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 1992-93. [Placed in Library. See. No. LT-3556/93]

13.01/2 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (JAMMU AND KASHMIR) 1992-93

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): Sir, I beg to present:

[Sh. M.V. Chandrashekhar Murthy]

"A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the State of Jammu and Kashmir for 1992-93.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-3557/93]

13.01 hrs.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR BUDGET, 1993-94

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): Sir, I beg to present:

"A statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the State of Jammu and Kashmir for the year 1993-94.

STATEMENT

By virtue of the Proclamation issued under article 356 of the Constitution of India on the 18th July, 1990, the powers of the Legislature of State of Jammu and Kashmir are exerciseable by or under the authority of the Parliament. The Statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the State of Jammu and Kashmir for the financial year 1993-94 is accordingly being placed before the House.

REVISED ESTIMATES 1992-93

The Revised Estimates of the current year indicate a net increase of Rs. 372.75 crores in receipts under Revenue Account compared to the Budget Estimates of Rs. 1676.19 crores. State's share of Central Taxes, Duties and Grants-in-aid from the Government of India is Rs. 947.05 crores in the Revised Estimates compared to Rs. 679.61 crores in the Budget. According to the list decision of the Government of India

on the recommendation of the Dr. Rangarajan Committee constituted to find a durable solution to the financial problems of special category States, Inter-Ministerial Group set up to look into the financial imbalance of Jammu and Kashmir State. Assam and Punjab as well as the discussion held at the level of Cabinet Secretary, the relief package related to the Jammu and Kashmir State has substantially helped the State Government to bring down the level of current years estimated deficit. As a result of this package additional Central Assistance of Rs. 222.53 crores has been granted to the State, which includes, Rs. 150.00 crores as assistance for security related expenditure. The revenue expenditure register an increase of Rs. 92.62 crores represented by the net effect of additional expenditure incurred by the State Government on account of expenditure on centrally sponsored schemes matched by corresponding receipts as well as expenditure related to various services.

On the Capital Account, the receipts in the Revised Estimates are Rs. 235.19 crores compared to the Budget estimates of Rs. 258.37 crores. The capital expenditure indicated decrease of Rs. 302.99 crores compared to the Budget Estimate of Rs. 841.61 crores. The decrease in expenditure is mainly on account of deferment of the recovery of Central loans.

Taking into account the transactions in Public Account and the actual opening deficit, the current year is expected to close with an overall deficit of Rs. 531.60 crores as against Rs. 1265.48 crores envisaged in the Budget Estimates 1992-93.

Budget Estimates 1993-94

The Budget Estimates 1993-94 place Revenue Receipts at Rs. 1846.31 crores. The State's share of Central Taxes, Duties Grants-in-aid from the Government of India is Rs. 759.06 crores. The Revenue expenditure is estimated at Rs. 1680.80 crores. On the Capital Account the receipts are estimated to be the order of Rs. 238.04 crores whereas the expenditure is estimated

at Rs. 1119.88 crores. After accounting for the transactions relating to the Public Account the overall deficit for 1993-94 is estimated to be of the order of Rs. 1246.40 crores.

Plan Outlay

The State Plan Outlay for 1993-94 has been fixed at Rs. 880 crores. Central Plan assistance will be Rs. 795.05 crores and Plan Revenue gap grant Rs. 2.32 crores.

Vote on Account

While as required, the Annual Financial Statement for the year 1993-94 has been laid before the House and the connected Demands for Grants are also circulated to the Hon'ble Members along with the other Budget Papers, I am, at this stage, seeking, a "vote on account" for the first six months of the financial year 1993-94, except in respect of Ladakh, in which case full years supply has been sought.

13.0 11/2 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (UTTAR PRADESH), 1992-93

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARAMURTHY): Sir, I beg to present:

:A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the State of Uttar Pradesh for 1992-93". [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3559/93]

13.02 hrs

UTTAR PRADESH BUDGET 1993-94

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): Sir, I beg

to present:

"A statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the State of Uttar Pradesh for the year 1993-94."

STATMENT

Consequent to the Proclamation issued under Article 356 of the Constitution on the 6th December, 1992 the powers of the Legislature of the State of Uttar Pradesh are exercisable by or under the authority of Parliament. The Statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the State of Uttar Pradesh for the financial year 1993-94 is, therefore, being placed before the House.

Revised Estimates 1992-93

The Revised Estimated for the current year for State's tax and non-tax revenue is estimated at Rs. 5111.41 crores which show an increase of Rs. 170.81 crores over the Budget Estimates. State's share of Central taxes, duties and Grants-in-Aid from the Government of India is Rs. 5729.13 crores in Revised Estimates compared to Rs. 5105.37 crores in the Budget. The expenditure on revenue account is Rs. 11763.76 crores in the Revised Estimates compared to Rs. 11402.68 crores in the Budget Estimated, the increase of Rs. 361.08 crores is mainly due to increase in expenditure on Education, Health and Family Welfare and Co-operation. As a result of larger increase in receipts as compared to expenditure, the deficit of Rs. 1356.71 crores on revenue account estimated in the Budget is likely to come down to Rs. 923.22 crores.

The revised estimates of net capital receipts is Rs. (-) 350.22 against the estimated net receipt of Rs. 594.82 crores envisaged in the original budget. Taking into account the net accrual in Contingency Fund and transactions under Public Account and the actual opening deficit, the current year is expected to close with a deficit of Rs. (-) 261.39 crores.

[Sh. M.V. Chandrashekhara Murthy]

Budget Estimates 1993-94

The revenue receipts are estimated at Rs. 11937.19 crores showing an increase of Rs. 1096.65 crores over the Revised Estimates for the year 1992-93. State's tax and non-tax revenue receipts estimated at Rs. 5789.49 crores are higher than the Revised Estimates of 1992-93 by Rs. 678.08 crores. The State's share of Central taxes and grants is Rs. 6147.70 crores, which is higher than the Revised Estimates for the year 1992-93 by Rs. 418.57 crores. The expenditure on revenue account is estimated at Rs. 13172.80 crores.

On the Capital account, the receipts are placed at Rs. 4546.04 crores and expenditure including loans and advances at Rs. 4408.66 crores. Taking into consideration the Revenue Account, the Capital Account, the Public Account and the opening deficit, the Budget for 1993-94 is expected to close with a deficit of Rs. (-) 255.59 crores.

ANNUAL PLAN 1993-94

The size of the State's Annual Plan for 1993-94 has been fixed at Rs. 4050 crores. In addition Special Central Assistance of Rs. 200 crores is likely to be received for development of Uttaranchal region. Thus the total outlay for the State Plan is Rs. 4250 crores which inter alia, envisages a normal Central Assistance of Rs. 1165.49 crores and also Assistance of Rs. 1083.56 crores for Externally Aided Projects. Out of this total outlay for the development of Uttaranchal region of the State is Rs. 408 crores.

Vote on Account

While as required, the Annual Financial Statement for the year 1993-94 has been laid before the House and the connected Demands for Grants are also being circulated to the Hon'ble Members along with the other Budget papers, I am, at this stage, seeking a 'Vote on Account' for the first six months of the Financial Year 1993-94.

13.02 1/2 hrs

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (MADHYA PRADESH), 1992-93

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): Sir, I beg to present:

"A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants respect of the State of Madhya Pradesh for 1992-93. [Placed in Library. See No LT-3561/93]"

13.03 hrs

MADHYA PRADESH BUDGET, 1993-94

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): Sir, I beg to present:

"A statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the State of Madhya Pradesh for the year 1993-94"

STATEMENT

Consequent upon the Proclamation issued under article 356 of the Constitution on the 15th December, 1992, the powers of the Legislature of the State of Madhya Pradesh are exercisable by or under the authority of Parliament. The Statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the State of Madhya Pradesh for the financial 1993-94 is, therefore, being placed before the House.

Revised Estimates 1992-93

The Revised Estimates for the current year place the State's tax and non-revenue at Rs. 3688.43 crores showing a decrease

of Rs. 112.08 crores from the Budget Estimates. State's share of Central taxes, duties and Grants-in-aid from Government of India is 2773.96 crores in Revised Estimates as compared to 2584.41 crores in the Budget Estimate. The expenditure on revenue account is Rs. 6157.88 crores in the Revised Estimates as compared to Rs. 6144.55 crores in the Budget Estimates. The surplus of Rs. 240.37 crores on revenue account estimated in the Budget will turn into a surplus of Rs. 304.51 crores.

On the capital account, the receipts are now estimated at Rs. 2703.92 crores compared to Rs. 1921.26 crores in the Budget. Taking into account the transactions in the Public Account and the opening deficit, the current year is expected to close with a deficit of Rs. 234.24 crores compared to the Budget Estimates of Rs. 480.29 crores.

Budget Estimates 1993-94

The revenue receipts are estimated at Rs. 7141.62 crores showing an increase of Rs. 679.23 crores over the Revised Estimates for the year 1992-93. State's tax and non-tax revenue estimated at Rs. 4161.77 crores are higher than the Revised Estimates of 1992-93 by Rs. 473.34 crores. The State's share of Central taxes, duties and grants is Rs. 2979.85 crores which is higher than the Revised Estimates for the year of Rs. 480.29 crores. estimated at Rs. 6595.03 crores.

On the Capital Account, the receipts are placed at Rs. 1754.00 crores and expenditure, including loans and advances, at Rs. 2592.41 crores. Taking into consideration the Revenue Account, the Capital Account and the Public Account, the year 1993-94 closes with a deficit of Rs. 231.07 crores.

Plan Outlay

The State Plan outlay for 1993-94 has been fixed at Rs. 2400.00 crores. The Central Assistance for 1993-94 will be Rs. 630.08 crores.

Vote on Account

While as required, the annual financial statement for the year 1993-94 has been laid before the House, and connected Demands for Grants are also being circulated to Hon'ble Members along with the other Budget papers, I am, at this stage seeking a 'Vote on Account' the first six months of the financial year 1993-94, except for Calamity relief, for which higher provision has been made to provide for contingencies.

13.031/2 hrs.

Supplementary Demands For Grants Rajasthan 1992-93

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): Sir, I beg to present:

"A statement (Hindi and English Versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the State of Rajasthan for 1992-93. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3563/93]"

13.04 hrs

Rajasthan Budget, 1993-94

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): Sir, I beg to present:

"A statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the State of Rajasthan for the year 1993-94.

[Sh. M.V. Chandrashekhar Murthy]

STATEMENT

Consequent on the Proclamation issued under Article 356 of the Constitution on the 15th December, 1992m the powers of the Legislature of the State of Rajasthan are exercisable by or under the authority of Parliament. The statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the State of Rajasthan for the financial year 1993-94 is, therefore, being placed before the House alongwith the Revised Estimates for the year 1992-93.

Revised Estimates 1992-93

The Revised Estimates for the current year place State's tax and non-tax revenue at Rs. 2717.59 crores showing an increase of Rs. 131.21 crores from the Budget Estimates. The State's share of Central taxes, duties and grant-in-aid from the Government of India is Rs. 2197.52 crores in the Revised Estimates as compared to Rs. 2058.62 crores in the Budget Estimates. The expenditure on Revenue Account is Rs. 4961.76 crores in the Revised Estimates as compared to Rs. 4790.20 crores in the Budget Estimates. The increase of Rs. 171.56 crores is mainly due to increase in the rates of various allowances and normal trend increase. In the Budget Estimates the deficit was estimated at Rs. 146.19 crores on Revenue Account but now in the Revised Estimates the deficit has come down to Rs. 46.65 crores mainly due to economy effected on various fronts and efforts made to increase the Revenue.

On the Capital Account the receipts are now estimated at Rs. 1106.22 crores as compared to Rs. 1232.27 crores in the Budget Estimates.

Taking into account the transactions Public Account and the opening surplus the current year is expected to close with Rs. (+) 186.13 crores balance.

Budget Estimates 1993-94

The revenue receipts are estimated at

Rs. 5204.20 crores showing an increase of Rs. 289.09 crores over the Revised Estimates for the year 1992-93. The State's Tax and non-tax revenue receipt are expected to be Rs. 2844.91 crores which is Rs. 127.32 crores higher than the Revised Estimates of 1992-93. The State's share of Central Taxes and Revised Account is estimated at Rs. 5404.70 crores which is higher than the Revised Estimates of 1992-93 by Rs. 442.94 crores.

On the Capital Account the receipts are placed at Rs. 1360.70 crores and expenditure including loans and advance at Rs. 1799.68 crores.

Taking into consideration the Revenue Account, the Capital Account, the Public Account and opening balance of Revised Estimates, the Budget for the year 1993-94 is expected to close with a surplus of Rs. 23.74 crores.

Plan Outlay

The State Plan outlay for 1993-94 has been fixed at Rs. 1700 crores which is higher by Rs. 290 cores over the corresponding figures of the year 1992-93. The Central assistance including Plan Revenue grant for the year 1993-94 will be Rs. 783.18 crores is Rs. 101.43 crores higher than that of 1992-93.

Vote on Account

While as required, the annual financial Statement for the year 1993-94 has been aid before the House and the connected Demands for grants are also being circulated to the Hon'ble Members alongwith the other Budget papers. I am, at this state, seeking a 'Vote on Account' for the first months for the financial year 1993-94 except in the case of the demand for Election and Loans and Advances to Government Servants where the total annual requirement needs to be voted. The total amount of 'Vote on Account' is Rs. 3898.41 crores.

13.04 1/2 hrs**DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (HIMACHAL PRADESH), 1992-93***[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARMURTHY): Sir, I beg to present:

"Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the State of Himachal Pradesh for 1992-93.

[Placed in Library See No LT 3565/93]

HIMACHAL PRADESH BUDGET, 1993-94

13.04 1/2 hrs*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARMURTHY): Sir, I beg to present:

"A statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the State of Himachal Pradesh for the year 1993-94.

STATEMENT

Consequent on the Proclamation issued under article 356 of the Constitution on the 15th December, 1992, the power of the Legislature of the State of Himachal Pradesh are exerciseable by or under the authority of Parliament. The Statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the State of Himachal Pradesh for the financial year 1993-94 is, therefore, being placed before the House.

Revised Estimates 1992-93

The Revised Estimates for the current year place State's tax and non-tax revenue at Rs. 275.11 crores showing an increase of Rs. 12.38 crores from the Budget Estimates. State's share of Central taxes, duties and Grant-in-aid from the Govern-

ment of India is Rs. 799.96 crores in Revised Estimates compared to Rs. 747.26 crores in the Budget. The expenditure on Revenue Account is Rs. 1153.01 crores in the Revised Estimates compared to Rs. 1125.75 crores in the Budget Estimates. The increase of Rs. 27.26 crores is mainly due to enhancement of provision for maintenance of roads, water supply and irrigation schemes as well as more expenditure under public distribution system interest payments. However, as a result of buoyancy in the receipts, the deficit of Rs. 115.76 crores on Revenue Account estimated in the Budget, will reduce to Rs. 77.94 crores.

On the Capital Account, the receipts are now estimated at Rs. 250.35 crores compared to Rs. 249.74 crores in the Budget. Taking into account the transactions in the Public Account and the opening deficit also, the current year is expected to close with a deficit of Rs. 332.20 crore.

Budget Estimates 1993-94

The revenue receipts are estimated at Rs. 1151.07 crores showing an increase of Rs. 76.00 crores over the Revised Estimates for the year 1992-93. State's tax and revenue receipts estimates at Rs. 229.88 crores are higher than the Revised Estimates of 1992-93 by Rs. 24.77 crores. The State's share of Central taxes and grants is Rs. 851.19 crores, which is higher than the Revised Estimates for the year 1992-93 by Rs. 51.23 crores. The expenditure on Revenue Account is estimated at Rs. 1327.11 crores.

On the Capital Account, the receipts are placed at Rs. 513.84 crores and expenditure including loans and advances at Rs. 395.12 crores. Taking into consideration the Revenue Account, the Capital Account and the Public Account as well as opening deficit, the Budget for the year 1993-94 is also expected to close with a deficit of Rs. 332.20 crores.

Plan Outlay

The State Plan outlay for 1993-94 has been fixed at Rs. 550.73 crores. The normal Central Assistance for the year 1993-94 will be Rs. 396.56 crores. Centre will also be providing a Special Central Assistance of Rs. 6.94 crores.

Vote on Account

While as required, the Annual Financial Statement for year 1993-94 has been laid before the House and the connected Demands for Grants are also being circulated to the Hon'ble Members along with other Budget papers. I am, at this stage, seeking a "Vote on Account" for the first six months of the Financial year 1993-94.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the House stands adjourned for Lunch to meet again at 14.05 hrs.

13.05 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at nine minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE DISAPPROVAL OF NATIONAL THERMAL POWER CORPORATION LIMITED, THE NATIONAL HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION LIMITED AND THE NORTH EASTERN ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION LIMITED (ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF POWER TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS) ORDINANCE CONTD.

AND

NATIONAL THERMAL POWER CORPORATION LIMITED, THE NATIONAL HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION LIMITED AND THE NORTH-EASTERN ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION LIMITED (ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF POWER TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS) BILL CONTD.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order: this question is regarding introduction of this Bill in the House. I have received many documents that prove that the decision under which the Bill is being introduced now has not been taken by the Government of India rather it has been brought at the direction of the World Bank. The sovereignty of India is directly.....

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I make a request to you? You yourself are the next immediate speaker. At that time you can make your submission.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am on a point of order. I want a ruling in this regard—a ruling in the sense that this House can admit such legislation. Can this House admit a law that challenges the sovereignty of our country? When there is question of legislative competence.

[English]

Parliament is not competent to legislate against the sovereignty of the nation.

[Translation]

I would like to produce here the proof of the fact that the hon. Minister of Law has not brought this Bill nor the Cabinet. The process of bringing this Bill began in the World Bank and I am in possession of documents to this effect.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you may have a look to the background of this Bill. Copies of this Bill were circulated by them during the previous session of Parliament, they had promised to the World Bank that they would get the said Bill passed before December, 1992. This was a written commitment made to the world Bank that they would have the

Bill passed by December 1992. The Government, however, could not get the Bill passed because some other business came up before the House.. (Interruptions) Yes, sir, it is a fact that this commitment was made in writing and I am in possession of the proof thereof.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): The Parliament is taken for granted.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: It is the country that is being taken for granted. It is the country's sovereignty that is being taken for granted.

[Translation]

I fail to understand as to how the Government allowed this Bill to be introduced in this House.

