

LOKSABHA DEBATES
TENTH SERIES (VOL.XXXIV No.19)
AUGUST, 19, 1994
ELEVENTH SESSION



TENTH LOK SABHA

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

[ORIGINAL ENGLISH PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN ENGLISH VERSION AND ORIGINAL HINDI PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN HINDI VERSION WILL BE TREATED AS AUTHORITATIVE AND NOT THE TRANSLATION THEREOF.]

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

*Friday, August 19, 1994/Sravana 28,
1916 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Pay Commissions

*361. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some recommendations of the Third and Fourth Pay Commissions are still pending before the Government for implementation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any final decision about the fate of all such pending recommendations after the constitution of the Fifth Pay Commission;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (f). No recommendation of the Third Pay Commission is pending consideration. Two recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission viz. para 10.263(part) relating to uniformity in the grant of special pay to the personnel in various trades in all the Central Police Organisations and para 19.8 regarding age of superannuation for scientific and technical personnel in all the Scientific Departments are however, under consideration.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: Are there any recommendations which have been accepted in principle? Are there any recommendations which have been sent for the arbitration but not implemented so far? I would like to know, what are the terms of reference of the Fifth Pay Commission and whether they are going to be broad-based enough to protect the interests of all employees?

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Out of 168 recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission, no action was required on 31 recommendations as they were only observations; 20 recommendations were not found practicable and 116 recommendations have been implemented. I have already replied that only two recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission are under consideration.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: With the advent of time, new schemes, new areas with new set of work and new set of skills have come under the purview, scope and dimension of the governmental functioning. It has spread in all directions. It goes right from above the sky, that is, the space to below the ground level and below the ocean also. The Space Research Centre sends satellites in space and the ONGC goes under the water and the Water Survey Department goes below the Earth to find out the underground water. So, the area of governmental functioning has increased in a very big way. It comprises of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited right from the heavy industry to light music. It deals with commerce, trade, business and all social, medical and educational activities and what not. So, I, therefore, would like to know whether the Government will think of constituting sub-committees under the Pay Commission to go into the aspect of different kinds of these activities to evaluate the work and fix up the increments according to that.

So, whether these sub-committees will also be asked to go into the question of administrative authority, powers, functions, responsibilities and accountabilities of the post at the time of fixation of pay or increment and suggest ways and means to curb the lacunae inherent in the system so as to

reduce the possibility and element of corruption at different levels and bring out speed, efficiency and coordination in governmental functioning and give incentive for good work and make the administration clean and neat?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: The Pay Commission is a high-powered body and my submission is that the terms of reference of the Commission are sufficiently wide enough to set up any sub-committee to take care of any special problems that may be faced by personnel in space and other organisations that the Commission deems fit. There is no bar with the Commission setting up any of these bodies. But, I feel that this is best left to be decided by the Pay Commission.

DR. R. MALLU: As per the reply there are two demands pending in Fourth Pay Commission pertaining to Central Police Organisation and Scientific and Technical Organisation. As I know this Central Police Organisation and Scientific and Technical Organisation are very sensitive and they are supposed to concentrate on their jobs when compared to other organisations. I would like to know from the hon. Minister by what approximate time they are going to finalise the pending demands of these two organisations.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: As I have already pointed out one recommendation regarding the matter of special pay applicable to the different trades in Central Police Organisation is pending in the Ministry of Home Affairs and the other one is pending for uniformity in the age of superannuation in the cadre of scientific and technical personnel, with the Department of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Law and the Department of Personnel. They

are discussing the issue. After considering all the legal aspects, we will take a decision.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Whether in the Fifth Pay Commission Report, special attention will be given to the jawans and officials of Indian Army? As these jawans and officials are posted in Siachen Glacier, they get additional allowance of Rs. 200 to Rs. 250 per month. What step the Government is taking to keep the morale of these personnel high in future?

[*English*]

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Regarding one report pending after the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission, this is one among them.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: While replying the hon. Minister said that certain recommendations were unacceptable. I would like to know what are these recommendations and what are the reasons behind that and when the Government came to the conclusion that they are not acceptable? The consideration that is still pending indicates that a long time had passed. When is the Government going to fix the time-limit for that and when is the Government going to apply the Fifth Pay Commission? Whether it is in the mind of the Government that when they appoint the personnel in the Pay Commission, will they take into consideration the new areas which can speak about the quality of work? If not, will the Government consider including those personnel in the Pay Commission so that the Commission will take full view of all the areas that come under the Government of India?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, the Pay Commission, as I said is a high-powered body. The resolution of the problems which have been referred to by the hon. Member does not lie in that for each specialised service there should be a member. The Pay Commission, I am quite confident, will be able to discharge all its responsibilities with its present members. It has a former judge of the Supreme Court as its member; it has a very distinguished economist; and it has very distinguished administrators as its members. And, as I said, the Pay Commission can set up any advisory group that it wants. So, I do not feel that as of now the answer to the need for taking into account the specific circumstances of each services is that each service should have a member. That is not simply a feasible proposition.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: What about the other part of my question? I have three parts.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: About those two recommendations, I would like to clarify.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: There are not just two recommendations. He said there were certain recommendations which were not acceptable.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, the Pay Commission submitted its Report in 1986. The action was taken in 1987. I do not have right now the details about the recommendations which were rejected. We will supply the requisite information to the hon. Member.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, against thirty-one recommendations, it had been observed

that no action is required and twenty recommendations have been rejected. Sir, these two recommendations which are under consideration, at present, are pending since long. At that time some recommendations were rejected and some recommendations were not required for any action. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister through you, Sir, about the fate of these two recommendations, whether they will be rejected or no action is required or some action will be taken over these two recommendations.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:

And, when the action taken report will be submitted!

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Or, the revised report!

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: These recommendations are pending since long.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Sir, I have already replied. One recommendation is pending before the Ministry of Home Affairs; the other recommendation is pending with the Department of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Law and the Department of Personnel. They are discussing the legal aspects of the issue.

[Translation]

Air Fares

*362. SHRI MOHAN SINGH
(DEORIA):
DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI
PAWAR:

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

(a) the percentage increase in air fares of the Indian Airlines and the Air India since October, 1991 and revenue earned as a result thereof;

(b) whether these hikes in air fares have resulted in reduction in the passengers travelling by the Indian Airlines and the Air India;

(c) if so, the reaction thereto;

(d) whether the Government have received some representations against the recent increase in domestic rupee fares of the Indian Airlines; and

(e) if so, the reaction thereto?

[English]

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

STATEMENT

(a) Details of percentage increase of fares since October, 1991 in the case of Indian Airlines and Air India are as under:--

Indian Airlines		Air India (Increases applicable to all sector Ex India)	
October, 1991	... 9%	October, 1991	... 10%

Indian Airlines**Air India (Increases applicable to all sector Ex India)**

September, 1993 ... 15%	May, 1992 ... 15%
July, 1994 ... 10 - 20%	January, 1993 ... 8.5%
	June, 1993 ... 15%
	April - July, 1994 ... 6%

Apart from the above; there have been increases in Air India fares, (both promotional and normal) on certain sectors.

In the case of Indian Airlines, the fare increase in October, 1991 accounted for an additional estimated revenue of Rs. 158.25 crores and the September, 1993 increase gave an additional estimated revenue of Rs. 215 crores. The increase in July, 1994 is estimated to yield Rs. 190 crores per year.

In the case of Air India, it is not possible to quantify the revenue earned due to these fare increases, since revenue generation is affected by capacity deployed, activities of the competitors and other social economic factors.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, every year, the fares of Indian Airlines and Air India are increased. In 1993, the fares of Air India were increased twice —

by 8.5 per cent in January and 15 per cent in June. Thus, the total increase was 23 per cent. Despite that, the rate of revenue earning of Air India has dropped this year and on the other hand, the losses of Indian Airlines has increased. In this connection, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that as per the reply to the part (b) of the question, the number of passengers travelling by Air India and Indian Airlines is decreasing due to the hike in the fares. As a result, the rate of revenue earning is coming down and the loss is increasing. Whether this hike in the fares is affecting the passenger carrying capacity utilisation of Air India and Indian Airlines?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Member has stated that due to the hike in fares, the number of passengers is coming down and it is resulting in loss to the Indian Airlines, I would like to inform him that so far as Air India is concerned, the fares were hiked by 10 per cent in 1991-92 and at that time, the number of passengers came down by about one lakh and fifty thousand. However, its reason was not the hike in the fares. It was due to the accident of Jumbo-747 which has to be completely written off. Further, a fire had broken out at the Delhi Airport. On the one hand, Jumbo-747 had to be withdrawn from the fleet and on the other hand, our industrial relations also dipped to a low ebb. That is

why we had to suffer a loss...(Interruptions). Further, in the next year, we effected an increase of 25 per cent but the number of passengers increased by fifty thousand more. It means...(Interruptions) I would like to reply to your first question because it is not that when we resorted to ten per cent hike, the number of passengers dropped by one lakh and fifty thousand but when we hiked the fares by 25 per cent, not only the earlier shortfall was covered but the number of passengers increased more by fifty thousand. It means...(Interruptions) I would like to give the reply to the question of hon. Minister. These two things are not inter-related because after the second hike, the number of passengers had increased.

The second question is regarding Air India. The hon. Member has stated that the revenue earnings of Air India has been less compared to the earning of the previous year. Though I do not have the exact figures with me, yet it earned a profit of Rs. 333 crores in 1992-93 and Rs. 146 crore in 1993-94. If one looks at the gap between Rs. 333 crore and Rs. 146 crore, it cannot be termed as a loss because in between, we also purchased four new aeroplanes 400-447. This gap has occurred because we are paying interest on the purchase of these aeroplanes. Air India is not running into losses but its profit is rather increasing since last year.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Sir, it seems that the hon. Minister does not want to present the complete picture of the airlines. The matter of dispute is that whether the number of passengers travelling by the carrier has increased in proportion to the increase in the total passengers? My second question is that whenever the Government awakens, the fares are increased. What is

its basis? What is its logic? Under what circumstances the decision of hike in the prices is taken? We have observed that sometimes in 6 months, sometimes in 3 months and sometimes in five months duration the fares are hiked. What is its basis? It is understandable if the hike in the fares is effected once in a year or at the end of the each financial year.