I heard the speech of Hon. Prime Minister yesterday. We also hear the comments the hon. Minister of Finance makes inside and outside the House on the new policy of the Government. We do also fight on certain points. I know that there may be a debate and difference of opinion on certain principles and certain policies of the Government. But here there is no question of any policy, here there is a question of the sovereignty of the country. Since the World Bank directed the Government to get this Bill passed, the Government made an assurance in this regard in writing. But the Executive does not enjoy this right and this issue need be discussed in the House.

Will you tell any country of the world that we will come to you after getting a Bill passed in our Parliament. Tomorrow Britain or Russia or Japan or America may ask our country to pass certain Bills of their choice and only then, they may say, they would have talks with us. Is not even that much prestige left with us that our country should be guided by some other country of the world. Moreover, here we are not being guided by some other country of the world but by the World Bank itself.

Mr. Power Minister, what is self respect of this House is not unknown from you. It need not be explained to you as to what is dignity and what is honour of the Government. I don't know, who is your Power Secretary these days but I have got a letter which has been written by the Power Secretary Mr. Vasudevan to the World Bank on the 8th December, 1992. There is one Mr. Vergin in the World Bank. I know the spelling of his name. V.E.R.G.I.N. but I do not know how to pronounce it. Mr. Vergin is the Director of India Department and he may have his office here in Delhi itself of which I do not have any knowledge, but this letter has come from America, Washington. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the last paragraph of this letter reads.

[English]

"We have taken the liberty to send a copy of this letter to Mr. N.K. Singh, Joint Secretary (FB), Department of Economic Affairs, Mr. Rajendra Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, National Thermal Power Corporation and Mr. R.K. Narayan, Chairman and Managing Director, Power Grid Corporation."

[Translation]

I would like to submit that when the Secretary of the Government of India writes or speaks something, he does so on behalf of the Government and the letter sent to the Government.

[English]

Secretary to the Government of India, who is authorised, who is the empowered authority.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES: I would like to know, Sir, from which paper he is quoting,

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am quoting from a letter from the World Bank.

SHRIA. CHARLES: Can it be placed on the Table of the House?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Yes, it will be authenticated and placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we cannot imagine that the Secretary to the Government of India, That is to say the Government of India itself can endorse the letter sent to him and would send the same to a Joint Secretary. He would not send it to the Joint Secretary alone. The Government has set up this Grid Corporation. I would speak on this issue later. I am opposing the Bill. No discussion can be held on it here. No discussion can be held unless the Minister of Law or the Attorney-General unless the Minister of Law or the Attorney-General comes here to participate in discussion on it. This is a question of the supremacy of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it may be Mr. N.K. Singh, Mr. Rajendra Singh and Mr. R.K. Narayan or it may be any other junior officer of the World Bank or may be the head of India Department. We know how big an institution is the World Bank. Our country also has a representative in the World bank. We do have our equity in the World Bank. Our share may be one and a half or two per cent or it may be low or high but the fact remains that we are also a share holder of the World Bank. India had contributed to the formation of the World Bank. But its head, the Director of India Department, a junior officer of it writes a letter with some conditions to the Secretary of the Government of India and also sends a copy of it to Mr. N.K. Singh.

[English]

"I am also taking the liberty of sending it to Mr. N.K. Singh" to these gentlemen who are heading this Corporation.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, who is the

master of this country? What sort of relation does the authorities of the World Bank want to have with the authorities of our Government? This is not the question of a particular paragraph. I am not referring to one particular paragraph. I would like to further draw the attention of the hon. Minister who, I know, is worried about the dignity of the country in his own way. I would also like to produce before you one more letter written on 14th January, 1993 which I can authenticate and lay on the Table of the House. I am informing my colleague Charles Sabha. This is the World Bank India Energy Operations Division and here is the FAX message-

[English]

but he is the one who has authorised the transmission of this message.

[Translation]

Now who is this unknown fellow. His designation is not given. It is Mr. N.K. Singh who receives the message. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please read it. Our country has its own sovereignty which when undergoes degeneration and when the Government of the country is least bothered about it, the attitude of the junior officers of the World Bank and the other authorities working in other places may be known through this letter which is a clear proof of the fact itself. Please see, what does it be speak.

[English]

"Sub: Proposed Power Grid System Development Project.

Ref: Your telephone conversation with Mr. Vergin on Wednesday."

[Translation]

So, the issue involving N.K. Singh is appearing to be quite serious in view of the contents of this letter. First of all, this letter was sent to the Secretary, then a copy of it was endorsed and sent to a junior officer stating 'I am taking the liberty'. Later on a relationship with that junior officer is estab-

lished. And so far as the nature of such relationship is concerned, we have seen them amply in the Scam case. We have thoroughly assessed the kind of relations that are formed with the persons of different places. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is highly regrettable that a person in India may create any sort of violence and yet all his guilts are forgiven. I would not, however, like to deviate from that at present. Nevertheless, there is anger in me and that is why this has come out of my mouth.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they say-

[English]

"We know have most of the information required to complete the yellow cover Staff Appraisal Report in about one week's time. The remaining conditions of loan negotiations that still remain to be fulfilled, are listed in the attachment. The level of FOI financial equity support to Power Grid in general and specifically for the Northern Region Transmission Project is a critical issue. While Plan allocations appear to be sufficient for the new project, allocations for the Northern Region Transmission for the Nathpa Jakhri Hydro Project, amounted to about Rs. one crores of the requirements of that project."

I continue to quote:

"We are also concerned about the development of power grids' commercial arrangement and the transfer of RLDC from CEA'S to the power grid. I trust this clarifies the situation".

And now,

"I am copying this fax to Shri R. Vasudevan, Secretary, Ministry of Power".

[Translation]

A message is sent to the Joint Secretary. An official of the World Bank writes that he is sending a copy to the Secretary. Is it

not a blow to the dignity of the Government of India? Who is governing the Government of India at present? When we raised a hue and cry inside and outside the House that the independence and sovereignty of the country was being mortgaged, we were labelled as irresponsible. In what sense the country is independent now?

Now, please go through this Act:

[English]

"The provision of this Act, except section so and so, shall be deemed to have come into force on the first day of April, 1992".

'shall be deemed to have'. How? The World Bank has said and they have decided.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: How did it become part of the law. My question concerns the sovereignty... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Shri Fernanddes, with your permission I want to tell that there are other most startling revelations. This is from a letter of 7th October, 1992.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: That is with me, also. I am going to read it.

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU: Then it is all right.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Sir, I am on a point of order. this Bill has already been introduced in the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Fernandes, anyhow you have made some of your points very clear, about the passing of this Bill and the sovereignty of the country. Shall I give a ruling on it?

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am not speaking on the Bill. I am speaking on the competence of the House to legislate on this.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS (Emakulam): Sir, I am on a point of order. The Bill is already introduced here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Fernandes, you are questioning the competence of this House in passing a Bill. Is it not? You say that the Bill, which has come up before the House *suo motu* has not come from the Government and it is being initiated by somebody else and thereby the sovereignty of the country is hit. That is your point. Is it not?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: That is not the point. That is the preamble. The point is that when this Bill comes before the House in the form in which it has come, it is actually handing over the sovereignty. It is not merely a question of the sovereignty of the House being questioned or the sovereignty of the country being questioned. (Interruptions) We are surrendering our sovereignty with the enactment of this legislation. That is my point.

SHRI A. CHARLES: What is this interpretation? (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shall I give a ruling?

(Interruptions)

SHRI A. CHARLES: This is routine correspondence with the Government. It is a mischievous representation. If every correspondence is being questioned like this, how can the Government function?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Fervidness, do you want a ruling on this?

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Please listen carefully to what I say because I am going to present before you a clinching evidence of it.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your question is whether the Bill which has come up for discussion on the floor of the House has got the competency to be discussed here or not. Is it the point?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: No, Sir. That is not the point. The point is, as far as the competence of this House is concerned, that is an issue by itself. The House does not have competence to enact a legislation which is tantamount to surrendering the sovereignty of the Union. That is the point. (Interruptions)

SHRI A. CHARLES: This cannot be raised at this point of time.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Why not? I have received documents today. I have received these documents just now.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANJGRAHI (Deogarh): All these arguments should have been made at the time of introduction. What is the point in making them now? (Interruptions)

SHRI A. CHARLES: Sir, the House is supreme. This question cannot be raised now. The House has allowed the Bill to be introduced. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Fernandes, do you want a ruling?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Shri Fernandes has reached the platform after the train has left. The stage is over now.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On that point I want to give a ruling.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Had I received these documents earlier I would have stalled the introduction of this Bill when it was presented in the House... (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had not received the document till I moved the statutory Resolution. I received it only in the evening. Had I received it then I would have raised the questions yesterday when Shri George Fernandes is raising today.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Pilibhit): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we received these documents at night. Therefore, an important decision should be taken with regard to this matter. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): No, Sir, A very important question has arisen—the legislative competence of the House to legislate on such a type of law where you cannot surrender the sovereignty of the country.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : You Please try to follow me. I would like to quote a few lines from what Shri Vasudevan the Secretary to the Government of India wrote to Shri Vergin on 7th October. It begins:

[English]

" Dear Mr. Vergin, We have carefully considered the conditions.... (Interruptions).

You are a great patriot. Why are you defending?

SHRI A CHARLES: I am not defending.

but (Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Even your Minister is understanding the significance of what I am saying. Why is a great patriot like you now standing up?

SHRI A CHARLES: You should have raised the objections at the time of the introduction of the Bill. (Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, I am sorry for this kind of interruption. But through you, Sir, I would like to convey to the Minister that I got this document this morning. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let us hear him.

SHRI A. CHARLES: He has taken more than half-an-hour.

SHRI ANIL BASU: This is a very important point he has raised. He should be allowed to speak.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is a point of order.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: More than half- an-hour? We are discussing the sovereignty of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: For a point of order time limit is not there. It is up to him to substantiate the point of order, whether the point of order the hon. Member is raising...

(Interruptions)

SHRI A CHARLES: Every day some of the leaders are taking the entire time of the House. (Interruptions). The House is not their monopoly or the monopoly of a few leaders of this House.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am on a point of order concerning the Constitution of India. (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Sir, Kindly give a ruling whether at this stage this question can be raised.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: A point of order can be raised.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, I have to present to you this document. I have to present this document to the House. So, the House has to hear my point of order.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: I know, I need not be enlightened by you that point of order can be raised at any point of time after the question Hour, in the Zero Hour. But the point is whether at this point of time this point can be raised in the form of a point of order, i.e., when the House is already discussing this. (Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU: There is a constitutional disorder.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Sir, this House is already considering this. Any such point which he is now raising could have been very well raised at the time of introduction. (Interruptions). Please give Ruling.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: He can rule on my point of order. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

I have received this document only today, that it I am raising the water today itself.

(Interruptions)

Sir, Mr. Vausdevan writes to Mr. Vergin as follows:

" We have carefully considered the conditions to be fulfilled before appraisal as contained in the Aide Memoire furnished by the Bank's follow up mission on India. NTPC POWER GENERATION PROJECT. Our position on these conditions is detailed as follows;

We confirm that the conditions relating to commercial and investment policies would be met... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU: This is the objection. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When you get your chance, you can elaborate it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: This is the crucial point, Sir, that the Government of India has decided, and has written to the World Bank that American multinational that have named the multinational who are going to be partners of the Power sector in India— M/s Spectrum Technologies of United States will be the partner in NTPC's Godavari gas based project, M/S ABB is going to bid for the Bawana project of DESU with M/s GVK Industries for the Jagurupadu gas based project. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Anyhow, Mr. George, you have made your point very clear.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, it is not a question of making my point, it is a question of the sovereignty of India. How can I be a member of this House and accept this kind of sell-out of the country? How can I accept it? I cannot accept it, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give a Ruling on this. You have raised the point of order.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, my earnest request to you is— let me make my requests, one to you and one to the Government. My request to you, Sir, is, you hold this Bill as totally beyond the legislative competence of the House because the House cannot write off its sovereignty.

We cannot give away our sovereignty through this piece of legislation. So, this is my request to you, Sir. And I would request the Government and particularly Mr. Salve knowing him as I do, to withdraw this Bill,

ponder over the implications of it, discuss the implications of this bill with the leaders of this House and then decide how exactly you want to proceed with whatever liberalisation that you want to do. I may not be in agreement with it. I will oppose your liberalisation in the manner in which you are going, that is a different matter. But when it comes to the sovereignty of the House and surrendering the sovereignty of the House to any outside body,

[Translation]

We cannot accept the thing at any cost. Therefore I would urge you and the government for this.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri George Fernandes has raised a point of order and he has substantiated his point of order. It calls for the ruling from the Chair. So, now I am giving my ruling. It is the accepted practice in Lok Sabha that the Speaker does not give any ruling on a point of order raised whether a bill is constitutionally within the legislative competence of the House or not. The House also does not take a decision on the specific question of *vires* of a Bill. It is open to Members to express their views in the matter and to address arguments for and against the *vires* for the consideration of the House. The Members take this aspect in to account in voting on the motion for leave to introduce the Bill or on the subsequent motions on the Bill. Now, I request Mr. Pandey to continue his speech.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I submitted yesterday, under the pressure of the World Bank....(Interruptions)

They are working under the pressure of the World bank and their assertion that they are taking these measures with a view to introduce sophisticated technique, to improve the efficiency and the energy utilisation is not correct. I would like to refer to the

same thing today as I did yesterday. Referring to the Financial Express and the Economic Times yesterday I had pointed out that the letter written by Shri Vasudevan contains some remarks which go against the dignity and sovereignty of the country. I would like to quote para 8 of his letter. It states- (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE): I seek your permission to submit one thing. Yesterday, Shri Nitish Kumar had raised this issue. He did not have the documents. Shri George Fernandes raised the same issue, and now you are repeating it again. I would clarify every point when I give the reply. I would like to assure them that I am also as much sensitive with regard to the dignity of the country as they are, I will give the entire background when I give the reply and then only they will come to know about the facts. They may agree or not, that is a different point. But one thing is there, the concerned Ministry and the Government are responsible with regard to this Bill. It is not good to demoralise any of the bureaucrats.

[English]

It is the Ministry which is responsible; it is the Government which is responsible and none of the bureaucrats is responsible.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: No attempt has been made to demoralise any of the bureaucrats.. Only a certain document written by the Power Secretary has been quoted. Why are you charging us of demoralising the bureaucrats? We are just referring to the document.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, I was quoting from the letter; it further states:

[English]

"Therefore, it has suggested that

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya]

if the bank insists on transfer of ownership to NPTC, the agreement of transfer must include suitable provisions for retaining the operation of the associated switchyard with the concerned power station authorities on contract basis. Even this, however, would not be possible to do in the case of Nuclear Power Stations (for obvious reasons) and in specific cases like those of underground power stations with GI switchgears. In view of this, you are requested to consider this condition. "

[Translation]

While quoting it I would like to submit that I do have the contents of the reply of this letter. The letter was written on 8th December. The letter dated the 7th October was written by the Secretary, Ministry of Power and this letter dated the 8th December was received from the World Bank. I would like to quote the third para of this letter.

[English]

"We would also like to take this opportunity to mention that a number of actions required for the processing of the NTPC Power Generation Project are equally relevant for the fulfillment of conditions for negotiations of the POWERGRID System Development Project.

We would like to mention in particular the completion of the legal procedures for the transfer of transmission assets from NTPC and NHPC, the transfer of the existing regional load despatch centres to Powergrid to be completed before December, 1993."

[Translation]

Which has been referred here just now. I would like to request the hon. Minister that we have taken those steps under some pressure and influence. It is a very simple thing. Otherwise, there was no need of doing it. In this regard, I would like to submit

that no proper clarification has been given regarding the loans and assets of three companies before introducing this Bill. Nothing has been mentioned about the nature of the foreign technique for the No-menpower station and its likely effects on the industries of our country. I charge the Government for misleading the House. I would also like to submit that the Government have not put its precise policy before the House. What was the reason behind taking over only these three companies. It has not been categorically stated whether all other companies or State Electricity Boards would continue to function as such.

It has also not been made clear whether taking over of these three companies and transferring their assets are in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution or not. In this regard I would like to submit that transferring the assets and services is unconstitutional. It should be made clear. I would like to request that the Government should make its policy clear in this regard. There was no need of introducing such a legislation when the Electricity Power Supply Act, 1910 and Electricity Act, 1948 and Central Electricity Authority are in existence. Can't you get this work done through this Authority? Whether Central Electricity authority has been proved unsuccessful and ineffective in the field of power? In this regard, the letter received from the National Confederation of Officers Association of the Central Public Sector Undertakings has also pointed out-

[English]

"We confirm that the conditions relating to commercial and investment policies would be met. As regards the MOU, between NTPC and NHPC on the transfer of assets, an Ordinance is to be issued in order to effect the transfer in such a way as not to attract stamp duty. The ordinance has been drafted and would be issued shortly."

[Translation]

A mention has been made with regard stamp duty. It involves stamp duty worth

crores of rupees. I would like to ask what would happen to it and how much loss we would have to suffer? A Financial Memorandum has been attached to the Bill. No reference has been made therein about this loss etc.

[English]

“On such a vital matter, Parliament cannot be used as a mere rubber stamp just to approve fait accompli based on party whips. We demand that the entire issue of electrical power industry should be seriously deliberated upon. Therefore, we demand that the Bill should be referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee/ Select Committee for further consideration.”

[Translation]

At the outset disapproving the Ordinance Shri Nitish Kumar as well as other hon.. Members have expressed their view that it is a matter of misleading the country and a betrayal with the country. This step will lower the dignity of the nation. There was no need to set up such a power gridstation. the present set up was doing well. As I told yesterday that the Government of Tamil Nadu has totally refused to cooperate with the Central Government in this matter. Have you obtained consent from all the Electricity Board? The set up which you are going to create, should be made clear.

I would like to request that the Government should bring forward a comprehensive Bill and withdraw the present Bill. I request the Government to clarify all the aspects otherwise refer this Bill to the Joint Select Committee for consideration.

With these words I conclude expressing my dissent on Bill and support the motion seeking disapproval of the Bill.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I call Prof. K.V. Thomas to speak. The time at our disposal is very limited. The time which was

allotted was two hours. We have already taken an hour and thirty minutes. Hardly 30 minutes are there at our disposal.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Eranakulam): Much time has been taken for raising points of order. (Interruptions)

Sir, at the outset, I support this Bill. At the time of introduction of this Bill as well as during the course of the short time of discussion, one of the objections raised by our hon. Friends on the other side is that Government is bringing this legislation as per the direction of the World bank or the IMF. Almost all the major power corporations whether they are hydro-electric power/generation centres or thermal power producing stations, they are financed either by the World Bank or by the former Soviet union or by the former Soviet Union or by the financial consortia in Japan. Therefore, the World Bank, the former USSR and the financial consortia in Japan have put their conditions when this financial assistance has been given. I still remember the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal has written to the Power Ministry to get financial assistance is not possible from the former USSR. So, it is quite natural that as we cannot raise funds from within the country, we have to go abroad to get financial assistance.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACARAYA (Jadavpur): This is not natural. This is a constraint put on the State.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: I am telling you what is the actual position. For almost all the major power producing centres, we are getting financial assistance from the World Bank or the USSR or the financial consortia in Japan. West Bengal is also doing the same. You are also approaching the Government of India to get the finance from Japan. It is quite natural that when they are giving finance, they will put some conditions. The only question is whether those conditions can be acceptable by us or not. If they can be acceptable, we get it. I am sure this is not applicable only to India. China is after the World Bank to get the financial assistance.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Their economy and our economy are quite different.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: For you the China's economy is different but not for us. It is quite natural in our country that we are giving the first priority to power. In today's discussion also, the priority is given to power. So, to start new power generation centres and for the efficient distribution of power that has been produced, we want the financial assistance. India is one of the countries where power loss during transmission is to the tune of 18-22 per cent. But in many of the developed countries it is just 5-6 per cent. The aim of this National Power Grid is to have a power distribution system which is more effective.

I am coming from a State Kerala where we are in a power crisis. We are just getting about 200 megawatt of electricity from the Central Power Grid even though the allotment is 300 megawatt. The reason is, there is no effective distribution system. It is with this aim in mind, the Government of India has brought this Bill. This Bill is just a Bill to replace the ordinance which was promulgated on 8.1.93. There was an ordinance and we should not pass this Bill in the last session. So, this is brought in this session and the only aim is to rejuvenate and strengthen our transmission system.

There is a long story about how our energy system has been strengthened. Power is not in the Central List, it is in the Concurrent List. So, the State electricity boards as well as the central generating companies are producing and distributing power. India being a very big country, the scientific, economic and efficient generation and distribution of power to all the parts of the country is a herculean task. We want huge investment. We cannot raise that money in the country. That is why, we are going either to Japan or we had gone earlier to USSR and we have gone to the World Bank to get the money.

In my State Kerala, there is one prestigious project, the Kayamkulam Thermal Power Plant. We are eagerly after it. It was

first the USSR which agreed that it would give the necessary financial assistance. But that USSR is no more. Now Japanese consortiums have suggested that they will give the necessary finance through consortiums. But day before yesterday when we read some news item in the newspaper, we wanted to get some clarification. I had raised this point. We want to know whether we are going to get financial assistance from the Japanese consortium. Why has the Kerala given such an importance to this project? Kerala's consumption of electricity during the current peak hour is 1,500 megawatt. The installed power generation capacity of Kerala is 1,476 megawatt. The actual production is 1,100 megawatts. Even though our central allotment is 300 megawatt, we are getting only 200 megawatts because of the poor transmission system. (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): We are getting from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. But recently one month back we got a good transmission system through the Malabar side in Karnataka. This is one of the reasons that we are producing the electricity in bulk. That cannot be properly transmitted to the different parts of the country. That is one reason for this transmission losses. (Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU: It is not the high tension lines. Distribution system is done through the low tension lines.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: If there is a proper high tension line, then only you can distribute it. That is one of the reasons why we could not distribute it. My request to the Government is whatever may be the way out, if the conditions of the World Bank are not going to hamper the dignity of the country, we can get the amount from the World Bank. We can get it from Japan. USSR was an old friend. Had we got it from them, we would have been much more happier. If we could get it from the USSR the financial assistance, we would have been much more happier. But you know what is the position of USSR. The Government must go ahead

with all the projects. Even if China can give us assistance, we will be happy to get it. But we have to get finance so that all our major power generating centres well as power distribution system can be revived.

Coming to Kerala, I have got just two points to mention. The Pooyamkutti Hydro-electric Power Project proposal is already before you. This was submitted to the Government in the year 1981 and the Central Electricity board approved it in the year 1986. And till date, it has not been moved. What is the reason? I request the Government to take a speedy action on this.

Sir, all the southern States- Goa, Karnataka, TamilNadu and Kerala- have requested for a Southern Gas Grid. If a Southern Gas Grid is there, whatever gas that is burnt away in Bombay, can be taken to the Southern States and it will be useful to us.

So, my request to the Government is that these points should be considered and you should find the resources either from inside or abroad, so that our power generating centres can work very well.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Anil Basu to speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, no member from my party has been given an opportunity to express his views on this issue so far. We have brought forward this statutory Resolution as a Private Member's Bill.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): I think Shri Nitish Kumar has raised a correct point. We discussed it with the Speaker also that initially, in the first round, the speaker should be called from the first big opposition, then the second big opposition and then the third big opposition and so, on. After that, in the second round, it can be one from the opposition and the

other can be from the treasury benches. Again, in the final round, when once again major speakers are fielded, the first one should be from the major opposition party, then second major opposition party and then, third major opposition party and so on.

Now, from any point of view, it behoves that Janata Dal Member should be called to speak. What I mean is that there is validity in the point that has been raised.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have been under the impression that he has initiated the debate. Let Shri Anil basu complete.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Sir, from our very childhood, we are taught to be patriots. Now, sitting in this House, the seat of Supreme democracy of our country, I find that the word patriotism has no meaning in the power corridors of the power Ministry. Love and lust for dollar is prevailing upon patriotism.

Sir, this Bill transferring the affairs of NTPC, NHPC and NEEPC to the newly created Power Grid Corporation has far-reaching consequences on the future of the Power industry of our country. Where from this concept came?

Sir, nowhere in the world, except in New Zealand, this type of Corporation exists. Nowhere in the world, there is a National Power Grid Corporation except in New Zealand, where there is a National Power Grid Corporation. It is not in the U.K., even not in America, not in the European countries, not in Japan or South Asian countries. The only country which has a national Power Grid is New Zealand. And we are the second country, who are going to have it through this proposed legislation. The information which we received from various corners reveals that there is a New Zealander in the World Bank at Washington, who is a key man in the power department of the World Bank in Wasington. And this Bill is a brainchild of that man.

In the Indian Parliament we are discussing the Bill; but the contents come from

[Sh. Anil Basu]

Washington, from the Power Department of the World Bank headed by the New Zealander.

It is crystal clear from the letter of the Power Secretary to World Bank to which Shri George Fernandes referred that we are going to surrender the sovereignty of our country in the power sector to the World Bank. We have accepted all the conditionalities of the World Bank. From the letter of the Power Secretary, D.O. No. 10/1/4/91 PLA dated October 7, 1992 which he wrote to Mr. Virgin, he said that we confirm that the condition relating to commercial and investment policies would be met. As regards Memorandum of Understanding between NPTC- it is now named as National Power Grid Corporation- on the transfer of assets an ordinance is to be issued in order to effect the transfer in such a manner as not to attract stamp duty. The ordinance has been drafted and would be issued very shortly. That ordinance was promulgated and this Bill is before the House now to give a rubber stamp on the proposed legislation by the World Bank.

I think the Finance Minister is competent enough in this regard.

SHRI N.K.P. Salve: Am I incompetent?

SHRI ANIL BASU: I am not questioning your competence.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: You are the Minister for Power; but he is a powerful Minister!

SHRI ANIL BASU: These three letters- the letter of Mr. Vasudeva on October 7, 1992, the letter of Mr. Heinz Virgin of December 8 1992 and the letter of Mr. Vasudeva of January 12, 1993- and the FAX message from Mr. Jean Francois Bawar from India- Energy Operation Division of the world Bank to the Joint Secretary, Fi-

nance, Mr. N.K. Singh, reveal that we are going to surrender our whole power sector in the interest of the foreign multinational companies.

14.58 hrs

[SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG in the Chair]

The other day during the supplementary to a question I asked categorically that in today's world the scenario in the power sector is very bleak and the manufacturers in the world power industry are facing recession. They want to sell their equipment; they want to export the technology. There is a recession going on. The world Bank as an agency of the international, multi-national and transactional companies is also interested to help the international companies. India being a potential customer, we need to improve our generation capacity. We do not have funds and we are not opposed to that. We can take loan from the World Bank, I do not object to that. But surrendering the interests of the country, surrendering the sovereignty of the country in order that the loan is taken, and if any action is taken detrimental to the interests of the country, then we rise to oppose it with all the force at our command.

15.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Anil Basu, Now, the time is 3 o'clock. We have to take up the Private Members' Business. So, you may continue next time.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Yes. Thank you.

15.00 hours

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House shall take up the Private Member's Business. There is a motion in the name of Shri Shyam Bihari Misra. Shri Shyam Bihari Misra

15.01 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS SIXTEENTH
REPORT

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAMBIHARI MISRA (Bilhaur): I beg to move that this House do agree with the Sixteenth Report of the Committee on Private Members Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 11th March, 1993.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the sixteenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 11th March, 1993".

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are Bills for introduction. Shri D Venkateswara Rao—Not present. Shri Chitta Basu.

15.02 hrs

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of Preamble, etc.)

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of

India".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I introduce the Bill,

15.021/2 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Insertion off New Articles 75 A and
164 A)

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I introduce the Bill,

15.03 hrs

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Insertion of New Article 156 A)

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"The leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I introduce the Bill.

Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and for matter connected therewith and incidental thereto.

[English]

15.03 1/2 hrs

**EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUNDS
AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
(AMENDMENT) BILLS***

(Insertion of New Section 13A)

[English]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR
(Barrackpore): I beg to move for leave to
introduce a Bill further to amend the Employ-
ees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous
Provisions Act, 1952.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a
Bill further to amend the Employees'
Provident Funds and Miscellaneous
Provisions Act, 1952."

The motion was adopted

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: I intro-
duce the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a
Bill to provide for the prevention and
control of the spread of Human Immune
Deficiency virus (HIV) infection and to
provide for specialised medical treat-
ment and social support to, and reha-
bilitation of, persons suffering from
Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
(AIDS) and for matters connected there-
with and incidental thereto".

The motion was adopted

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:
I introduce the Bill.

Shri Bhogendera Jha - Not present.

Shri Vishweshwar Bhagat - Not present.

Shri D venkateswara Rao - Not present.

15.04 hrs

**ACQUIRED IMMUNO-DEFICIENCY
SYNDROME (AIDS) PREVENTION BILL***

15.04 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH
(Jahanabad): I beg to move for leave to
introduce a Bill to provide for the prevention
and control of the spread of Human Immuno
Deficiency Virus (HIV) infection and to
provide for specialised medical treatment
and social support to, and rehabilitation of,
persons suffering from Acquired Immuno

15.05 hrs.

**MOTOR VEHICLES (AMENDMENT)
BILL***

(Amendment of Section 80, etc)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now
take up Item No. 11 Shri P.C. Thomas.

SHRI P C THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): I
beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to
amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"The leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988".

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): Sir, I would just like to mention this here. I would like to request the hon. member to withdraw his Bill because I am bringing the amendment which the hon. Member is wanting. So, I would request him to withdraw it. (*Interruptions*) I have said already.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): If his amendments are incorporated in the Bill, then, certainly he would withdraw.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, in view of the statement of the Minister, I do not press for introduction of this Bill. Of course, if the Government has felt the need for this Bill and if the Government is bringing forward this Bill, I feel that would be better. But I may just be given two minutes' time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, No.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: I am giving him an assurance that this will be incorporated.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: I am happy that the Minister has accepted that this Bill has to be brought forward, and that the Government has already taken steps to bring out this Bill. I am also happy that the Bill will be introduced. But I will not press for the introduction of this Bill provided it is introduced in this session itself.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you pressing for the introduction?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: On the understanding that it will be introduced in this

session itself, I do not press it. I seek leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: has the Hon. member leave of the House to withdraw the motion to introduce Bill to amend the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

15.07 hrs

PAYMENT OF GRATUITY (AMENDMENT) BILL

(Amendment of section 1. etc.)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: item No. 12, Shri Sharad Dighe.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): Sir, I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: I withdraw the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up further consideration of the motion moved by Shri Basudeb Acharia - Railway Protection Force Act, 1957. Last time, Shri Sriballav Panigrahi was on his feet.

He may continue.

15. 08 hrs

adjourned to the next day allotted for
Private Members' Bills."

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGARHI
(Deogarh): Sir, last time I was speaking on
this Bill.

The motion was adopted.

RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE
(AMENDMENT) BILL

15.10 hrs.

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS (MINIMUM
WAGES AND WELFARE BILL)

(Substitution of new Long Title for
Long Title, etc.)

[Translation]

MOTION RE: ADJOURNMENT OF
DEBATE

SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH
(Baruch): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move*

[English]

"that the Bill to provide for the payment
of minimum wages and for welfare of
agricultural workers be taken into con-
sideration."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DE-
VELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH
AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER
OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIA-
MENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL
BALKRISHNA WASNIK): Sir, I want to
make a submission that the discussion go-
ing on this Railway protection Force (Amend-
ment) Bill, moved by hon. member, Shri
Basudeb Acharia, may be deferred for some
other date because the hon. Minister has
been holding some discussion. I, therefore,
beg to move:

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the most backward
and most distressed person of the country
who feeds millions of his fellow countrymen
by growing crops with his hard labour and
leads a life of misery is known as agricultural
worker. I have brought forward this Bill in the
House so as to do his welfare and share his
sufferings.

The agricultural labourers and their
entire families are burdened with debt
throughout their life. Agricultural workers
reel under debt throughout their life and die
in the same condition. Their entire life is full
of sufferings and wants. The labourers
who grow crops and feed millions of people
themselves starve.

"That the debate on the Railway Protec-
tion Force (Amendment) Bill, 1991 (Sub-
stitution of new long Title for long Title,
etc.) by Shri Basudeb Acharia be ad-
journed to the next day allotted for
Private members' Bills."

Even after so many years of indepen-
dence, their condition has not improved at
all. These agricultural workers reel under
illiteracy, indebtedness and poverty and their
problem remains unresolved still.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the debate on the Railway Protec-
tion Force (Amendment) Bill, 1991 (Sub-
stitution of new Long Title for Long
Title, etc.) by Shri Basudeb Acharia be

Their number was 3 core in 1961 which
increased to 4 crore and 75 lakh in 1971 and
5 crore and 40 lakh in 1981. Their number

is continuously increasing and has reached 7 crore today.

The land holdings of the country are being divided continuously. Every fragment of land is turning uneconomic from economic. These small fragments of land have ceased to provide work or bread to farmers throughout the year.

Farmers grow some crops during rainy season on lands which are not irrigated and thus they get foodgrains of very less quantity. They get work for 90 to 120 days only a year. They have to run from pillar to post for employment.

Out of 365 days in a year an agricultural labourer gets work for 243 days in Uttar Pradesh, 165 days in Bihar, 188 days in West Bengal, 150 days in Tamil Nadu, 145 days in Maharashtra, 181 days in Madhya Pradesh, 131 days in Rajasthan, 270 days in Punjab, 127 days in Orissa and Karnataka and 144 days in Andhra Pradesh. They remain jobless for the rest of the year and wander from place to place. In Madhya Pradesh alone there are 50 lakh agricultural labourers. Their number is more than 32 lakh in Gujarat.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government has enacted many laws for the factory workers and they are being implemented to a great extent, because these workers are organised. They have their own organisations and unions. Labour courts have been set up where their grievances are entertained and justice is done. But the agriculture labourers have no such organisation.

15.14 hrs.

(SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the work performed in fields is more labourious than the work done in factories. Agricultural workers have to struggle with soil under scorching sunlight, rains and cold while working in fields. They are compelled to work under the scorch-

ing sunlight, rains and smogs. They do not get proper facilities like clean drinking water, shaded work sites, fixed working hours and leisure at suitable intervals during work. They should be provided cassocks and masks while spraying pesticides and the provision of such facilities should be compulsory legally.

Different States have fixed different wages for agricultural labourers. The rate of daily wages per day in Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Goa, is Rs. 12 in Gujarat and Bihar Rs. 15, Rs. 14 in Tamilnadu, Rs. 25, in Assam, Rs. 35 in Haryana and Punjab. The Ministry of Labour in the Government of India has fixed daily wages at the rate of 15 in 1989 for an agricultural labourer.

People of America are given food packets and various facilities are provided to them old age. But what have we done in our country? In our country a person killed in air cash is paid a compensation of Rs. 4 to 5 lakh, if one is killed in train accident amount of compensation is Rs. 50 thousand to one lakh and the compensation for a communal riot victim is upto Rs. 2 lakh. But no such compensation is paid to agricultural workers. They have to go their fields even in hard times at night, midnight. Sometimes they die of snake-bite in fields and barns, but no compensation is paid on their death. No guarantee is given for their public and private security. In spite of hard work, the agricultural labourers get nothing. On the contrary, they are exploited.

In order to solve this problem, I have introduced this Bill. They should be given Rs. 30 as minimum daily wages and this amount should be increased with the rise in prices. Some arrangements should be made to enable them to get pension or some other compensation for future. The Government of India should make arrangements for their education and an Advisory Committee should be appointed for them. Though there are several laws for them, but they remain confined to papers only. A separate machinery or department should be set up for their implementation.

[Sh. Chandubhai Deshmubhai]

Finally, I would like to say:

"Jo jag ko anna pradan kare,

Jag usko hee thukrata hai,

Uskee haddi ko noch noch,

Jag Vaibhav-bhavan banata hai.

Wah chamon Ko mastak rakhta,

Jag thukrakarr itrata hai.

Uske cheeth or on mein ag laga,

Jag hansta hai muskarata hai".

With these words I conclude and hope that the Government will accept this Bill. With this submission I seek permission to take my seat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"that the Bill to provide for the payment of minimum wages and for welfare of the agricultural workers, be taken into consideration."

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Mr. Chairman Sir, I congratulate Shri Deshmukh for bringing this Bill as a Private member's Bill before this House. I support the provisions contained in this draft.

As you know, agricultural labour is the biggest workforce in rural India. Since Independence, the Government is talking of giving priority to agriculture because agriculture is one of the most important aspects of our economy. But the policy of the Congress Government, from the very beginning, is only to help those sections of the rural population who are landlords and big land-holders as also rich peasants. This is the class attitude of this Government. As

the landlords are the backbone of the Party in rural India, those very landlords who were the supporters of foreign rule in India and who were the betrayers of our Freedom Struggle, suddenly became patriots after Independence. To keep their hold on land, they conceal their ownership. Though the government has passed some land laws to bring about land reforms, these are followed more in breach than in practice. Because of the loopholes in these land reform laws, landlords and big land holders in a position to keep their hold on land and a major part of the agricultural land is still owned by them. Just 5 per cent of the upper strata in rural India own 40 per cent of the land in our country. On the other hand, nearly 70 per cent of small land holders possess only 20 per cent of land. so, this is the real situation.