They do not adopt a certain policy. They increase the fares on *ad-hoc* basis. Whenever the Government wants, it increases the fares. I would like to know its basis. When the prices of petrol increase....

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member wanted to know the basis.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: I have got it and I will give the complete answer.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: It is due to this that the employees resort to strikes. I would like to know the basis or the logic on which the fares are increased. Further, in what circumstances, the decision to hike the fares is taken? They simply increase the fares on *ad-hoc* basis. Whenever they awakened they immediately increased the fares.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: I would like to inform the hon. Member that we have made the expenses on the basis of getting back the capital and to have proper profit on it. Secondly, there is the principle of fixation of fare, I am transcribing it that which can be borne by the market and the passengers or either of the two or by mixing both of these. As I have already replied that we emphasis on the recovery of our expenses fully or partially. Since the hon. Member has asked about the expenses after 1991 and onwards, so I would like to inform him that since 1990

to till date we have expanded Rs. 66 crore on it and the increased cost of air craft maintenance and outside repair are responsible for it and now the Indian Airlines services are being operated for foreign countries.

In the meantime 12 new aircraft have been purchased, their amount of insurance is Rs. 250 crore, interest on aircraft loan is Rs. 103 crore, staff cost is Rs. 156 crore, food services, ground support and other administrative services involve Rs. 94 crore. In this way during these 4-5 years there has been an increase of Rs. 866 crore input. If you wish I would like to give the detail in percentage we have to pay 120 percent on material consumption and outside repairs and 650 per cent on aircraft insurance. Aircraft landing, Housing and Packing charges involve 65 per cent, Navigational charges are 117 per cent, Depreciation and Finance charges involve 172 per cent and the staff cost is 80 per cent. In this way the total input has gone up by Rs. 866 crore during these years and as I have said that this input is to be recovered by one way or the other. I would like to mention the way we have found suitable to recover it.

Rupees 162 crore has been recovered from the Indian Airlines, operated on foreign routes. This amount has been put under that head. After it the total input in domestic sector remains 705 crores. When the prices of oil gone up in 1991, Indian Airlines had to increase its fare by 9 per cent, which led to the earning of Rs. 156 crores. Second time the fare was increased by 15 per cent in 1993 due to the hike in the price of oil and 215 crore rupees were earned on this account.

[English]

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY:
That is estimated and not actual.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: No, no, that is actual. About 'estimated', I am saying for the future.

[Translation]

The recent fare hike which 15 to 20 per cent will the revenue to the tune of Rs. 190 crores. In this way our net gap will be Rs. 85 crore out of the total of Rs. 866 crore. Now it is estimated that during the next year it will be Rs. 85 crore.

[English]

SHRI UMRAO SINGH: Has the Air India any proposal to start chartered flights? If so, will its fares or charges be the same or these will be reduced?

MR. SPEAKER: Disallowed.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:
Sir, simplicity is a virtue. But the reply must be a responsible one.

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask how the air fares in India compare with the air fares in other countries also.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:
I am trying to get at the reply itself. The earlier figures are also estimated figures. You need not be apologetic about it because the total increase in revenue may be for many reasons. An estimate has to be made about how much is due to increase in fares.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Dollar parity is there. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: That is one. But, at the same time, about the reply in the second paragraph, I said, it is simplicity and not a responsible answer. In the case of Air India, it is not possible to quantify revenue earned due to the fare increase. Why should it be so? This is an impossible answer that has been given. It is very simple. If he so needs, he can consult the Finance Minister for all this information.

This is one part and I want an answer on that. The other thing on which I want to draw the kind attention of the hon. Minister through you is that market psychology has been so dominant even in this Department that while increasing the fares, the mention for the current year is 10 to 20 per cent. It is all due to market driven forces. That is, in the four metro centres it is 10 per cent and in those areas which we want to integrate with the main line, in more areas, the fare increase is, sometimes, 15 per cent and sometimes, 20 per cent. Now, for Andaman, for the North-East, the increase is more than 10 per cent, for connecting the metro centres, four metropolitan cities. This is an approach which is not acceptable for the integration of the country.

Would the Minister be kind enough to reconsider the increase in fare structure and reduce it, even less than those for the metropolitan cities, for instance, Andaman, Mizoram, Nagland, Ladakh etc.? Would you agree that instead to 16 per cent, the increase should be less than 10 per cent in the fare increase so that more passengers can go?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, let me first reply to the part (a) of the question,

which the hon. Member has raised, namely why in Indian Airlines we have been able to quantify as to how much the revenue was earned after the increase in fares, and why not in Air India. The reason is very simple.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: The reasons have been stated. It is very simple. It is not acceptable.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: It has not been stated. I was as innocent as you are. In the case of Indian Airlines, passengers have to pay the new fares from the date the new fare is implemented. Suppose, it is implemented with effect from 1st April and if you have a ticket with you purchased in the month of January, which is an okay ticket, but still from 1st April, you will have to pay extra charges. Whereas in the international market, not only for Air India but for all other International airlines, if you have an okay ticket, even after one year after revision you will have to pay the fare of the previous year. So it is very difficult. In international airlines, people do not just go to the counter and buy the tickets, they get the tickets six months, five months, in advance. We do not want to give figures just something like that.