This Government talks of land reforms. But it is only a lip service. They do not have the necessary political will to execute the laws relating to land reforms properly. As a result, poverty in rural India is increasing and it is manifested in the large number of people in the country living below the poverty line. About 50 per cent of our people live below poverty line. And, out of this 50 per cent population large percentage of rural poor are agricultural labour. We do not have any proper law for them. Some State laws are there but there is no Central legislation with regard to the minimum wages of the agricultural labour. Except in some parts of the country, where green revolution has taken place and the areas which have good irrigation facilities, the agricultural labour are paid a very paltry sum which is not sufficient for their survival. These people are very agitated.

Ever since Independence, all the peasant Organisations, agricultural labour organisations and trade unions are continuously demanding for a Central Legislation on minimum wages. Only in the State of Kerala a full fledged Act was passed to its effect and it was implemented also. The agricultural labour all over the country are demanding that based on the pattern of an Act passed in Kerala Assembly a Central Act should be passed in which provision should

be made for the minimum wages, provident fund, medical pension, insurance and other such facilities. Such Central law is very necessary. But the Congress Government has refused to pass a law in this regard. It is passing the buck to the State Government by saying that it is responsibility of State Governments as it is a State subject.

During Janata Dal regime, a proposal was mooted in this regard and a meeting was organised by the then Government in which all agricultural labour organisations, trade unions had long deliberations. They unanimously recommended that a Central legislation should be passed. They even prepared a draft which was discussed also. But the Congress Government which came after the National Front Government is sitting over it. Since there is no fixed minimum wages for the labour class, these people are migrating from their native places and are going to Punjab where they fell victims to the bullets of the extremists for no fault of theirs.

You will be surprised to know that even the State Laws are not implemented properly. The law enforcing machinery is not there to see that they are properly implemented.

But such laws, in most part of the country, are violated. In West Bengal, law regarding minimum wages is there. That is implemented properly. It is because the Government has a will. They see to it that the agricultural labour gets the minimum wage. It is not only the will of the Government but also because of the movement of peasants. Wherever there is any violation, they organise movement. All the peasantries and agricultural labour force the land owners to pay a minimum wage. So, it is a combination of law and proper implementation of the law by the Government. In other words, on the one hand, it is the law enforcement authority and on the other hand, the strong movement of agricultural labourers and the peasantries that make it possible to enable the agricultural labour to get minimum wages. But, in most part of the country, the agricultural labour is not

properly organised because of which, the big land owners are taking advantage of the situation. In that situation, it is the responsibility of the Government to see that these vulnerable sections get proper attention and are not deprived. They should also not be exploited. I would mention here that it is the agricultural labour which is being exploited most in the country.

You will be surprised to know this. The Government is talking of providing employment under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. It was a very widely propagated programme for the proper sections. Do you know how was it implemented? It was a solemn declaration that at least each agricultural labourer will get a job for 100 days in a year but my information is that only one agricultural labourer, out of the many, got a job for 15 days in a year under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Eighty five days were lost. In this year's Budget also, they are talking about this. They said that they have increased the provision. But why the guarantee which was given in the last four or five years had not been implemented? You know, when this scheme was introduced, the then Prime Minister had himself said that out of Centrally attracted money Rs. 100 proposing for a particular individual, only Rs. 15 or Rs. 16 will reach him. There is also a problem in this scheme viz. component expenditure and so on will be there. They are anomalies. Because of these anomalies, in most part of the country, that programme is not being properly implemented. In many parts of the country, the programme is being implemented by the contractors. They also take a large chunk of money and it does not percolate to the agricultural labour. So, out of 100 days that was promised by the Government, he got only 15 days employment so far under Jawahar Razgar Yojana. So the prospects of creation of jobs under Jawahar Razgar Yojana is not very bright in rural India. It is because, it is not being properly implemented. So, if we want to sincerely remove poverty from rural India, then we will have to first see that these agricultural labourers and the poor peasants get land. And all the lands that are illegally occupied by the big land owners

[Sh. Hannan Mollah]

should be taken over by the Government without any compensation and they should be distributed among the landless labourers and poor peasants.

Secondly, Sir, waste land should be developed. There also, the agricultural labourers should be given land. You know a large number of agricultural labourers have no homes. They have no place to live. Some land should also be ensured to them so that a larger section of our country can avail of their benefits. Actually, they are the back-bone of our country. We are now taking credit-sometimes because of Nature and sometimes because of hard labour of the agricultural labourers- that our production is going up. Because of absence of any law or non-implementation of whatever law that is there, the agricultural labourers are not getting minimum wages all over the country.

So, because of that, the Minimum Wages Act for the agricultural labour is essential. May be the Minister of Agriculture is personally sympathetic towards the agricultural labour. Whenever I go to him and talk, he also agrees that those poor sections of the people should get their dues. But by saying so will not solve the problem. The Government should come forward with a comprehensive legislation on the lines of Kerala Agricultural Labour Minimum Wages Act; that is the only Act in the country which has taken of all the aspects of the life of the agricultural labour.

On that pattern, the Tripura Government has also passed a law; and accordingly, they have framed certain rules; but, that law is not still implemented in Tripura. We request the Government to take Kerala Law as a model and on that pattern a national legislation should be brought.

There are problems of land; there are problems of a home there are problems of minimum ages; there are problems of pension; there are problems of insurance cover. All over the country, LIC has a

scheme of insurance. But nobody knows about it. They are unorganised people. If some money is sanctioned for them, brokers take advantage of it and take away half of their money. If those schemes are properly propagated and implemented, certainly benefits of those schemes would reach them.

Whether it is a question of insurance, whether it is a question of provident fund, whether it is a question of other facilities like housing, medical facilities. None of all these are provided to them. There are no medical facilities for them. If there is any discussion by which they are suffering from, they have no alternative but to die. Where will they get treatment from? And you know the conditions of our rural hospitals and health centres. That these points should be incorporated in a comprehensive Agricultural Labour Law, which is necessary for them.

Centre in provisions are being made here. And Mr. Chitta Basu has introduced another Bill on the pattern of Kerala Bill; that is a comprehensive Bill in which all aspects of the agricultural labour's life have been incorporated in a national perspective. If on those lines, if on the basis of the discussion among all the organisations during the National Front Government's regime a draft Bill is prepared and placed before the Parliament, then this assurance of the Government will be taken seriously by the people. Otherwise, these vulnerable sections will continue to live in inhuman conditions; and you know, because of their unorganised nature, they are forced to work under oppressed conditions.

A majority of the agricultural labour are SC & ST; at least 90 per cent of the agricultural labour are SC & ST. Our caste system in our society is such that most of the so-called lower castes belong to the agricultural labour. So, they are oppressed economically, socially and culturally. They have no life; they live like animals; they have no opportunities to live like human beings. In that situation, a comprehensive Bill should be brought so that a larger section of the masses, the oppressed sec-

tion of our Indian population can survive; they can live a human life; then only our Indian society will flourish. Their purchasing power will help our economy to flourish. When crores of those people will have the purchasing power, only then our domestic market expand.

Then our industry also in that way can be developed compensated. I, therefore, request the hon. Members to bring a comprehensive legislation, keeping the Act of Kerala as a model and if you bring such a lay in this Session that will be the best service to the poorest sections of the country.

The Finance Minister and the Labour Minister are here, I have request for them because they have love for the poor people and we hope that this Government will bring a comprehensive Bill. With these words I support the Bill and I congratulate the hon. Member for bringing this bill.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset I am congratulating the hon. Member, who moved this Private Members' Bill.

Sir, our country is an agricultural country. This is our prime sector. Agriculture is the main occupation of the people of our country but unfortunately the problems of the workers working in the paddy fields are always neglected. The vulnerable section of the society, who is producing food for the nation, for our people, its problems were not at all attended to, its issues were sidelined and its welfare measures were completely dropped.

Sir, in certain States, for example as Shri Hannan Mollah has rightly pointed out, in the State of Kerala the Congress Government initiated this process. When Shri R. Shanker was the Chief Minister and P.T. Chacko was the Minister for Revenue, that was the first time we enacted the popular land reforms Act. That land reforms Act has definitely given a boost to the agrarian society in the State of Kerala. That is a land mark in the Indian history.

The situation which was prevailing in the society was changed. A sense of security was generated among the common and poor people of the State and the entire thinking of the society was changed by the land reforms Act. After that lot of discussions were held, lot of workers' movements were started for a common law for the agricultural labourers.

In 1977 the former Member of Parliament and former Speaker of Kerala Assembly Shri Vakkon Purushothaman, then Agriculture Minister moved one Bill and it was passed. That was the Agricultural Labourers Act in Kerala. It is a model, definitely it is a model and this Act is giving security to the agricultural labourers. Now the pension scheme is also there in Kerala. Those agricultural labourers who cannot work in the paddy fields and who are over 60 years of age will get pension. There is no need for them even to go to the offices to get their pension. Every year now it is increasing. In the last budget also the Government of Kerala has increased it. So, my point is, the vulnerable sections of the society, which were oppressed and suppressed, for years and years are given ample opportunity to come up and develop. The Government of Kerala, by enacting this Agricultural Workers' Bill and the Pension Scheme and by giving other assistance, have helped them. Now their situation is definitely improving.

In the State of Kerala there are two areas, one is Kuttanad and the other Palakkad which can be called the granaries of Kerala. We have to study the problems of the agricultural workers. They are quite different from the other sections of workers. This is a seasonal occupation. In some areas when we are sowing paddy they will be harvesting in the other areas. Thus, it is a seasonal work. The workers who are engaged in the seasonal work should get all the assistance from the Government. So, welfare measures are necessary and one of the most important points is the time of the work. Earlier they were working in the paddy fields for hours and hours, for 12 hours or 15 hours. But now a specific time

[Sh. Ramesh Chennithala]

limit is fixed. Beyond that time limit nobody will be allowed to work.

And, what about minimum wages? Earlier, wages were given to the agricultural labourers in kind. They used to be given some quantum of the paddy which they were producing. They were not paid wages. They were only given a portion of the produce, that means, paddy. In some areas they used to get more and in some areas less. So, the landlords were exploiting the poor workers and they were not paying proper attention to the welfare measures. So, for years and years this exploitation was going on, this oppression was going on. Then the workers in the agricultural sector united and fought for minimum wages.

Ultimately, as I said, this Act came into existence. They are getting the benefit of all these welfare measures. So, considering that as a model bill, my request to the hon. Labour Minister is to think of welfare measures. Definitely, the situation in Kerala is not like that in the other parts of the country. There will be different situations, different climatic conditions or different types of occupation. There will be differences. But it is high time that we thought about the welfare measures.

Now we can say that we are giving some allocation for them. The Finance Minister is here. I am congratulating him for giving more allocation for the agrarian sector. For example the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana scheme is very good. But in reality what is happening? No worker is getting a job. The contractors are in the field. They are engaging their own workers. They are building roads. They are creating permanent assets in the agrarian sector. The poor people, the vulnerable sections of the society, oppressed and depressed are not getting the chance; the unemployed youths are not getting the chance. When NREP and RLEGP were there that lacuna was there. Now, these two schemes are put together and that is J.R.Y. But the fact is that neither the unemployed youth nor the agricultural

labourers in the agrarian sector are getting the employment opportunities and they are not getting the jobs. So, we have to think very seriously about this matter. The poor people are suffering a lot due to the insurance scheme and other welfare measures. Most of the people are Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes or from backward communities due to their backwardness. So, we have to give a specific attention to these problems.

I do not want to take much of the time of the House. I would humbly request to the hon. Labour Minister for attending this problem and a comprehensive Bill should be brought before the House so that these problems can be settled. We should be able to give welfare measures to the poor people who are working in the agricultural sector.

15.45 hrs

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Before I call the next speaker, I will allow the Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to move a small procedural Motion with respect to Shri Basudeb Acharia's Bill which has been postponed.

MOTION RE SUSPENSION OF DEBATE ON RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1991 (SUBSTITUTION OF NEW LONG TITLE FOR LONG TITLE, ETC. BY SHRI BARUDEV ACHARIA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENT AFFAIRS (SHRI BALKRISHNA WASNIK): Sir, I beg to move:

"That provisions of sub-rule (1) of rule 30 and the proviso to rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure and conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in

their application to the debate on the Railway Protection Force (Amendment) Bill, 1991 (substitution of new long Title for Long Title, etc.) by Shri Basudeb Acharia which has been adjourned today to the next day allotted for Private Members' Bills to be suspended to enable without Ballot as the first item therein."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That provisions of sub-rule (1) of rule 30 and the proviso to rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in their application to the debate on the Railway Protection Force (Amendment) Bill, 1991 (substitution of new long Title for Long Title, etc.) by Shri Basudeb Acharia which has been adjourned today to the next day allotted for Private Members' Bills be suspended to enable the Bill to be set down in the List of Business without Ballot as the first item therein."

The Motion was adopted.

15.47 hrs.

AGRICULTURAL WORKS (MINIMUM WAGES AND WELFARE)

Bill by Shri Chandubhai Deshmukh-
CONTD.

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would first like to facilities Shri Chandubhai Deshmukh for introducing this Bill which we are discussing today and extend my support to the Bill in principle.

Most of the agricultural labourers whom we call *Khet mazdoors* most of them are landless and if some of them do possess a small piece of land that is not adequate to provide them with the livelihood. In fact, for most of the year they work on somebody

else's land; for most part of the year they are jobless; they are under employed and unemployed. For most part of the year the *khet mazdoors* live below the poverty line and belong to the lowest strata of our society. Most of them are Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They are the real proletariat of our country. In fact, many of them live most or part of their life virtually in bondage. They are truly speaking the *dridra narain* of whom Gandhiji spoke and for whom and in whose interest Gandhiji provided us with a *mantra* which all Prime Ministers and Finance Ministers ought to follow when they are doing anything for the welfare of the people. These *khet mazdoors* are the nameless and faceless Indians who are still asking us a question what has Independence brought for them. And that was Gandhiji's *lalishman* charisma, as you recall he said that whenever the administration is faced with a dilemma- an honest dilemma, not a motivated dilemma - whether what they are going to decide or what they are going to do for the country is really going to be useful? Will it stand the test of history and the test of time? This Gandhiji advised Nehru at that time and that advice should be borne in mind by all Ministers even today that ask yourselves a question whether what I am going to do is going to bring a ray of light and a ray of hope to these nameless and faceless Indians....(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh) : Mr. Chairman, I would like to bring to the notice of the House that I have just received a report of a serious bomb explosion in Bombay in Air India building and the Stock Exchange building, and more than a dozen people have already been killed and a hostile crowd has surrounded those buildings and those areas. I think this is something very serious and before the House adjourns today, I shall be grateful if you could ask the Home Minister to make a statement and apprise the House with the latest situation because the House would like to know in what situation this has happened and what is the latest situation there. This is what my request is. Kindly convey it to the Government and ask the Home Minister to make a statement before

[Sh. Chandra Jeet Yadav]

the House rises today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, please take note of it.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: But something should stand up and say that he will go and bring it to the notice of the Government. It is a serious matter, not just listen and just do not respond to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, make an enquiry please.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Sir, I shall inform the hon. Home Minister that such an issue has been raised in the House and I shall convey to him the feelings of the hon. Member.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: So, Sir, these agricultural workers who are the real proletariat of the country, who are the *didra narin* in Gandhiji's words, who are the faceless and nameless Indians, for whom the Government machinery should function and should perform, they are still the silent spectators of our glorious march towards development, towards utopia. They constitute a question mark before the nation. As a poet put it.

• "Wah eik shakhsa jo bajahir
khamosh tha
Liya huwe thaa hazarron sawal
chehre par".

He is a question personified. He does not have the political strength to ask us the question, to free put us those questions, on us to demand a reply, to agitate, to struggle for a better life. He is still underfed, the *shoshit*, the *dalit*, the oppressed, the exploited element of our society, for whom nobody speaks.

The Kerala Government deserves our felicitations that they brought him out of obscurity and he has now become a subject matter of the Bill presented by Mr. Deshmukh. I also join in expressing the

hope that the Central Government shall apply its mind to this question of welfare of the agricultural workers and come up with a more comprehensive Bill before the House. But today we are thankful to Mr. Deshmukh for giving us this opportunity for discussing this problem.

This Bill is to regulate the employment of agricultural workers and to provide certain benefits to them, including provident fund and pension. We fully agree with the object of this Bill. But I must say that the machinery that is envisaged in the Bill in clause 3, appears to be rather cumbersome. If every agricultural worker were to run to a government office to obtain an employment card or an employment quota, that would virtually make it impossible for him to function. From bondage to the local bosses. We would go into bondage under the bureaucrats. He would fall into the bureaucrats' net. I think we need a more decentralised system for regulating the employment of the agricultural workers at the village level. What he needs basically is an identity card and a system where a part of his daily remuneration can be contributed towards the provident fund or pension scheme and to which he becomes entitled when he advances in age and is no longer in a position to earn his livelihood so that he can then depend upon his provident fund and his pension. Therefore, this concept of authority, in my view, needs to be decentralised and procedure simplified so that the entire system like our minimum wages system, does not become another Inspector *raj*. Also, an authority of this nature cannot really do justice to the migratory labour who go from one State to another. Therefore, I would suggest to Mr. Deshmukh to work out some scheme which would be simpler and to which the illiterate *khet mazdoor* can easily take recourse to.

The second point that I would like to make here is the concept of the minimum wages. We have a Minimum Wages Act. Every State is supposed to prescribe a minimum wage and to revise it periodically. Of course, the revision is not done as

periodically as it ought to be done. But what is needed now is a national minimum wage in order to bring this private wage system in level with the official salary system. I think a national minimum wage can be envisaged and can be conceptualised in terms of what the Finance Commission has recommended for Group 'D' employees as the scale of pay. Take the minimum of the scale. That is what I would suggest to the hon. Labour Minister. Take the minimum of the scale that is prescribed by the Finance Commission for a Group 'D' or a Class-IV job. Add to it the various benefits that you have and you come roughly with a figure of something like Rs. 1,500 per month. That Rs. 1,500 per month would mean a Rs. 50 per day. That minimum wage is, I believe, the minimum that is required for a family today to keep its body and soul together. Therefore, I would plead that instead of laying down a specific figure in the Bill, as Mr. Deshmukh has done in clause 6 of the Bill, we ought to substitute that by this concept that the daily wage should be at least equal to the minimum daily equivalent of the total emoluments paid to the lowest-grade government employee. That will have a double advantage. It will not only free the State from the responsibility of revising the minimum wages from year to year or from place to place, it would also have a tremendous impact on the social situation in our agricultural milieu. You are aware, Sir, of the traditional rivalry or the traditional conflicts of interests between the *kisan* and the *khet mazdoor*. That controversy and that conflict must be resolved in mutual interest....(Interruptions). I am talking of the *zamindar*, the mair who holds *zamin* attracts his own land.

As you know, Sir, we have been pursuing this question of a remunerative price for agricultural produce for many many years.

15.59 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MAILINI BHATTACHARAYA
in the Chair]

These few concepts can be married together. The National Commission on

Agricultural Costs, which fixes the support price for agricultural commodities, takes into consideration the cost of the labour input. But the cost of the labour input taken by the Commission varies from State to State according to their survey. I feel that in computing the cost of agricultural produce, where the labour quantum is known and can be quantified, that should be evaluated on the basis of this minimum national wage. That will mean a higher cost of production and, therefore, more remunerative price for the agricultural farmer. That would also build up the pressure that the *kisan* or the land owner, the cultivator, has to pay at least that minimum wage to the *khet mazdoor* if he has to employ him. Many a time he works with his own labour and the labour of his family but whenever he has to employ an outsider, then at least he would pay him the minimum national wage. As for his own labour and his family, he would get a much higher equivalent and a better emoluments and, therefore, a more remunerative price for his produce.

16.00 hrs.

And therefore, Sir, I take this opportunity to plead in this House for the determination of a national minimum wage equivalent to the minimum payable to a Government employee of Class IV or Grade D. That should become the basis for the computation of agricultural costs and that should be applicable to all the *khet mazdoors* whose services are hired and whose labour is hired by a cultivator to help him in his agricultural production and therefore, over a period of time that will allow the development of a more smooth relationship between the *kisan* and the *khet mazdoor* in the countryside, the social situation and the economic situation both in the countryside would improve.

Sir, these are the two ideas first about the simplification of a procedure. A decentralisation of the procedure regulatory system should be there so that an agricultural worker can be identified, the days he has worked and the income that he has gained can be brought on record and that card can form the basis of his contribution

[Sh. Chandra Jeet Yadav]

which can be collected at a lower level and which can help him in crediting his contribution to his Provident Fund and secondly, there is the idea of minimum national wage which should be applicable to all khet mazdoors throughout the country. Sir, with these two suggestions I support the Bill moved by Mr. Deshmukh and I also plead with the Government that based on the discussion that we are having here today, the hon. Labour Minister who, I know, is very sympathetic to the cause of the unorganised labour, not only to the cause of the organised labour, will certainly come forward with a more comprehensive Bill before the House in order to tackle this problem and to make freedom and Independence real for this sector of Indian humanity which has not yet known what Independence means to them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister, Shri Rajesh Pilot has some information to convey to the House from Bombay. I request Shri Rajesh Pilot to give that information.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER BOMB BLASTS IN BOMBAY

16.00 hrs.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : With profound grief, let me share this information with the House.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar) : Sir, it is a very serious situation. I feel shocked with the information received.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : It is a very unfortunate incident we have at nearly 7 to 8 places. The mode of operation has been like this. They parked the car with the bombs and they all blasted from one hour to one-and-a-half hours between one O'

Clock to 2.30 p.m. or 2.45 p.m. at nearly 7 to 8 places. I just talked to the hon. Chief Minister of Maharashtra. He said that specially at the place nearest to the Stock Exchange casualties have been there; they are ascertaining the number. He said 15 to 20 bodies have been taken out from there, but the number of injured has gone up to roughly 100 plus.

Madam, we are getting the information from the State Government, we are in touch with them, but the situation is under control and the State Government is totally in control of the situation. I think I will share with you whatever information I have received from the Chief Minister on phone.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur) : What about casualties?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : That is what I said. It is at nearly 7-8 places at one go. It was at the Stock Exchange where the casualties have been slightly maximum. He told me that 15 to 20 casualties are already there. I think in the next coming hour or half-an-hour we may be able to give further information, which will be more authentic, to the House.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Before the House rises, he should make a statement about this as far as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar) : Madam Chairman, it seems that you know little about the incident. This incident is not confined to Bombay alone. I have got information that this morning a bomb blast took place first in the Deccan Express which runs between Pune and Bombay. I have no information about the number of casualties in the blast. But I have authentic information that the death toll was 5. Our Secretary from Bombay saw the spot there and informed me that he has seen 25 dead bodies in the Air India Building. As you referred to the blasts in the Bombay Stock Exchange Premises, the blast took place in the Branches of Bank of Baroda and Bank of

India located in the ground floor. I have no knowledge of the number of loss of human lives. But the information about 25 deaths is authentic. The Air India has three base-ments and the blasts took place there. All these blasts took place simultaneously. One of the blasts took place in the Katha Bazar, the other at the Petrol pump near the Shiv Sena Bhawan. My office had authentic information about 5 deaths, but it is learnt that blasts took place at seven or eight places. By and large, I do not remember that so many blasts have ever taken place at a place in such a planned way. I understand that the Government should treat it as a serious incident. I do not know whether there is any foreign hand behind these incidents but whoever has planned it is a very big enemy of this country and he must be dealt with firmly. On behalf of my party I have told my party workers to donate blood very peacefully so that reaction does not take place somewhere else.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it should be looked into strictly at the official level. It seems that there is great failure on the part of the intelligence agencies. The intelligence agencies should do every thing that they can. This case should not be treated as a responsibility of the Maharashtra Government alone. The Central Government too should accept its responsibility. I also know what a negligent treatment the Central Government has shown to Maharashtra Government and it has not been taken seriously. The previous riots were very grave and there was partisan attitude in the reaction, otherwise nobody could have tolerated it. In today's case we expect that the Government would provide complete information to the Parliament. Moreover, if the proceedings continue in the House I demand that before the House rises for the day the Government should collect all possible authentic information and give the same to the august House.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: As I said that a very unfortunate incident has happened and the Leader of Opposition, Shri Advani has also expressed the same feelings. The

information is received that bomb blasts have occurred at 1.45 p.m. As soon as the Government received this information, it tried to contact the Government of Maharashtra. The Chief Minister had gone to the site. Therefore, unless we receive right information from there, I am unable to provide it to the House. Hence it is necessary to give right information. I would not like to give any wrong information to the House. I am going back, and will inform the House after every hour or half an hour whatever information we receive from there and will try to give right information to the House before it rises for the day.

As soon as the Government received this information, the authorities in the whole country has been alerted. I hope that they will not allow to recur such incident in any other part of the country. Orders have been given to all the State Governments to warm up all the systems of Government so that such incidents may not recur. The site which has been mentioned by Advaniji, was nearby Air India Building. When we asked about causalities, we came to know that the Chief Minister is engaged in relief works. Therefore, I shall try to give all the information on coming back to the House and maximum information will be given to the House before it rises for the day.

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : Madam, on behalf of my Party I would like to associate myself with the observations made by the Leader of the Opposition and support the demand that the Government not only keep us informed, but take this matter very seriously, inquire into it and find out who are responsible for it and give them the maximum punishment which they deserve. No act of terrorism should be tolerated under any circumstance.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Madam, I assure on behalf of the Government that we take the hon. Member's comment very seriously. We will take very strict measures and action against such forces.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Also on behalf of my Party, I say that this is a most serious incident in our country since independence and the Government should take such action that no forces which are out to destroy the country can take any advantage out of such incident. So, stern action should be taken and whoever is responsible should be brought to book and punished at any cost, the peace of the country should be maintained and the law and order situation also should be properly maintained in the context of such an incident.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Madam, I join my other colleagues to condemn this kind of terrorist act and the Government has got the responsibility to know, find out the culprits and take serious action against them. As the situation is surcharged with tension in many parts of the country, the Government should also take additional care to see that peace is maintained and there is no further trouble in any part of the country. The Government should come to the House before it rises for the day and inform the House about the latest position of what has happened today.

[Translation]

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH (Buxar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, myself and on behalf of my party I condemn this incident and demand from the Government that it should use its all strength to ensure rigorous punishment to the culprits responsible for this incident. Alongwith this I demand from the Government that the whole country is disturbed due to this as this is the second time that such an incident has happened. I don't know what would happen next.

Therefore, through you I would like to say to the hon. Minister that such incidents should be prevented because if such incidents are not prevented, we can't say what will be the consequences. At least person like me can't imagine it. I doubt that such incidents may happen in other parts of the country also. The Government should not leave any chance for the recurrence of such

incidents and should use its full force to prevent them.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharasa) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, just now the question raised by Shri Chandrajeet Yadav in the House about Bombay bomb blasts and the manner in which the hon. Minister has given here incomplete information and after that whatever Shri Advaniji said here in this regard is more serious incident than all other incidents that occurred in this country. Occurrence of such incidents in every place is giving us a signal for future that such incidents will recur in other parts of the country and are likely to occur with important persons of the country. In such cases, the Government always says that it will take action but action is never taken. It is not a question of any party. This incident is very serious. I would like that the Government should seriously look into it and identify the culprits and take action promptly. This is the policy and programme of my party and in this regard I fully support it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the grave concern of the House at the horrific incidents from Bombay which have just been reported by the hon. Minister is sufficiently evident to the Government and I would request the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister to see in conjunction with the sentiments of this House that whatever information is available, it should be communicated to the House before it rises.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL BALAKRISHNA WASNIK) : Madam, I would just add that since Chandra Jeet Yadavji had taken up this matter on the floor of the House, I rushed and I contacted the Home Minister. The Home Minister said that Shri Rajesh Pilot is rushing to the House and whatever information is available, he would place it before the House. Shri Rajesh Pilot

has also assured that additional information would be brought to the notice of the Members immediately.

[Translation]

SHRISURYANARAYAN YADAV: Hon. Chairman, Sir, I want to move a motion in this regard. Such a serious incident has happened. Therefore, the House may be adjourned. There is no need of it.

[English]

SHRI MUKULBALAKRISHNAWASNIK : Madam, if the proceedings continue, then we would have the scope that the hon. Minister can get back to the House with some more information.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur) : The only point is, the Government must ensure that a statement is made before the House rises for the day.

15.15 hrs.

AGRICULTURAL WORKS (MINIMUM
WAGES AND WELFARE) BILL
by Shri Chandubhai Deshmukh -
CONTD.

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Madam, I really felicitate Shri Deshmukh for bringing about this Bill. I had also the privilege of introducing a similar comprehensive Bill concerning the working conditions and living conditions of the agricultural workers of our country.

Madam, I am really very fortunate that the hon. Labour Minister is here to listen to us and there are many facets of the problem now being faced by the agricultural workers of our country and it deserves greater attention. Now, the question is whether an agricultural worker is a worker. A worker, by virtue of being a worker, has got certain inalienable rights and in order to protect those rights, certain legislations have been

passed in this country right from the days when our country was not free. Therefore, the first question I address to the hon. Minister for Labour is, whether an agricultural worker is a worker and is entitled to certain rights. A worker is. A worker is entitled to certain rights today because of the Constitution of our country, because of the human rights, because of other rights as a citizen and because of his birth.

Madam, the rights of the industrial workers are being protected and the industrial workers have got many social legislations in order to improve their conditions of life and the Government responds. The Government responds to the workers' demands. On the 19th of March, this Government is going to face a strike for which the call is given by the INTUC of the country. Therefore, since they are organised, this organised working class can meet the inefficiency of the Government, callousness of the Government, insensitivity of the Government and they can get their demands redressed. But what about these millions of workers who also earn their livelihood by their sweat and blood? Are they not workers? What protection do you give them?

Now, if we look at the census report, the number of agricultural workers far exceeds the organised workers of our country. I think the number of Central Government employees is about 50 lakhs and the number of State Government employees will be another 40 to 50 lakhs and overall, including the Railways and other things, the organised labour does not exceed more than 1.5 crores. But what about the number of agricultural workers in our country? Now, various enquiry reports have been made available. There was All India Agricultural Labour Enquiry, there was Rural Labour Enquiry and there was an All India Seminar on Agricultural Labour in 1965. These are of early days. In 1965, it was estimated that the total number of agricultural workers was to the tune of 30 millions. Now, I have got with me the figure of 1971 census which says that the number of agricultural workers in India is 47 to 48 millions against 31.52 millions in 1961. This is the official report of

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the 1971 Census. In 1981, it must be much more. Generally there is at least 10 millions increase during the decade. That means, more than 5 crore people are agricultural workers in the country. It is five-time more than the organised workers. The Labour Minister is very much concerned and should be concerned, I am also concerned to protect the rights and privileges of the organised workers.

May I pose this question to the House and to the Government whose number is more. It is the agricultural labour who are five-time of the organised labour. They have got no right at all protected by any legislation except under the Minimum Wages Act. That is not only meant for agricultural labour but also for other workers also. The Minimum Wages Act for agricultural workers is more breached than executed. It is observed more in breach than in compliance. I shall come to those things later on.

Therefore, I demand, in the name of humanity, in the name of millions of our downtrodden, underprivileged and exploited masses of our country as to why the Government should not have a legislation to protect their rights as human beings. This is an insult. This is something which Parliament cannot all the time remain oblivious also. Therefore, Madam, Parliament demands that there should be legislation for agricultural workers. There might be some difference of opinion on the contents of the draft Bill. I will come to that later on.

As a matter of fact, the Government is not hostile. I do not say, you do not want the Bill. In July, 1975, the 26th Session of the Labour Ministers' Conference commended the Kerala Agricultural Workers Act, 1974 and suggested adoption of the uniform Central legislation on the subject. This is the year 1975. In 1978, a committee was appointed of which I was a member on the unorganised rural workers. The Committee deliberated upon the matter and visited different parts of the country. It felt the need for Central legislation for agricultural labor-

ers and a model Bill was also placed for consideration of the Government. After that, the Gurudas Das committee, a sub-committee of the Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of Labour went into the subject in depth. They have described in details the miseries, the extent of exploitation of these vast millions of our agricultural workers in different parts of the country. They have also recommended for a Central legislation. The Government's response has all along been what is the need of having Central legislation. You go to your West Bengal for a legislation of your own as Kerala has done it. Why is West Bengal not doing? Why is Bihar not doing? Why is Uttar Pradesh not doing? Why is Madhya Pradesh not doing? So far as West Bengal is concerned, it would be happy to do it. But it is not the problem of a State. But the political problem lies here. I must say that most of the State Governments are being influenced by the big landlords. It is the big landlords lobby which has determined the fate of the State Governments. Therefore, they are not interested in having a legislation to properly protect the interests of the agricultural workers. Therefore, the moot point is that there should be political will. You have got the legislative competence also. Why central legislation should not be adopted? Is it because Parliament has not got the right to do it? It is a concurrent subject. This Parliament has got the right to do it. It is competent enough to have a legislation to protect the rights of the agricultural workers. Why not Parliament exercise this right? Why are you avoiding this responsibility? Why are you taking the position that the State Legislature should pass these laws? Therefore, these are merely the attempts of the Government to divert the issue.

So, instead of spreading my arguments, I straightway want to know why a central legislation should not be adopted on the issue of agricultural workers. The Government should come with a positive reply to these questions posed by me.

So far as the contents of the legislation are concerned, I have introduced a Bill comprising different aspects. It includes the

idea of setting up a tribunal consisting of the representatives of the agricultural workers, State Government etc. There should be certain provision for the formulation of welfare schemes for the agricultural workers so that on the days when there is no work, these schemes can be taken resort to and the agricultural workers can be provided with jobs. The whole idea is to see that all the rights of the industrial workers protected by several legislations of our country should be also guaranteed for the agricultural workers.

So far as hours of work, right to leisure, and right to pension and other amenities of life and right to health are concerned, all these are needed to be incorporated in a comprehensive legislation to be made by the Parliament and then and then alone the rights of the agricultural workers can be properly looked after and protected.

These agricultural workers belong mostly to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Even from that point of view, if you want to really provide economic muscle to these deprived sections of our society, a legislation of this nature will be a very potent weapon. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes cannot improve their lot if they are not provided with adequate muscle and this economic muscle can be provided if there is this type of comprehensive legislation in the rural areas. You can break the feudal tentacles. You cannot remove the remnants of federalism in the rural areas unless you free the agricultural workers from their bondage. What is happening in Bihar? All the disputes relate mostly to the agricultural workers. I remember that even the Central Government, at a particular time when Shri Y.B. Chavan was the Home Minister, made a report wherein it was stated. If the Government does not take adequate interest in the welfare and well-being of the agricultural workers they should remain prepared for red revolution. Now, instead of red revolution we are seeing the counter-terrorism, on the part of landlords in Bihar and some Senas are being formed on the basis of castes, on the basis of certain sectoral interests.

They are also organising programmes of the agricultural workers mostly belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Therefore, it is not merely a question of guaranteeing a certain amount of economic right. It amounts also to guaranteeing social and human rights also, to break as under the feudal tentacles in the rural areas, to free India from the feudal relics. I think from that point of view the question of legislation for the agricultural workers is to be considered.

From all counts, I find no reason, no viable answer not to have this kind of central legislation at an early date. Land reforms is very much a part of the long-drawn programmes. As a matter of fact there has been no land reform in many States, particularly in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and many other States except in Kerala and West Bengal. I have got figures to prove.

Therefore, if you can really have a legislation of this nature and if the agricultural workers are allowed to stand on their own legs, if they are made conscious of their rights, then the implementation of land reforms will also be easier. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government and all the Members that it is not the question of party. A vast segment of our Indian humanity has been dehumanised and are being forced to live inhuman life.

Has the Parliament not got any responsibility to them? It is the minimum responsibility that we can discharge. And that minimum responsibility is to have a legislation enacted in Parliament. We have got the legislative competence also.

In conclusion, I want to say that the Government should bring forth a legislation, a bill in incorporating the provisions of the Bill of Shri Deshmukh and take some provisions of my Bill. On the basis of the framework of Kerala Agricultural Workers Bill, 1974 they should bring some legislation. I think it should be brought as soon as possible. It should not be taken as a party issue. It should not be merely an issue

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which the Government should alone take up. The entire Parliament should take it up. With this appeal to all of you and that the Government should reconsider its view and instead of harping on that chivalry to bring a legislation of State legislature, they should straight forward introduce this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Bill presented by Shri Chandubhai Deshmukh. Through you I would like to say that the condition of agricultural labourers is very pitiable in India. Their economic condition is too weak to be described. They have no houses to live. They live in huts and go to work in the morning and make have to sustain themselves with whatever they get in the evening. They get foodgrains as wages in the villages. You can imagine that how difficult it is to make both ends meet with that foodgrain. Next day they are not sure that they will get work or not. It is creating a very sad situation today. Child of a labourer is becoming a labourer. He does not have means to provide education to his children. What to speak of education, he has to sleep empty stomach. If he falls ill he is not able to get any medical treatment. Such is the condition of agricultural labourers in the villages.