As far as the second part of the question is concerned, Sir, I would say there was an in-house study conducted by Indian Airlines. As the hon. Speaker knows -- he himself had been a very successful Civil Aviation Minister -- as far as the long haul is concerned, the fuel consumption in the long haul is very less. Out of the total inputs of 33 components, one of the major inputs is fuel. In the short haul, because of just quick landing and taking off, the fuel consumption is much more. So, on the basis of this, there are two Reports. One is the Kelkar Report which

was constituted by the Planning Commission in 1989.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am sorry to interrupt. For long haul, the per capita cost is going to be less. Why do you not enforce it strictly for long hauls?

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you later.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, there was an in-house study and on the basis of the study, the new fares should have been with 45 per cent increase for short hauls, keeping in view the inputs. For medium haul, the fare should have been with an increase of 35 per cent.

In the long haul, the fare should have been increased by 15 to 16 per cent. While the input cost for short and medium hauls has gone up by 45 per cent and 35 per cent respectively, we have effected an increase of only 20 per cent, which comes to just half. As regard the long haul, the fare should have been increased by 15 to 16 per cent but we increased it only to the extent of 10 per cent. I may repeat that we have taken care of all these things and in spite of the fact that for short and medium hauls, the increase was 45 per cent and 35 per cent, we had increased the fares only by 20 per cent. Now, a question was raised with regard to the North-Eastern States, Andaman & Nicobar and Ladakh. We took care of this too. Keeping the aspects of national integration in mind, in sensitive places such as Leh, Port Blair and the North-East, the increase effected is only 16 per cent as against 20 per cent in other areas.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Mr. Speaker Sir, while giving the reasons for the hike in fares from time to time, the hon. Minister has

given the reasons in general for the last four to five years and that too combining both Air India and Indian Airlines together. I would like to know specifically the reasons for hiking the fares of the Indian Airlines' domestic flights to the extent of 10 to 20 per cent, within a short period of ten months, *i.e.* between September 1993 and July 1994. What were the specific factors which arose during this particular period that compelled the Government to increase the fares for the domestic flights?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Dighe, he has replied this question in detail giving all the reasons.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: No Sir. He has given the reasons for both Indian Airlines and Air India in general and that too, for a time span of five years. I would like to know the reasons for fare increase in the domestic flights of Indian Airlines specifically for this short period of ten months.

Secondly, is it not the intention of the Government to make this transport available to common citizens and not to reserve it only for executives who pay through their companies and Government officials who pay through the Government treasury? Is it not necessary to make this mode of transport available to the common man too?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: As far as the first part of the question is concerned, I have already stated that the cost of inputs has increased to the extent of Rs. 866 crore. Now it is not possible to offset this by increasing the fares in just one go. One has to go about it gradually. That is why, there was an increase in 1991 and there was an increase again in 1993. In spite of these two increases, the net gap was Rs. 275 crore.

We had to have another increase to bridge this gap and with this increase, the net gap has now come down to only Rs. 85 crore.

SHRI INDERJIT: Mr. Speaker Sir, the open sky policy was expected to give a much better deal to air-travellers. I am glad it has achieved at least one objective. Most of the flights are now on time. The quality of inflight service has also improved. It has improved even in the Indian Airlines!

But Sir, the second deal which was expected was that this competition would enable us to bring down the air fares. To what extent, was this expectation justified? Are we, if at all, likely to get any benefit of cheaper air fares out of this greater competition?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: As stated already, the cost of input components has gone up tremendously, say, by 650 per cent, 121 per cent, 200 per cent, 300 per cent and so on. Globally, the inputs are now very costly. As mentioned by the hon. Speaker, it is not in our country only that the fares have been increased. As a matter of fact, as far as India is concerned, our fares are the cheapest in the world. Let me compare the fares in our country *vis-a-vis* the fares in Pakistan, Malaysia and Indonesia.

For Karachi and Lahore the distance is 1013 kilometers and the fare is Rs. 4,391, that is around Rs. 4,400.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Is it in dollar or rupee?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: It is dollar converted into rupee.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker

Sir, I am sorry, I just want to raise two questions.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you. The next question will be by you.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: So, for 1013 Kilometers, it is about Rs. 4,400. Whereas for the same distance in India, between Bombay and Coimbatore, which is a distance of 1018 kilometers, with an increase of 3-4 kilometers, the fare is Rs. 2,600.

Now, let me go to Indonesia.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Foreign airlines?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: No, no, it is domestic. Now, I might not be able to read the exact names, it is Balik Papan and Semarang. The distance between these two cities is 960 Kilometers. If we compare the fare between Bombay and Calicut, which incidentally, has the same distance of 960 kilometers there the fare is Rs. 3,100 and here it is Rs. 2,700.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, I will frame my question very briefly. There are two aspects. There are two concerns. I am led to the conclusion in the explanation that the hon. Minister provided about price hike of fares, 45 per cent for short-haul should have been less, 7 per cent for long haul and he routed it off. The result is that the short-haul is being subsidised at the cost of the long-haul. One of the longest Internal flights in the country is really a flight if you take a flight from Trivandrum to Calcutta. It is not simply a question of sensitive areas as the hon. Minister put it, it is also a question of the principle of per

kilometer cost hauling. If there are 33 inputs to the per kilometer cost, then of those 33, a number of them remain static and fuel cost appreciably falls in long distance flights. I am not convinced as to why this step is being taken by the Government to subsidise the short-haul at the cost of long-haul?

My second question Sir, if you are looking at it, it is one of the factors in price hike and also it is a question of dollar parity and if it is parity, than how much is the devaluation caused to this price hike?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: That I was citing as an example. It is not only here in our country, the fares are much more in other countries also. It was just a comparison. It is not a part of the real body of the answer. I was just comparing.

As for the other thing that you said, it is contradiction between my friends on the Left and naturally on the Right. This seems to be so. They are wanting that there should be much more subsidy for the short-haul and you are saying totally against, that there should not be any subsidy. I mean, it should not be cross subsidised. But the policy of cross subsidy is followed keeping in view the nature of the North-Eastern States and also the very important factor of national Integration. If we increase the fare by 45 per cent for the North-Eastern States or for Ladakh or for that matter Andaman and Nicobar Islands, we might jeopardise the feelings of the people of these far-flung areas. We do not want to do that. So, I think, even if we have to sacrifice a bit, keeping as far as the unity and integrity of the country is concerned, I think, the hon. Members will appreciate it.

SHRI SANT RAM SINGLA: Sir, I would

like to know from the hon. Minister that Air India did not account any additional estimated value in comparison to that of Indian Airlines due to increase in air fare. What are the reason thereof and what steps are being taken to add to the revenue of Air India?

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I have not understood your question. Probably the Minister also has not understood it, Will you repeat it?

SHRI SANT RAM SINGLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to the increase in air fare the Air India did not account any additional estimated revenue in comparison to that of the Indian Airlines. What are the reasons thereof and what steps are being taken to make Air India add to the revenues?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: I have already replied this question.

MR. SPEAKER: Air India and Indian Airlines are two different things.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, the hon. Member is saying that we are getting a lot of revenue after the price hike. I have already said that in the case of Air India one has to buy tickets one year or six months before. So, that question has already been replied.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVANA CHIKHLIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, In reply to the party (b) of the question it has been said that due to the hike in fare of the Indian Airlines the number of passengers travelling in these flights has not decreased. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Vayudoot has been merged in Indian Airlines and if so, the

time by when the only airport of Junagarh, has been closed down?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am on the verge of disallowing the question.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVANA CHIKHLIA: I would like to know if it has been closed down due the fare hike in Vayudoot or not?

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Sir, the Hon. Minister has explained the rationale behind the increase in the domestic air fares. I am very happy to note that in the long haul sector the Government has raised the fares by 10 per cent. We are travelling from Delhi to Trivandrum, which is a long haul sector. The Minister has given a very convincing reply but at the same time it shows that there is a discrepancy in the fare hike. The fare from Delhi to Trivandrum has been increased by 22 percent, which I think was not the intention of the Government. Will the Government examine this discrepancy in the air fare hike in the long haul sector?

MR. SPEAKER: I think he has already replied this question.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: No, Sir. The Minister has said that in the long haul sector the fares have been increased by 10 per cent. The air fare from Delhi to Trivandrum used to be Rs. 5000 but now it has been increased to Rs. 6000.

MR. SPEAKER: You want the country

also to be united. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please come out with the question.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Sir, there is a discrepancy in the air fare hike in the long haul sector. There has been 20 per cent increase in the long haul sector.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, I will answer the question raised by the hon. Member. Unfortunately, we are not operating in a long haul sector when we travel from Delhi to Trivandrum. We are operating like taxi, going first to Bombay or Cochin and then to Trivandrum. So, it becomes a short haul sector. Had we been operating directly from Delhi to Trivandrum, it would have come under the long haul sector.

IAAI and NAA land

*364. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Airports Authority of India and the National Airports Authority propose to commercially exploit the unutilized land under their possession;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total area of land belonging to these authorities which is unutilised; and

(d) the area of land proposed to be utilised under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI

AZAD): (a) to (d). Both International Airports Authority of India (IAAI) and National Airports Authority (NAA) have decided in principle to utilise some of their land, which is not put to utilisation upto now, for aviation and tourism related commercial activities. However, no proposals have been finalised as yet. The exact area of such land will be known only after the proposals are finalised by IAAI and NAA.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am constraint to state that so many years after the merger of the International Airports Authority and the National Airports Authority we have not been able to ascertain as to what is the exact area of the land lying unused with the Department.

The hon. Minister has revealed it in his reply that the exact area of the unused land will be ascertained only after finalising the proposals. There is unauthorized possession of land in every airport and this problem is being faced constantly everywhere, yet we could not decided.....