I would like to say something about the pitiable condition of these labourers. The main reason is that the condition of the employer of these labourer is also pitiable. Employer as well as labourers are poor. The employers/owners are also not in a good condition then how can they pay them wages. Unless the labourers do not get full wages they can't meet the needs of their families. Therefore, through you I would like to submit to the Government to enact a law and alongwith this improve the economic condition of the farmers. Another problem is if there is hailstorm or drought the whole crop is destroyed. I know the position of the farmers. Their position is that some farmers have five acres of land and others have eight acres of land only. It is also true that

Zamindari system has not been fully eradicated and at some places, they are possessing the land on false names. They may be big farmers and some businessmen who have black money and to convert it into white money they purchase farms or there are some high Government officials who take bribe and invest that money there. I am not talking of fake farmers. The fact remains that after applying the ceiling, no big farmer has been left out now. Earlier it was said that a son of an I.A.S. becomes I.A.S., a son of I.P.S. becomes I.P.S. and a farmer's son becomes a farmer, but today the scenario has changed and a farmer's son takes birth as a labourer. The reason is that land holdings are being divided further. It results in conversion of farmers as labourers every year. The number of labourers is increasing. Today the situation is such that agricultural labourers cannot unite and they cannot form a union. They cannot get facilities from the labour department. They do not have labour leaders even. They cannot form their union in the villages. The result is that they are becoming poorer day by day. I would like that a law should be enacted for this. I want that this Bill should be adopted unanimously. Some steps should be taken in the interests of the labourers.

I would like that the Minimum Wages Act should be implemented. Hon. Member Shri Chandubai Deshmukh has made a proposal to give minimum wages at the rate of Rs. 30 per day. I know that these days Rs. 30 are not enough. They are getting Rs. 12 - 14 these days and the amount of Rs. 30 is definitely more than that. At least, they should get this amount. I would like to suggest that in every village registration should be done and a survey should be conducted as to how many labourers are there in the villages and what is their plight. After that they should be insured. I am saying so because sometimes labourers die while working. So there should be someone who can look after their families after their death. Under these circumstances, they should be insured by the Government so that their family members can avail the benefits of insurance.

Yesterday the weather was very bad and it was raining. The clouds were thundering. Whenever there is rain after Holi, it is followed by hailstorms. Had it rained before Holi, there was no danger. Yesterday when I looked at the sky I was afraid. Since I am a farmer, I know that if the hailstorms fall then the *rabi* crops, which are very good according to the hon. Prime Minister will spoil totally. Let us pray God so that the hailstorms do not fall, otherwise farmers will die and there will be no crops in the fields for the labourers to reap. Where from will they earn wages (*Interruptions*).

Madam Chairman, now the situation is that the crops will spoil. Where from the labourers will earn their wages and where from the agricultural workers will earn their wages when there will be no wheat crops in the fields. Therefore, I would like to urge the Government, through you, that crops of the farmers should be insured so that they can get some compensation and the poor labourers can get something out of it. Therefore, insurance is a must and the insurance should be on individual basis and there should be no group insurance. A new law has been enacted to introduce group insurance. A new law has been enacted to introduce group insurance. When I talked to the insurance authorities they said that the total percentage of loss of the entire village will be worked out. What is this force? If my crops are damaged by hailstorms and my neighbours' field is saved then I will not get compensation just because my neighbours' field was not damaged by hailstorms. Why his crops have not been spoiled? That means the family of a deceased person will not get the claim because his neighbour did not die. This is not the way. Therefore, there should be individual insurance. Every farmer should be insured and on that basis he should get the claim.

Madam Chairman, this Government does not take all these things seriously. It thinks in a very hi-fi manner and never ponders over a proper way. Now the condition of the agricultural worker depends on the farmer. If the condition of the farmer

is deplorable then he will not be able to pay wages to the labourers even if numerous laws are enacted. Now the sorry state of affairs is that if the Dunkel Proposals are accepted then the situation will deteriorate further. Only God knows what will happen then. Therefore, I would not like to stretch this issue any farther since many other hon. friends are to speak on it. I would like to urge the Government, through you, to enact the Minimum Wages Act to improve the lot of the agricultural workers. Shahbuddin Sahib was saying that they should get Rs. 50 daily but I say that in this age of price hike Rs. 50 have no value. Therefore, I would like to say that the amount of Rs. 50 is not enough for the survival of 5-6 people but our hon. Member has brought a Bill to raise it to Rs. 30. I make an appeal to all the opposition parties and the Government that if we cannot give Rs. 50 then this proposal of Rs. 30 should be adopted unanimously. I also make an appeal that this Bill, brought forward by Shri Chandubhai Deshmukh should not be opposed. There should be no foul play of politics in it, since he has brought a right Bill for a right purpose. My submission is that in order to improve the lot of agricultural labourers, they should be given minimum wages. They should be provided the facilities mentioned in it. The Bill should be passed unanimously.

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (Guwahati): Madam, Chairperson, I must thank Shri Chandubhai Deshmukh, for his Bill which is revolutionary in many respects. As Shahabuddinji has rightly pointed out, this is a Bill which speaks about the plight of the *Didra Narayan*. It is so pleasant to hear Shahabuddinji talking about *Didra Narayan* than on Babri Masjid. It is also nice to hear our B.J.P. friends who have devoted sometime to speak about the fundamentals relating to Indian labourers, agricultural labourers than on Ram Janmabhoomi. Madam Chairperson, I am saying all this in a lighter vein and meant nothing personal. I must express my heartfelt thanks to Shri Chandubhai Deshmukh for this Bill which is laudable in many respects.

As you all know, agriculture is the very

[Sh. Kirip Chaliha]

foundation, the basis of Indian life and our economy. It is the basis on which, everything else in India stands. I think 70 per cent of our people, if not more, are dependent on agriculture. Our culture, ethos, believes and everything is based on agriculture. Even religion is connected with agriculture.

It is really unfortunate that, by and large, the agricultural labourers remain unorganized. And in many respects they feel that they have been far more neglected than the industrial labourers, who are considered to be a privileged lot.

I must also appreciate the spirit and I understand the spirit in which the Forward Block leader, Shri Chitta Basu had expressed the cause of agricultural labourers. I am sure he did not have the intention of capturing the votes of agricultural labourers like the industrial labourers. I am sure he really had the welfare of labourers in his mind, when he spoke and espoused the cause on this occasion.

The Bill rightly seeks a kind of uniform base for the agricultural labourers all over the country. My friend, Shri Ramesh Chennithala had already given the background about this Bill is already in operation in States like Kerala. I may be wrong but I think we already have this kind of a Bill in many States. The only problem is that there is no uniformity in the acts existing in different States. I think there is no central legislation which regularises the implementation and to give effect to this Bill.

There is no doubt that the agricultural labourers or the person who are engaged in the profession of agriculture, have been worst affected victims of all kinds of exploitation and misfortune of the Indian system of living. For example, we have no protection against the use of children as agricultural labourers, no pensions, no insurance, as has been pointed out by the previous speaker and no legislation, whatsoever to protect them against any kind of exploitation by the employers.

I come from a State which has been more or less free from this kind of an exploitation, in a sense, we do not have the feudal and big landlords in our State of Assam. When we watch Hindi movies and watch the atrocities committed by the landlords on the labourers and their beating them up with all kinds of weapons keeping them and misusing banded them in all respects, we do feel puturbed and naturally, if those things are portrayal of truth, then, this country needs far more stringent laws to protect the cause of agricultural labourers. This may be a very small but significant step in that direction.

I must say that while today we are trying to make the entire agricultural sector export oriented, when we are looking beyond the boundaries of our country, we are exploring into newer markets, we must have a very progressive legislation to protect the plight of the workers within the country. We must compare the plight of our agricultural workers with the positions which they enjoy in other countries. I understand that with even less arable land, China produces twice the total produce of India. Anybody who has a basic knowledge about the Chinese agricultural labourers' condition and the condition of the Indian labourers would know that the conditions differ vastly. Some efforts are needed to narrow the gap.

The objects of the Bill has to be supported by everyone. In the statement of Objects and Reasons the working conditions have been pointed out. There cannot be any dispute whatsoever about it. As my friend from the BJP has rightly pointed out, we have to rise above all political considerations in improving the lot of the peasants, about their wage structure, pension and other social security measures. These are pending for quite a long time and it is high time that some initiatives are taken in this regard. We in Assam already have a portion of the agricultural labourers - those involved in the tea cultivation - who are almost treated on a par with the industrial labourers. Our hon. Labour Minister belongs to our area. He has vast experience. In fact, he was my teacher

also. He was in school where he taught a vast number of tea labourers. He knows their plight very nicely.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Which subject was he teaching? Not the Labour Law, I suppose.

SHRI KRIP CHALIHA : He was my Geography class teacher. he was a competent teacher of course - including Law and Marxism !

I am sure our hon. Labour Minister will seriously consider taking up this legislation not only in the Kerala model; he can also consult the Minimum Wages Act applicable to the tea labourers. I am very sure that he will take some definite steps to improve the lot of the agricultural labourers.

Coming to the contents, I fully share the thoughts and ideas given about the quantum. In fact, Rs. 30 is a very meagre amount. Rs. 30 for an agricultural labourer is very negligible and I do not think we are doing justice to him. Even a manual labourer at least in my State today gets Rs. 50 per day for doing household work. So I would suggest that instead of Rs. 700 per month, we should at least try to give them Rs. 1500 per month as the minimum wages.

Clause 14 of the Bill says that there will be an involvement of Rs. 40 crore per annum and another non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 50 lakhs from the Consolidated Fund. I do not think that fund is unmanageable. In fact we have so much of faith on Dr. Manmohan Singh and his genius brain that he will definitely be able to find something for them. In fact the other day I was observing that when Rs. 100 crore can be given to terrorists in Assam who had been killing people - Maruti vehicles, Rs. 2 lakh per head has been given for killing people - this Rs. 40 crore is nothing. We can double it and triple it also for the agricultural workers. I fully support this Bill. (*Interruptions*) They are the backbone of our Indian life. As Gandhiji said, India and Bharat ad perhaps this is some of the rare times when even the intellectuals like Shri Somnath

Chatterjee, not making cynical comments about the Congress and thinking about the problems of India that is Bharat. This is a very pleasant occasion when I must share the thoughts of all who had spoken earlier.

With these few words, I fully support the Bill and conclude my speech. Thank you very much.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Madam Chairman, I support the Minimum Wages and Welfare Bill brought forward by the hon Member Shri Chandubhai Deshmukh. I thank him for this. Everyone knows that there are two types of laborers in our country, the organised and unorganised. We put the agricultural labourers in the category of unorganised labourers. Not only the agricultural labourers but those who work in brick kilns, majority of whom are women, also fall under this category. Even in the agricultural sector there are women labourers. Their number is five crore and the number of women is one crore.

I would like to remind the words the hon. Prime Minister uttered yesterday in this august House. The hon. Prime Minister emphasised that ours is an agricultural country, I have not forgotten it and I am ready to follow that path. Agriculture is our mainstay and through it our country can be saved from the economic crisis. When the crops are good, we feel that economic crisis will be removed. If it is so then who works in the fields. These people work in the fields, sow seeds and we are deriving maximum benefit from the fields. They are the agricultural labourers. What is their condition.

16.59 hrs.

[**SHRI PETER G. MARBANIAN** in the Chair]

Yesterday I had a chance to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. I had made a subtle reference to it that the agricultural labourers are in the same condition what it prevailed 100 years

[Sh. Ramashray Prasad]

ago. Today they do not have good huts to dwell in. The Indira Awas Yojana is working and houses are being constructed but during the rainy season they live under temporary sheds. It is easy to speak on it than to give it a practical shape. You can deliver a good speech you are also an intellectual. One can come across the prevailing situation in the villages if he pays a visit to the villages. There is no one to look after the agricultural labourers at the evening of their life. The tradition is that when their children grow up they start living separately and the old people live alone. There is no arrangement for their care. There are a number of facilities for the organised labourers. The political parties have formed many organisations for the agricultural labourers but it is in papers only and there is nothing for them in real sense. We are talking of the minimum wages but the State Governments have already enacted the law, but the same has now been implemented. Unless the land is made fertile, agriculture is made remunerative, the laws will prove to be futile. Take the case of the Child Labour Act. Have you ever been able to implement it or stop any child labour from the torture of his employer. The area in which the crops have been continuously damaged for last two years, the Minimum Wages Act should not be made applicable there, but where there is proper irrigational facilities, not only the Minimum Wages Act but also the Maximum Wages Act could be made applicable there. Therefore there should be a Central Act to provide them protection in their old age. No matter whether the Government constitutes a fund for it or not, but there should be a law for it. Today there is no facility for providing them medicine and there are no educational facilities for their children. Today a confectioner's son does the same work what his father does. In this way their children fall victims of exploitation.

Mr Chairman, Sir, you must have heard the tragic incident today. This type of organisations are being formed in Bihar. They comprise children of agricultural labourers, the poor, the dalits and those who

do not have any work. That is why they are keeping themselves off the national main stream and taking recourse to terrorism. The Government should find some way out so that they do not do such things. The Government appoints commissions, holds enquiries and when the report comes, no action is taken. You know the report. Therefore something should be done to save them and the country. The agricultural labourers who work in crushers and in bricks kilns cannot maintain their lives with their meagre earnings. The Government should pay attention to it.

People in such a large number are segregating from the main stream of the nation. Proper arrangement will have to be made to keep them with the mainstream at an early date. The current session is likely to last long. the Government should consult legal luminaries and then introduce a Bill in this very Session and protect them.

Our labours are also becoming victims of pollution. They are becoming victim of disease like T.B. and Cancer and are dying of these diseases. The labourers working in crushers and kilns including children and women, inhale dust and settles in their lungs develop diseases like T.B. and Cancer. But no arrangement is being made, to check it. Are they not the citizens of this country? When they are apprised of their condition that they are not provided with even proper food for their hard labour done in the service of country and that they die of cold during winter, these things create an impression in the minds of those young persons that injustice is being meted out to them. They think that only that person is their true leader and they become his followers and they are instigated to take to terrorism.

It is a fact that our political party has been repeatedly demanding that a law should be enacted at the central level regarding minimum wages for the for the labourers so that their interests might be safeguarded. While making a mention about Jawahar Rojgar Yojana Our honourable Prime Minister has informed as that the amount allocated this Year is much more than what was

allocated last year. It is a fact, then we will have to see how this amount is spent. It has become a profession in villages that the village head selects contractors of his own choice to get a work done. While there is on such provisions under rule. The Government need to look into these matters as well. Moreover, an inquiry in this regard will also have to be conducted. The matter cannot be left to the State Government alone. The Union Government too has to look into these matters to assure that the money really reaches to the labourers properly.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had said in this very House that not even 15 percent of the total allocated money reaches to the actual persons whereas 85 percent of money is grabbed by the middle men. Keeping these point in view, he started Jawahar Rojgar Yojana so that the money might reach directly to them. But what is happening is hardly anything different. The Central Government should consider this point and the Hon. Minister should pay attention to it. It is not merely a matter of discussion. We should take into account the different voices of the public that are coming from different places. The voice is also raised in the region to which I belong. Now we have to assess whether these voices are proper or not and whether they are do some harm only.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our state, Bihar is facing starvation and in Makhdum Pur Assembly Constituency in my area, there has been several starvation deaths. There is no crop standing in the fields of poor Harijans and the agriculture labours. There is no crop even this year. The rabi crop was destroyed by hailstorm and the State Government has provide only Rs. 100 to 200. What is the use of providing Rs. 100-200 when the crop is completely destroyed. That meagre amount can neither help them for farming nor can it help them to support their lives. The reports of death are received and the authorities of the Government pay visits. But is it not the responsibility of the Union Government to save Bihar? The issue of Bihar is being raised repeatedly. Well, the provisions of law or high amount is a matter or calculation,

but providing protection to humanity is a duty in itself. This is not the time for going into calculations. when you and we are together on this point, we can also do calculation. But at the moment we have to save the humanity otherwise it will be just playing with humanity.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would, therefore, like to submit that some additional amount of money need to be allocated for Bihar. The whole of Bihar is in a bad state. Without taking much time, I would like to submit that if the Hon Minister wishes to lend proper support to the agriculture-labours in order that they might feel that this is very much theirs country and that they are contributing their labour in the capacity of the citizens of this country and if he wishes to increase the production and if he also wants to strengthen the unity of the country, then the Government will have to generate a confidence in the youths that the Government would provide help for their development. It is, therefore, urgently required to provide money to Bihar and moreover, all the schemes concerning agriculture should be implemented immediately. None of the schemes in Bihar is implemented due to the paucity of funds. All the schemes can be worked upon if fund for it is made available. otherwise 80 per cent of schemes are going to be shelved. Farmers will be happy if the schemes are worked upon. Our labourers will also get the minimum wages and this will also provide maximum benefit to the labourers and the youths who are cut off from the main stream of the nation would return. With this I conclude.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Sahasra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I express my heartfelt congratulations to the honourable Member Deshmukh sahib who has introduced this Private Member's Resolution. He has tried in his own capacity, to have a discussion held in this House on the issue concerning the working class of this country. If at all any sections of our country is neglected, it is the worker class and along with them farmers are also neglected.

(Interruptions)

[Sh. Surya Narayan Yadav]

Sir, I was telling that the labourers and the farmers of this country the most neglected lot. I would like to explain it to you through an example. There are 4 metropolitan cities in this country—Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras. The labourers throughout the country, who do not get employment in their villages, migrate to cities. Sir, you know the poor condition in which the labourers live in the villages. This Government has just declared that the labourers would be provided the facility of shelter in the cities. But I say it with certainty that even now the labourers living in villages have not been provided with land. They do not have land of their own. The labourers of the villages who work in the cities have even now got the facility of living in Rain Basera (night-shelter). The labourers who work for the farmers do, however, get foodgrains from the farmer, but the labourers who work in factories are removed from there after a month or two. Not only that, they are given salary of only one month as against their service of two months. And in spite of this they are removed from service. In this way they are paid lower wages and moreover, they are removed from service.