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: My question is in reference to the reply given by the hon. Minister in which he had assured that exact area of unused land will be ascertained. I would like to request the Government to find out the exact area of land in possession of the Department, the area of land where constructions have taken place and the area of unused land.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Do you have the information about the area of the used and unused land?

(Interruptions)

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir we will try to ascertain at the earliest.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Sir, the Ministry has accepted that there is a proposal to privatise the airports at the earliest. What decision has been taken by the Government in this regard? The Government has mentioned two things in its reply. The Government has accepted it in principle to use such land for commercial activities. What kind of the commercial activities? Would the Government build houses, commercial complexes or will it give this land to somebody on lease? The Government must clarify whether it will keep this land in its possession or transfer it to private parties after privatisation? Ultimately how it will be disposed off? Apart this please state as to what action is being taken to redeem the encroached land?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government never said that airport will be privatised. So far we never said so...*(Interruptions)*..

[English]

It is not being done. He is talking of the existing ones. As far the existing ones...

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: In it, it is written that the Government is considering privatisation of airports.

[Translation]

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: So far this Government has not taken any decision to privatise the airports which are under the National Airports Authority or the International Airports Authority so far. However, the Government has formulated a

policy to allot site for new airports at the places other than those where airports already exist. For instance the Government had permitted to develop airports at Kochin and Bangalore and these are being developed there.

[English]

SHRI NIRMALKANTI CHATTERJEE: You allow the existing airports to die... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Sir, the Government has not replied about the encroached land.

MR. SPEAKER: He has replied that he will send it to you in writing.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Civil airports in the country are under the control of Airports Authority. But the Airports Authority is not able to develop all these airports to the fullest extent. As you know, Sir, the development of airports is very closely linked to the industrial development of the area. Many State Governments have written to the Ministry to return the land which was originally acquired by the State Governments and given to the Central Government for developing the airports but where the Central Government has not been able to develop the infrastructure. Whether the Government will consider returning the land acquired for airports to the State Governments if they make such a request.

I would like to draw the attention of the

Minister to the specific case of Kolhapur airport in Maharashtra where the State Government has written to the Central Government to return the land. I would like to know what is the policy of the Central Government on this.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, it is rather reverse. The Central Government has written to the State Government to take these airport back as we are not able to manage, and we will be too happy to return the airport to Maharashtra.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Sir, in other parts of the world where land is perhaps not so plentiful, the airport land is very profitably commercially utilised. One has gone to airports abroad which first of all look like very big departmental stores. Compared to them international wings of Indian airports are very poor, indeed. I do not know why these have not been developed so far. Therefore, one thing I would like to know whether this commercial development will also attract tourism by combining these two. Are there any plans for developing, at least, the international airports -- even the national airports could be so developed -- and what are the Government's plans? That is part (a).

Secondly, the Minister has said in the reply that the exact amount of land etc., will be known only when the plans are finalised by the IAAI and NAA. What has happened is that so far as Calcutta airport is concerned, a plan for development of a large chunk of land so far unutilized has been submitted to the Ministry long ago and the Ministry has been sitting on it.

This will tie-up with the opening of the new terminal building which could be commissioned in a few months' time. If the

Ministry does not decide about the proper allocation of land even for the bus terminal and all that, this is going to hold up the opening of the new terminal which is under construction for the last four years. Let the Minister reply to all these questions.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: As far as the first part of the hon. Member's question is concerned, I totally agree with him that in the rest of the world, there has been full utilisation of the unutilised lands near the airports.

As far as our country is concerned, unfortunately, we have not done it so far. We are thinking of doing it. That is why I have said that for construction of hotels and motels, the lands have already been allotted in a number of places.

*As far as setting up of Golf Courses in Delhi, provision of lands to oil companies, construction of shopping plazas, recreation centres, car parking and other passenger-related facilities, including car rentals at different places are concerned, we are in the process of doing it. The National Airports Authority and the International Airports Authority are in the process of identifying the places and also trying their best to write, talk and meet with the Chief Ministers of various State Governments. I had, personally two meetings, one in Delhi and another in Bombay with the Chief Minister of Maharashtra for removing the jhuggis and allotting them the land....(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Why don't you come to Calcutta for a chat? That is my constituency.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: We will be too happy if the State Government comes

forward and helps us. So, the purpose is to put up all these things which I have mentioned at different airports. These things are in the mind of the National Airports Authority. The Government is too keen to do all these things.

As far as Calcutta is concerned, I would write to the hon. Member.

Staff Strength

*367. SHRI RAJ NARAIN:
SHRI THOTA SUBBARAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision to reduce the number of various administrative posts by 10 per cent is being strictly followed by all the Ministries/Departments;

(b) if so, the number of posts reduced under this scheme since its declaration; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure the implementation of this decision in all the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) to (c). Pursuant to a decision announced by the Prime Minister in the National Development Council in December, 1991, instructions were issued to all the Ministries/Departments to review their staff strength with a view to abolishing posts by 10%. In addition, activity analysis of selected Ministries/Departments has also been undertaken to identify areas of work that have become obsolete/redundant owing to liberalisation/changes in Government policies, etc. with a view, *inter-alia*, to reducing the staff strength. Resultantly, about 18,000

posts have been abolished. Another 3500 posts have been identified for abolition. Efforts to identify other posts for abolition are continuing.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJ NARAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has provided two types of information in his reply. On the one hand he has stated that all the Ministries/Departments have been issued instruction, but on the other hand he has stated that posts have been curtailed by 10%. I would like to know the names of the Ministries in which 18,000 posts have been abolished. I would also like to know the break up of such employees belonging to class I, class II, class III and class IV and also that of employees belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes. Moreover, I would also like to know that while curtailing the posts whether provision pertaining to reservation were also taken into account; and if not, what are its reasons therefor?