Mr. Sangma Sahib, the honourable Minister of Labour, please listen, I am addressing you. I have made repeated requests to you, but the Government does not pay any attention to it. Our honourable colleagues and Shri Desmukh Sahib have said today that the minimum wage of a worker should be Rs. 30 per day. This is certainly absolutely proper. Moreover, I would say that even 30 rupees per day is a petty amount. I would like to submit that the minimum wages for worker should be more than this. The hon. Minister comes of the same class, so he knows the condition of the labourers. I have also interviewed you in the capacity of a journalist of which you are aware. I would, therefore, like to submit that you should introduce a Bill definitely and through which you should bring about uniforming of rule in all the states where there are different sets of law.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to submit to the hon. Minister Mr. Sangma Sahib that labourers are there in his area as well as there are labourers in Bihar about whom I would precisely like to say that they are in a miserable condition.

There is nothing else to be found in the North Bihar except flood and water. Labourers do not get work there. There is nothing to do in the fields of the farmers. Labourers are forced to face starvation. You can know it through a survey that the labourers do not have clothes to put on. They cannot wear proper clothes nor can they provide education to their children. If at all there are schools in villages, they are located at far flung places that the students do not go there for schooling. Not even a single hospital in rural area is there where the children of the labourers could receive proper treatment. Nothing has been done in this regard so far. The Constitution also provides to them the right of living in this country. Living like human beings is their Constitutional right. They have the right to education. They need medicare and they need houses to live in. These things have so far not been done.

When Shri Paswan ji was the labour Minister, he took initiative in this regard. He wanted to solve the problems of the labourers. He wanted their participation in a factory or any other sector. But we could not do it. Now the Government proposes to deal with the same thing. The situation, as it prevails, is not worth mentioning. We live in villages. We are farmers, so we have tried to understand the condition of farmers properly. I have myself done farming. I have ploughed the land myself.

I know this fact that a labourer does not get his right even after doing hard work. Irrigation facilities have not been made available to our farmers. Moreover, some areas are flooded sometime. The farmers have to sow and plant at least five times in each field where labourers work, the farmers have to put in a lot of labour but the labourers do not get any wages. Therefore, I submit to you to kindly bring a legislation through which secure wages to labourers. When you fix the

minimum wages, please include farmers in it. The day the farmers and labourers become strong, there will be no bomb blast in city like Bombay, extremesim will vanish from this country and unemployment will also come to an end. You should perform these two tasks. Unless you do so, the country cannot live in peace and prosperity.

I support this Bill. You have brought this Bill and Members of all the parties are ready to support it. With this I thank you.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I take the sense of the House? The time allotted for this discussion was two hours and its is over. shall we extend the time for this discussion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT) AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): We extend the time by an hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time is extended by an hour.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : (Deogarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have the pleasure of participating in the discussion on this Bill which is intended to eradicate the sufferings of the toiling masses in the rural areas. I thank the mover of this Bill, Shri Deshmukh for having facilitated discussion on the subject involving humanitarian consideration.

Sir, the plight of the rural labour is very bad. We all know in what pitiable condition millions of agricultural labourers are passing their time. Earlier their condition could be improved the better it is. There cannot be two opinions on that.

I was carefully listening to the speeches

delivered by hon. Members from both sides of the House and I also would like to associate myself with the feelings expressed.

As you know, this country is not lagging behind in the matter of progressive legislations, particularly relating to industrial labour and so on. But, when we look at the implementation part of it, we feel sad that they are not implemented. I am not saying all the legislations, but certainly, some legislations are not implemented properly. I can give you one instance here. Take the case of child labour. It is a healthy practice? It is not at all a healthy practice. We should not involve children in certain areas. There are children who are working in factories which are also injurious to their health but we cannot prevent them. There are legal provisions which are there but the condition is such on the ground that parents and send them for employment. You take the case of beedi factories. There, the children are employed for rolling the beedis. In the morning also, there was a question regarding provident Fund. The hon. Minister, Mr. Sangma who is here said that is is very difficult to implement it. The location, the nature of industries and so on is such that sometimes, some of the laws that are there for quite sometime are not implemented today. We must go all out for implementation of these laws in letter and spirit.

Today, we find some legislations are not capable of implementation. I would like to make this clear. I need not be misunderstood. Today, in our county, a the situation stands, I am afraid, it is very difficult to implement some legislations.

I support the spirit of the Bill. But there are certain provisions, like, establishment of an agricultural authority with branches established at different places or in district headquarters. Their job will be to maintain land records, to maintain registers of agricultural labourers, farmers and so on. If somebody is not registered, he should not employed. If the employers employs him, he will be penalised with imprisonment or some fine.

[Sh. Sriballav Panigrahi]

Looking at the vastness of our country and agriculture being the main stay of our economy, if a legislation is passed today, do you think that it will be implemented? So many things are linked with this, viz. Provident Fund, Pension Commissioners and so on.

Today, we feel the need of having more officers, but we do not have more officers now at some central places where they are located.

There is an exodus of labourers from villages to urban centres, industrial centres, urban areas. India's rural economy is characterised by seasonal employment and under employment. And therefore, many people in our State, Orissa, people in large numbers, in thousands, are deserting their homes and hearths and moving elsewhere outside the State or their survival. So, like this, it goes on.

The minimum wage was fixed two years ago; it was fixed at Rs. 25 per day. When I was fixed, it so happened that some of the farmers left their cultivation. Although share-cropping is illegal, in law, it is not permissible, according to the provisions of the land reforms law, except in a restricted area, except for widows, those persons who were in the armed forces, minors, disabled persons. But it is a common knowledge, all our Members from the Left, CPI, CPM etc they know that it is going on a large scale. So, like this, many of them left farming. They say, it is not remunerative at all.

I share the feelings expressed by Mr. Surya Narayan Yadav that in some parts, in Punjab elsewhere also, in irrigated areas, the economic condition of the farmer is much better what to speak of Rs. 25, Rs. 30 much more is passed. In other areas, in the busy agricultural season, local labourers do not suffice; people in large numbers from Chattisgarh labourers, neighbouring State, Madhya Pradesh, come to Hirakund command area. Sometimes plantation is given on a lease basis, on contract and labours get more than Rs. 60, Rs. 70; but that is also very seasonal, seasonal.

But in the dry area, sometimes labourers go and offer their services and they are not obliged by the landlords; they say, we cannot pay you this much; Rs. 25 we cannot pay you. They say, even Rs. 10 will be sufficient. Sometimes the situation is like this.

So, I would like to emphasise that we should have more of irrigation; we should give priority to irrigation; and more the irrigation we have, this problem will be solved. Of course, there will be a legislation; it should be regulated properly, as best as it can be done.

On so many occasions, this pitiable conditions, this sort of condition, the distress of the rural labour, has been discussed here and the House has felt concerned about it. I think in 1987-88, a National Commission was appointed on rural labour. They had gone in details into this task, into this matter; and they have come out with their report. As I read from the newspaper, that was discussed by the labour Ministers, something like that; and a panel was formed as to how the recommendations of that commission would be enacted upon; something like that can be implemented. What happened to that? And that Commission, I think, have recommended for land reforms to be undertaken vigorously and strictly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Time for the Private Members' Business is over, you can continue next time. Now we pass on to Half-an Hour Discussion. But before that the Home Minister has to lay some papers.

17.30 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE - *Contd*

[English]

Proclamation dated 11 March, 93 issued by the President under Article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Tripura and the order made by the President in pursuance of the said Proclamation, etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): On behalf of Shri S.B. Chavan, I

beg to lay on the table:-

(1)(i) A copy of the proclamation (Hindi and English versions) dated the 11th March, 1993 issued but the President under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Tripura published in Notification No. G.S.R 273(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th March, 1993 under article 356(3) of the Constitution.

(ii) A copy of the Order (Hindi and English versions) dated the 11th March, 1993 made by the President in pursuance of sub-clause (i) of clause (c) of the above Proclamation published in Notification No. 274(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th March, 1993.

(2) A copy of the Report dated the 10th March, 1993 of the Governor of Tripura to the President (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library Sec No.LT-3568/1993]

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is 5.30 p.m. and the House will adjourn at 6.00 p.m. What has happened to the statement the Home Minister was likely to make, as was decided in the morning.

[Interruptions]

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we take up Half-an-Hour Discussion.

[Interruptions]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb. We are in the Half-an-Hour Discussions. Let us go according to the proceedings.

[Interruptions]

[Translation]

PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House is anxious to know about the latest situation in Bombay,, what is happening in Bombay.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Sir, being concerned with Bombay city and that now only half an hour has remained, it may be indicated by what time the statement will be made.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You must remember, if the statement is ready the Minister will come here. Most probably it is not ready yet, so please be patient.

[Translation]

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

MANDAL COMMISSION REPORT

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA (Chatra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the decision of Supreme Court in Mandal Commission case was given on 16th November. No concrete result has come so far in this regard even after a period of 100 days. Of course, it has been said that direction in this regard have been given, a letter has been written and constitution of a committee is in offing. This sort of prevarication has been there since long. You can well see to it that when was the Mandal Commission set up, when was its report presented and for what period it was kept in abeyance. You may also find that this report has been discussed in the House on many occasions. You may also think whether the report of Mandal Commission was ever opposed by anybody. I want to submit that the prevaricating attitude cannot see the things right. The time has changed therefore, through you, I want to submit to the Government to implement it honestly. It may also State whether it is going to implement it within next 2, 4 or 6 month's and how many persons will be provided with employment or have already been provided job? Till date they have been

[Sh. Upendra Nath Verma]

making assurances only. But I doubt the very intention of the Government now. I want to submit that the Government is underestimating the situation. The situation has changed. Now the poor, the backwards, the weak and SCs and STs are not ready to tolerate it further. Your false assurances and manipulation of papers are not going to serve the purpose. I would request the Government to pay its attention to the areas where from the sound of bomb explosions and bullets is being heard. Which are these areas? These are the areas where SCs and STs dominate, where people still do not enjoy their rights. These are the very people. Think about these people who are leaving their village and coming on the streets. Even the religious barriers cannot stop them. They will march forward by breaking and violating these barriers and will get their right.

Sir, I would like to submit that you must immediately implement the Mandal Commission report in toto. What has the Supreme Court held, it has held that there should not be any economic criterion, at the same time, it has mentioned about creamy layer- while creamy layer itself is an economic criterion. So, this is contradictory. Therefore, I would like to submit to you to leave all this and make an announcement immediately, rather implement this order. And secure the SCs and STs and weaker sections of society their due rights immediately. Failing which, they are not going to keep mum. Now, it is too much, not only this, ever since reservation is there, all the reserved posts for SCs and STs have not just have a look that been fulfilled. I know there are 1.5 lakh reserved posts in Bihar have been grabbed by the candidates of the general category and if it is calculated in terms of rupees, it comes to 450 crore rupees, the amount which should have gone to SCs and STs. They are deprived of it and others are enjoying it. If it is calculated at the national level then it comes to 2400 crore rupees. Does the Government have this much power to return this amounts to those for whom it is actually meant no, it cannot do so. Let bygone be

bygone but now their due rights should be given to them otherwise the situation will be out of control. You cannot entice them. You cannot pacify them by merely giving fake assurances. The way disparity and injustice are increasing in society is unbearable. When there is disparity in society, it creates disorder which further gives birth to chaos in society. As you know this disorder in society sometime gives birth to Phoolan Devi and another times Meera Thakurain, Munna Dhubin, Mohan Bind and Ramashis Koiri. When any one of them fights for his rights, the situation worsens. I would like to suggest you not to do like this in future.

Sir, four years ago on 2nd March 1988, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Judicial Officers Association submitted a memorandum to the High Court to the effect that not a single Judge representing SCs and STs had then been appointed as a Judge of Patna High Court. You should give them representation. On this, they were told that nobody from these communities is competent and capable enough to become a Judge. In fact, it is not so, they are quite competent but the intention of Government not clear. Those who are in power and dominate society are dishonest and do not want to give it to them. Therefore, I want you to draw the attention of the Government to this danger. Only assurances have been made so far but now mere assurances cannot work. Now, in forests and hills, where the poor live, a new school has opened which teaches that you cannot decide your future in this way, you will have to resort to bullets. Why? Therefore, I request you not to allow such situation to emerge. Otherwise it will be very unfortunate for the country. Now it would not be proper to postpone the matter anymore because the people of the area are raising slogan:-

"Uth jaag jawan -o-shoshit ke, kar inqalab ki tayyari,
Barood bitcha chuka jagah jagah,
bus jara lagade chingari."

I would like the Government to act upon the verdict given by the Supreme Court. The Government should adopt a practical and

not a theoretical approach.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this question was very important and Shri Verma has dealt with the matter quite extensively. This discussion was to take place on 25th but could not take place due to particular circumstances. The hon. Minister in his reply had clearly written that no instructions were issued for the constitution of a permanent body to identify the backward classes in this form, in other words no new backward class was to be identified. The only directions issued were to write to the State Governments in case of any complaint or a suggestion after which the State Governments should take decision on them at the earliest and give their suggestions in that respect. But 100 days have already passed. The Government policy- in all the cases is so ineffective that normally 3-4 months pass without any concrete result. Though the State Governments have been asked, but none of the State Government has so far, given any useful information or suggestion. The hon. Minister has also told that no permanent body has been constituted in any State. It further says that the Government would think over the proposal for enacting an Act to this effect in the House soon. How much more time will be needed to complete this process? The Supreme Court has already issued clear direction on 16th November, even then the public sentiments are being ignored.

I do not want to deliver a long speech in this respect, but I would like to bring two three points to the notice of the hon. Minister.

First of all, a time schedule should be framed with regard to the Constitution of the National Commission and also regarding the submission of its report. It should not take three years in place of three months. Secondly, there is no need to seek the public opinion throughout the country with regard to the identification of backward classes. Why reservation facility is not being provided in jobs immediately? If at all there is confusion with regard to the inclu-

sion of any of the caste, the matter may be taken up by presenting a Bill in the House, if any of the castes remains excluded, it may be included afterwards. But why reservation facility is not being providing in jobs at present? The procedure of providing reservation facility to backward classes should be started with immediate effect in the present recruitment system. However, this is not being done and this makes the Government's intention doubtful.

Besides, the above points, I would like to state that the Government has agreed in the Lok Sabha to take the matter of including those sections of people who are leading their lives below the poverty line, in the category of backward classes. What initiatives the Government is taking with regard to it? These are the three points regarding which I would like the hon. Minister to give his clarifications. The commission should not only be constituted but its report should also be published at the earliest and the matter be given its final shape. The report must be submitted in the current session itself and not be delayed at any cost. At the same time, the reservation facility should be provided to the backward classes in jobs with immediate effect. The hon. Minister may kindly clarify the situation with regard to these three matters so that the people of the country may be apprised of the real situation.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are again talking about the Mandal Commission. I would like to thank the hon. Speaker who realised the gravity of the subject and permitted for half an hour discussion.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would not like to go into the details as to what happened in the past, Shri Verma has already discussed all about it in detail. Everything depends upon the political will. In the present democratic set up, rulers do not inherit power, rather they are elected through the voting system. Majority rules, however, despite the number of people belonging to backward and suppressed classes and the minorities being greater, 90 per cent of this section is forced

[Sh. Ram Vilas Paswan]

to live on begging. Only a handful of people have been keeping their hold on power. Therefore, the question is that of intention. I would not hesitate to say that had the intentions of the Government been clear, the recommendations of Kaka Kalekar Commission would have been implemented 35 years ago and the present situation would not have arisen. Even if the intentions of our party had been clear when we came in power in 1977, we could have implemented the same in 1977. But we also set up a new commission under the name of Mandal Commission. Though this commission submitted its report in 1980 but its recommendations were not implemented for ten years. It was only in 1990. Ten years after the submission of the report that we succeeded to implement its recommendations.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you know that the recommendations of Mandal Commission were implemented, thereafter the matter was taken to supreme Court. But the Government's intentions were not clear. It tried its level best to add a clause of economic basis in the reservation for backward classes-which we opposed to our policy. The total number of Lok Sabha Members at present is 540 out of which 100 Members are present and these are also being forced to get out. 2 per cent of the total population constitutes backward classes and 4 percent seats are reserved for them in jobs. Even then the Government proposes to take creamy layer. Our Government was totally against it, however, the Congress Government reiterated to add the condition of economic basis. That is why the Supreme Court asked the Government to define what 'creamy layer' meant. The hon. Minister is present here. The Committee constituted with regard to the matter of 'creamy layer' was watching TV three days back-submitted its report to the Government before 15th. If the hon. Minister is not against the public welfare-and do feel that he is not against he would certainly try to clarify what the term 'creamy layer' stands for in the report and which classes are to be consid-

ered advance backward classes. Mr. Chairman, Sir, similarly, in the judgement delivered on the 16th November, the Supreme Court has stated clearly that the recommendations of Mandal Commission have been implemented. I would like to know from the Government about the specific places where these recommendations have been implemented. Perhaps the Supreme Court has referred to that matter in which our Government deputed 14 Joint Secretaries to get the list from the states and finalise it; after which no declaration was made though everything was finalised. We do feel even today that if the backward classes being provided reservation facility are the same which have been enlisted in the Mandal Commission report, the Supreme Court would not impose any restriction over it. However, if the matter concerns the 'creamy layer' it may remove them from the list on the day it succeeds in finalising the creamy layer.

I had pointed out the other day too, but the hon. Minister could not understand it, thereafter he admitted that I was right but also said that I failed to make him understand. I said that I tried my level best to make him understand. Recently the advertisement for IAS examination for 1993-94 has published, IAS and IPS examination will be conducted.. (*Interruptions*).. Mr. Chairman, Sir, just as under Rule 193, one hour discussion is allowed, but it goes on for about three hours. Similarly half-an hour discussion normally is extended to one hour and the Members have the facility to ask question and clarify their points of view. I would not take much of your time.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to state that the IAS and IPS examinations for the year 1993-94 are going to be held- I do not say that the Government's intentions are not clear, however perhaps the Government is unaware that it would take about a year when the result of the present examinations for 1993-94 will be declared. The Government has made no provision for reservation for backward classes. What will be its consequences? The consequences will be that the candidates of backward

classes would not appear in the examination. If the Government was interested, it could have added the column for the candidates of backward classes. The time by which the backward class candidate would qualify the preliminary test and would be placed in the final list, the Government's concept of economic criteria would have been clarified.....

The candidates from creamy layer should have been excluded so that candidates lower than creamy layer would have got seat. That is why I had said that we had launched an agitation. On the 22nd I courted arrest and along with Mr Shri V.P. Singh too courted arrest. So that importance of the issue could be highlighted. If the hon. Minister, can do anything in favour of it, he must do that. The States where list of backward classes are not prepared..

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESARI) : If something can be done and if there is some provision, the Government will think over it.. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The list of backward classes has not been prepared in some States, namely Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal. This matter cannot be left to the State Governments. The Supreme Court of India has given a verdict in Mandal Commission case. The Mandal Commission has recommended for alist of castes to be prepared by each State. The Central Government is accountable to it. A Commission should be set up at the earliest. If you life, you may send one Joint Secretary to each State where list of backward classes is not prepared. They will finalise the list after consulting the State Governments. No State Government has courage to exclude any person belonging to backward class as from the list. No State Government will implement the principle of creamy layer because this matter is directly concerned with votes. The sooner you finalise the list, the sonner the State Governments will start their work. Forthly, there

is a question of limit of 50 per cent reservation. The Supreme Court of India has fixed the limit of reservation of 50 per cent. The other day when Shri Ram Lakhn Singh Yadav asked a question, the Government replied that as per the orders of the Supreme Court, the reservation cannot exceed 50 per cent. The Supreme Court has not made it a hard and fast rule...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES: Can you kindly tell me why your Government had issued the order without doing the preliminary work of preparing the lists etc.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: You do not know Mr. Charles. Our Government did not decide anything. Our Government decided common list. By common list I mean those castes which are already getting backward facility in their States and which are in the list of Mandal Commission also. Those who are in the common list will get the first rank. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. CHARLES: Your Government did not do anything. That is exactly what I wanted to know.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: On that day he had told that the reservation for scheduled caste and Scheduled Tribes is 22.5 per cent and 27 per cent for backward classes. If the recommendation for 27 per cent reservation made by the Mandal Commission is taken into account, it comes to 49.5 per cent. I would like to urge upon the Government to amend the Constitution if necessary. In Tamil Nadu, the reservation is 71 per cent and in Karnataka it is 68 per cent. These are many States where reservation is more than 60 per cent. Simi-

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larly, there is reservation for the handicapped and ex-servicemen. There was no hard and fast rule in the Constitution in this regard. Therefore, the Supreme Court has clarified the Constitutional provisions. I want that the States where there is more than 50 per cent reservation, it should continue there in the interest of backward classes and if there is a need to amend the Constitution, it should be amended suitably. In the end, there is the question of reservation in promotions. We raised this issue on 4th December. On 22nd December you had made an announcement in this House. I know what you have written. But a change was made when it was sent to the Head of the Department. I am not blaming the Government for it. The Prime Minister is Head of the Department. He said that the interest of S.Cs and S.Ts would be safeguarded. You have announced it in this very House on 22nd December. But the Government wrote a letter a week ago after passing the months of January and February. Why a prompt person like he does not remain alert in the matter. He should have done it at once. I cited an example of Punjab on that day. I said that there is provision of reservation in promotions at several stages. Some irregularity has been committed in the quota for high officers. You may examine it. You may get it examined by the law experts of the Ministry of Law as well as A.G. If an amendment to the Constitution is needed, then it should be made. A conspiracy is being hatched as to how to create a wedge between the backward classes and the Scheduled Castes, and between backward classes and the minorities. In order to ensure that they may not fall prey to such conspiracies, it has been our effort to maintain harmony between the two. While the reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is like the inner ring road, the reservation for backward classes is like outer ring road. So, it is a double lock. Both are complementary to each other, and not rival to each other. Therefore, the Government has to protect the reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as also to provide for

reservation for backward classes. If there is a need to provide reservation facility to minorities, the Government should provide it. We do plead the case. Coming back to Mandal Commission, I would like to reiterate that there is only single judge belonging to Scheduled Castes. He was not included in the panel of judges. The Government did not hold any discussion with any official of Scheduled Castes or any social organisation. Rather, it has tried to complicate the matter under 16 (4). In this matter, I would like to urge upon the Government to look into it. The matter concerning reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in promotions and reservation for them should not be hanged on. It is an important issue. Nothing is more important than this issue. It is a question of earning bread and sharing the power. You and we come here only for five years. But an officer is recruited for full life to govern the country. When political reservation was made nobody tried to perform Self-immolation. But when reservation for backward classes was made, a number of self-immolations were performed. It is a serious matter which should be taken up seriously on an equal footing. The Government should take up it as well as show courage to implement it.

Shri Rajesh Pilot is sitting here. Whenever he goes, people ask him about it. So, all the Ministers should also look into it. It is a serious matter. If your intention is clear and you political will, the verdict of the Supreme Court as well as the report of the Mandal Commission should be implemented in toto. As I have said reservation in IPS and IAS cadres should not be allowed to linger on.

With these words, I conclude and thank you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I get the sense of the House? Now, the hon. Home Minister is here. All of us, a few minutes ago, wanted to get some information. We will postpone this item now, let him give us the information

that he has with him.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : I would like to say something if possible earlier, or afterwards. It pertains to my city.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Afterwards.

19.59 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTRY
BOMB BLASTS IN BOMBAY -CONTD.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I have informed the House a short while ago that today a tragic incident has occurred in Bombay. I had given all the information to the House that had reached the Government by that time. I went back and tried to a talk to the Chief Minister. But the entire administration was busy at that time in providing relief to the affected people. Some people were being taken to hospitals. I talked to the Chief Minister five minutes back. He explained to me that there was a bomb blast at Bombay Exchange, Dalal Street about half past one today. There were different kinds of bomb blasts at 13 places within the duration of two hours from half past one to quarter to three. According to the Government of Maharashtra, bombs were kept in vehicles and cars and they are parked in crowded area. Probably these were time bombs. The moment it was the fixed time, bombs blasted at 13 places within two hours. In these bomb blasts, our 84 people were killed.

18.00 hrs.

495 persons have been injured and about 150 of them are serious, and the condition of 22 persons of them is very critical. All injured persons have been admitted to hospitals. The situation is well under control of the State Government. It is making all possible efforts to help. The Chief

Minister of the State has assured me that the situation is well under control. We have assured him that the State will be given full cooperation from the Centre. It will be provided para military forces and specialists to find out the nature of the blasts and fix the responsibility. We have decided to send a high-level team to Bombay within an hour. The team will comprise experts from the RAW, I.B., N.S.G., R.B. and bomb disposal squads. They are scheduled to reach at night so that prompt action may be taken there. Then we will come to know as to where, how and in what manner the incident took place.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have assured the Chief Minister of the State that in order to have control over the situation the Central Government will provide every assistance whenever asked by the State. Moreover, red alert has been sounded in the country. All sensitive areas have been taken under control to avert spread of such incidents. I agree with Shri Advani that everybody was concerned with such incidents. He has rightly pointed out that the blast took place in a train. According to the information it was the local train wherein the blast took place. Keeping this in view the Government has made adequate arrangement to stave off the recurrence of such mishaps. So far as the Maharashtra Government is concerned, I have intimated the Chief Minister personally that adequate arrangements have been made and a team will be sent there today itself. I have talked with the hon. Minister of Home Affairs and he has said that he would personally visit Bombay and assess the situation. If there is any other information besides it, I will inform you.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have the latest information about the bomb blasts in Bombay and these 13 places which have been indicated are the most sensitive places in Bombay. They are, Air Indian's building, Stock Exchange, Katha Bazar, Shiv Sena building, Century Bazar, worli, Passport Office, Centaur Hotel

[Sh. Ram Naik]

near Airport, Madanpura, Plaza Cinema in Dadar, Machhimar Colony in Mahim, Nayar Hospital and Manish Market near Police Commissioner's office. A chain of bomb blasts have been there and my information is, about 176 persons have died so far. The number is not material, but the situation is very tense there. In view of this, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of one very important point and this is, when the former Governor of Maharashtra Shri C. Subramaniam and resigned his post, on that very day in his first Press Conference he said that there is a foreign hand in Bombay riots. So, I would like the Government to look into it from that angle also. This is one aspect which should be gone into.

Sir, from the Bharatiya Janata Party side, we have arranged for a series of dharmas and protest meetings against the Railways Budget and the General Budget. I have announced the withdrawal of that agitation earlier. I am announcing it here also that we have withdraw the agitation in view of this tragic happening, because this is something where we should all come together. Now, we are going immediately to Bombay as soon as the House rises for the day.

I do appeal that the citizens of Bombay should take it in their stride and maintain peace. If this appeal goes from the House, I feel it would be better. On such occasions, something like crises management should be done with all seriousness in the city. This is what I would like to say on this occasion.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North General) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, out of these 13 places, three incidents have taken place in my constituency itself.

I would like to know whether the transport etc. is going on normal in Bombay and whether the situation is calm and quiet, at least at present.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: For the information of the House, let me put the 13

places on record:

1. Bombay Stock Exchange - 4th floor.
2. In a truck carrying chemicals at Pydhonie.
3. In a local train near Karjat.
4. Near Century Bazar, Worli,
5. Near Oberoi Hotel - Air India Office.
6. Near Shiv Sena Bhavan, Dadar.
7. Near Manish Market.
8. Near Mantralaya.
9. Plaza Theatre.
10. Centaur Hotel.
11. Bus near Century Bazar.
12. In the Opera House Bazar.
13. Near Masjid Bandar Railway Station.

These are 13 places.

The Chief Minister has told me about the situation. The traffic is normal. Everything is functioning normally except near these places, there is crowd, relatives and other people are gathered there. But relief measures and other measures have been taken.

What the hon. Member has said is very right. Crisis is there. The State Government is in action. That is why, from the Centre, we are sending a very high level team including RAW officers, IB officers, experts on bomb explosion so that all apprehensions of any hand is known to the nation and we leave no stone unturned to find out who has done it and why it has been done and to take possible corrective measures.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: What has happened in Bombay is obviously planned by some agency which has very wide network. So, we should be cautious in

respect of other such metropolitan cities, all of them, so that our focus may be at Bombay at the moment to provide necessary relief and to bring about normalcy at the earliest. But to anticipate therefore, the intelligence network should be very very alert. There is obviously a failure at the level of intelligence. Otherwise such a wide spread conspiracy should not have got up in this manner. I would like to caution the Government in that respect.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: The hon. Member has said about the appeal. We share the sentiments of this appeal and share the grief of the bereaved families. The appeal can go from the House.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Wiberia) : On behalf of the whole House, you can make an appeal to the country so that peace is restored.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, this is the sense of the House. We make an appeal to the people of Bombay to maintain peace and tranquility and also sending consolation to the bereaved families. The House sends its sympathy to the injured ones and we hope that peace will come back very soon in Bombay so that everybody can live happily.

Now the time is past Six O'clock. Do I have the sense of the House to extend the time till the half-an-hour discussion is completed?

MANY HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rasa Singh Rawat.

18.08 hrs.

HALF AN HOUR DISCUSSION

MANDAL COMMISSION REPORT
(CONTD)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer)
: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it has been mentioned

that the Supreme Court gave its verdict on the Mandal Commission on November 16, 1992. If the decision taken by the Vishwanath Pratap Singh Government is implemented I would like to know through you whether the Central Government has appointed any Commission after the decision of the Supreme Court regarding the Mandal Commission to collect information of the Backward castes from State Governments and enlist these castes in the category of Backward castes. If so, what was the reaction of the different States and which States have prepared the list of Backward castes, what action has been taken by them and whether any guidelines have been issued by the Ministry of Welfare on its own?

Sir, when a decision of setting up the National Commission was taken what was the criteria of choosing the "creamy layers" in backward classes for which the Government has appointed an experts Committee. It should be clarified. Sir, when was an announcement to this effect made in the newspapers or on Radio and Television.

The people who are socially, economically and educationally backward are worried that even if they have been enlisted in a particular caste in the category of backward classes which was prepared earlier, they might not find a place in the new set up under the pretext that they belong to the "creamy layer". People are very apprehensive about it. Through you, I would like to know from the Government whether it has issued certain guidelines to that expert's committee in this regard also. What will be their criteria and base for identifying the 'creamy layer'? Whether there is any possibility to review the final decision taken in this connection.

The intention of the Government seems to be malafied because the decision was given on November 16, 1992. One hundred days have passed since then, yet there is no progress. The action is being taken at a snails' pace. It should be expedited. Why it is not being expedited? Why does the Government hesitate?

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

Shri Pawan and other colleagues have rightly pointed out as to why the Government did not issue orders to provide reservations of backward castes which are enlisted in the Mandal Commission, in examinations conducted by the U.P.S.C., the Public Service Commission of the States or the Staff Selection Commission as the Government had received the judgment of the Supreme Court and it was implemented soon thereafter? Who is responsible for this?

For them saying and doing seem to be different things. All that glitters is not gold. There is a great difference between profession and practice.

'Na surat buri hai, na seerat buri hai,
Bura whai hai jishki, niyat buri hai.

Fifty two per cent population of the country was looking hopefully towards the Union Government and State Government for the facilities proposed to be provided to them under the orders of Supreme Court after going through the formality of identification etc. The congress party had promised that it would check price rise within 100 days, but it could not do so. The period of 100 days has passed, but instead of coming down, the prices have increased manifold unabatedly. Similarly the period of 100 days has passed since the judgement of Supreme Court was delivered on Mandal Commission and no action has been taken thereon. So far.

Through you, I would like to say the Government:

'Kathani tothi jagat men,
Karani uttam sar,
Kahe kabir karani sabal, utare
bhav jal par'.

Kesriji is present here. He had said forcefully and in unequivocal terms that they would implement it and no power on earth can stop or deter them from implementing it. But now, we don't know what obstructions

have come in their way or are they waiting for the announcement of elections to the Legislative Assemblies which have been dissolved. There arises a doubt that the Government perhaps want to take advantage of delaying the elections deliberately.

Therefore, through you, I would like to request the Government to expedite the process and tone up the administration for this purpose. It should also provide constitutional rights as soon as possible. An attempt is being made to create a rift among the backward classes in the name of identifying cream layer. Apprehensions are being expressed regarding promotions of SCs and STs. When I visited my constituency several delegations met me. They asked whether promotions have been banned in Railways after the verdict of the Supreme Court? I said that in this regard Kesriji had announced in the House that earlier rules would remain effective for five years and there would be no ban on promotions. But in this regard he has not said that law is very important.

The attitude of the Government on all aspects of the Supreme Court's verdict, should come before the society and the country so that people of the country may get proper guidance, their fears and doubts may be removed and people deprived of justice may get justice and their due rights.

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : Sir, today 2-3 issues have been raised here. So far as the interests of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are concerned, the Government is committed to safeguard them. All the apprehensions expressed in this regard are baseless. Government is firm on the statement given by me in the House on 22nd December, 1992. I would like to say clearly that if anything has gone against the interests of Scheduled Tribes, the Government will find out a way to amend it.

So far as special committee is concerned, I would like to say that the committee had presented its report on 10th of this

month. The Government is examining that report and it will certainly be presented to the House, but we would first like to place it before the Cabinet. After that it will certainly be presented in the House. Apprehension being expressed in regard to creamy layer, are baseless as it is not related to any particular caste. Therefore, the report will certainly be presented in the House.

I would like to advise my colleague of the Bharatiya Janata Party they should keep their intentions clear and should cooperate with us to achieve success in this regard. Temple issue was raised after Mandal issue. The recommendations of Mandal Commission report will have far reaching impact.

Ram Vilas Paswanji has rightly said that the issue of reservation for those who are silent sufferers, has been there for centuries.

Academic discussions have been held and agitations have been launched over this issue but the credit of giving it a practical shape, no doubt, goes to the Supreme Court. Notification regarding implementations of Mandal Commissions recommendations was issued on 7th August, 1990 and the case was field in the Supreme Court on 13th August, 1990 and again it came up for hearing on 25th September, 1991. It is clear from all these things that the Supreme Courts verdict put a Stamp of confirmation on it., I again repeat my commitment that I will implement the Supreme Court's decision is letter and spirit and the Government will implement it. It is true.....[Interruptions]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: When will the Government implement it?

SHRI SITARAM KESRI: The Expert Committee has submitted it's report. In reply to your question on that day also I had said that after receiving and examining the report of the Expert Committee and after Supreme Court's verdict, it would be given practical Shape and implemented. The Government would not keep this issue pending for long.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: We have

come to know that you are being shifted to another Ministry. Therefore, implement these recommendations immeditions immediately.

SHRI SITARAM KESRI: I would like to congratulate all parties and persons who have raised this issue of reservation before the country, whether they belonged to the Constituent Assembly of 1946, or to the Lok Sabha of 1952, 1978-79, 1990 or to 1991. They all deserve to be praised because it has been a national issue, but alongwith it I would like to say that the Bharatiya Janata Party has been trying to torpedo it invisibly, therefore, I.....[Interruption] I agree with you. Kindly listed Gangwarji. Whatever you say, you say it from the inner core of your heart, but your colleagues always speak after giving it much thought. Though the Bharatiya Janata Party raised the issue of Mandal Commission in 1985, but it did not support it actively. It had not participated in the agitation.....[Interruptions]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: We had supported it.....[Interruptions]

SHRI SITARAM KESRI: No, no, Has it been in their heart? No, no never.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is there in our manifesto.

SHRI SITARAM KESRI: It has now been included in your manifesto. The Supreme Courts verdict is in accordance with our manifesto and it is also according to their manifesto. When they made categories like backward, more backward and creamy layer, then economic criteria automatically comes in the picture. We shall have to consider it. They have been termed socially and educationally backward. Article 15(4) has been amended. Select committee of the constituent Assembly had removed the economic criteria had provided for the social and educational criteria for reservation. We all have welcomed it when it came in the ambit of the Constitution.

Therefore, I assure the House that the Government will certainly give a practical shape to the Supreme Courts verdict.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Kindly let us know as to when it will be implemented.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Hon Minister, Sir, there is a confusion all over the country about the states, where list of backward classes has not been prepared, though Mandal Commission has recommended to prepare it. What action is being taken in this regard?

SHRI SITARAM KESRI: You are all right. I have written letters to these States which have not prepared the lists. List prepared in the States is common but no list has been prepared in 10-12 states. I have also written to those states to prepare list as soon as possible. A Committee should have been constituted in all states in accordance with the Supreme Courts verdict, but it has not been constituted in many states. However some states has done so and some states are the in process of preparing ths list. So far as the question of the list is concerned I have given directions.....

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Why does the Government not sent the officers from

here as we had sent 14 Joint Secretaries. Notification for implementation of Mandal Commission recommendations was issued on 13th August and the Government had sent Joint Secretaries to help prepare the list with in 15 days. Why does the Government not sent Joint Secretaries in those 13-14 states on the same lines.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Your suggestion is good. If the State Government do not send lists within 5-7 days, I shall send the officers from here.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Will it be implemented this year or not? Will Mandal Commission's recommendations be implemented in 1993 or not? We would like to have a positive reply from you.

SHRI SITARAM KESRI: If there is provision the Government will certainly do whatever Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has suggested.

18.23 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha the adjourned till
Eleven of the Clock on Monday, March
15, 1993/Phalguna 24, 1914 (Saka)*