[*English*]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, in 1992, there were 125 posts at the level of Secretary to the Government and up to 17 posts have been identified for abolition.

At the level of Additional Secretary, there were 99 posts of these, six were identified for abolition. At the level of Joint Secretary, 373 posts were there; of these, 52 posts were identified for abolition, that is a total of 75 posts to be abolished. This constitutes eight per cent of the total posts of Joint Secretary and above in the various Ministries and Departments of the Government of India.

With regard to posts below the level of Joint Secretaries, the total number of posts that have been abolished are 15,800 plus 2,500 have been identified for abolition as and when the posts fall vacant. But I do not have the details Ministry-wise.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJ NARAIN: If 3500 posts have been identified for abolition and efforts to identify other posts for abolition are continuing, then what is the Ministry wise break up of these 3500 posts identified for abolition.

[*English*]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: I do not have the information with me. We will make that information available to the hon. Member.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA: In his reply the hon. Minister has stated that some posts are being abolished, some employees are being retrenched whereas some posts are being identified for abolition. On the one hand, the Government talks of increasing avenues for employment under the new industrial policy and the Employment Guarantee Plan, on the other hand, it is removing people from their jobs. Will it not have its repercussions in other places in the country as well?

[*English*]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: We would like to submit to this august House that the way to create employment in the country is

not to inflate the Government's wage bill. In fact, with the same money outside the Government, we can create lot more employment. The cost of employing a person in Government is much higher than the cost of creating a job. So, to the extent that Government employment is reduced to the level which is essential for efficient functioning of the Government: if the resultant savings are deployed elsewhere to create employment, that will be a net beneficial effect on the economy.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI: Sir, the hon. Minister has said in his reply about the abolition of the some posts but the question, which was asked by Shri Raj Narain was about the abolition of posts reserved for the Scheduled Castes and scheduled Tribes, has not been replied. The quota reserved for the SCs and STs has not been filled up all over the country. Therefore, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to fill up the quota reserved for them.

[*English*]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: There is no doubt that our Government has to honour all the commitments with regard to the reservation of posts for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes. The posts that have been abolished have the justification in terms of their functional necessity. The criterion is not whether a post is held by a Scheduled Caste officer or not. The real criterion is whether a post is justified for its functional necessity.

So, there is no question of any discrimination against any officer belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

and other backward classes.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI: The quota of the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has not been filled up completely. What are your comments on it?

[*English*]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: There is no relationship between the two.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS: In the departments where retrenchment has been done, has it been assessed whether the quota for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been filled up completely or not? In such departments where it has yet not been filled up completely, employees of these categories, should not be retrenched. Then their quota has not been filled up completely as yet. If abolition of posts in such departments is resorted to only the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be retrenched. It will be against the policy of the Government for clearing the backlog. Two hon. Members have mentioned that such backlog exists in the Departments where 18,000 people have been retrenched and, therefore, it is being suggested that backlog should be cleared there and employees belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Backward classes should not be subjected to retrenchment.

[*English*]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, I have already explained that when a post is

abolished, the real criterion to assess is whether that post retains its justification or not. If any Scheduled Caste Officer is holding the post -- it is not a policy of retrenchment -- he will be redeployed. he will be given a job in some other Department. So, there is no question of this policy being used in any way to discriminate against the officers of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes or other backward classes.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister says that the post will be abolished and the Scheduled Caste Officer will not be retrenched.

Now Shri Basudeb Acharia.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, there is a great crisis in wagon...

MR. SPEAKER: You talk on this question.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, it is Zero Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not yet said, "The Question Hour is over."

Now, the Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Rubber Plantation

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

(a) whether the Government propose to undertake any project for rubber plantation in the traditional and non-traditional areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the development of rubber cultivation in the country, particularly in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). The Rubber board has been implementing a Rubber Development Scheme for the development and expansion of rubber cultivation both in the traditional as well as non-traditional areas in the country. The main components of this project include:--

- (i) Extension of technical, material and financial assistance to the rubber growers.
- (ii) Assistance to rubber growers in the traditional areas of Kerala and Tamil Nadu for modernising the existing old, uneconomic plantation by replanting with high-yielding cultivars and for expansion of area by new plantation.
- (iii) Assistance for new plantation in non-traditional areas.

The steps taken by the Government for development of rubber cultivation in the country including Orissa *inter-alia* consists of:-

(a) Planting grant @Rs. 8,000/Ha. disbursed in seven annual instalments limited upto 2 Ha. in traditional areas and 5 Ha. in non-traditional areas.

(b) Additional incentive of Rs. 3,000/ Ha. for use of poly-bagged plants is given to general category growers and @Rs. 4000/ Ha. to SC/ST category growers.

(c) Additional assistance limited upto 5 ha. to rubber growers in non-traditional areas which include:-

- (i) Distribution of required polybags and plants at a concessional/ subsidised rate to both the general category as well as SC/ST growers.
- (ii) Financial assistance for fencing of young rubber plants @Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1500/ha. for general category growers and @Rs. 2200 to Rs. 4000/ha. to SC/ ST category growers depending upon hectareage.
- (iii) Subsidy of Rs. 1000 for purchase of rollers for processing of latex and Rs. 3000 for construction of smoke houses.

In addition, the Rubber Board is also implementing a World Bank assisted Rubber Project both in the traditional and non-traditional areas with effect from 1993-94. The main components of this project include: (i) replanting of old and uneconomic rubber plants in 40,000 hectares in traditional areas, (ii) new planting in 30,000 hectares in both traditional and non-traditional area, and (iii) productivity enhancement in 60,000 hectares of mature areas of small holding in traditional regions.

An Eastern-India Rubber Development project was launched in Orissa in 1986 for development of rubber plantation in the State. Three offices of the Rubber Board at present are functioning in Orissa at

Bhubaneswar, Baripada and Berhampur. So far, a total area of 282.21 hectares has been brought under rubber cultivation in Orissa. An additional area of 25 ha. is proposed to be planted with rubber in Orissa during the current year.

Coffee Seeds

*365. SHRIMATI CHANDPA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of low quality coffee seeds exported during 1993-94 and the target fixed for 1994-95.

(b) whether the Government are aware that the domestic market has been affected severely due to export of low quality coffee seeds;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d). During the year 1993-94, a total quantity of 16,675.577 tonnes of low quality coffee seeds were exported. No specific target has been fixed for export of low quality coffee seeds during 1994-95.

The price of coffee including that of the lower grade in the domestic market has been affected by the unprecedented price rise in the international market. It was on account of a glut in the demand for inferior grades of coffee in the domestic market that a decision had been taken a few years ago to allow export of such grades of coffee.

However, in view of the sharp rise in price of coffee in the domestic market, the export of 'C' grades, BBBs' and Peaberry varieties of coffee has been temporarily suspended to improve their domestic availability.

Foreign Airlines Fares

*366. DR. LAXMINARAYAN
PANDEYA:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI
VAJPAYEE:

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

(a) whether the Director General of Civil Aviation has advised the foreign airlines operating from India to follow the provisions of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 in regard to levy of fares;

(b) if so, the response of the foreign airlines thereto;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation against this directive;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) Most of the foreign airlines have agreed to change fares, as approved by the D.G.C.A., as per provisions of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Representations have been received from the following against the above directive:--

(i) Delhi Exporters' Association

(ii) Common Cause

(iii) Wg. Cdr. V.K. Kakar (Retd.) through P.H. Parekh & Co., Advocates, Supreme Court.

(e) Charging of fares at rates approved by the DGCA is a mandatory requirement under the Aircraft Rules. As such no violation can be allowed.

Bank Branches

*368. SHRI RAM KAPSE:
SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of nationalised banks closed/merged during the last six months, bank-wise;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of the employees working in the above bank branches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The bank-wise list of the branches of nationalised banks closed/merged during the six months which ended on 31.3.94 is given in the enclosed *Statement*.

(b) Closure/merger was resorted to

because all efforts to make them viable have failed and are unlikely to yield results.

branches are being productively redeployed in other activities such as internal audit and recovery.

(c) The employees working in these

STATEMENT

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of the Bank</i>	<i>Number of Branches closed/ merged</i>
1.	Andhra Bank	1
2.	Bank of India	9
3.	Bank of Maharashtra	11
4.	Indian Overseas Bank	2
5.	Syndicate Ban	8
6.	United Bank of India	2
		33

Note:

(b) if so, the details, thereof;

Erstwhile New Bank of India (ENBI) was merged with Punjab National Bank (PNB) on 4.9.93. As a result of merger of New Bank of India, 46 branches were merged with other branches as reported by PNB, during the last six months. Of the above, 45 were branches of ENBI merged with PNB branches and 1 was a PNB branch merged with ENBI branch.

(c) the total quantity of tea exported so far; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the export of tea?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b).
Target for export of tea during 1994-95 is 210 mn. kgs valued at Rs.1500 crores.

Export of Tea

*369. SHRICHINMAYANANDSWAMI:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(c) Exports of tea during April-June, 1994 are estimated at 25.31 mn. valued at Rs. 147.88 crores.

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

(d) Steps taken to boost exports of Indian tea include uninational promotional campaigns through Tea Board's offices

abroad comprising of: (i) participation in trade fairs/exhibitions, (ii) media campaign to increase consumer awareness towards various unique characteristics of Indian tea, (iii) media campaign to popularise Indian tea through Tea Board marketing symbol, and (iv) support to various foreign brands containing Indian tea. Tea Board has also independently undertaken Darjeeling and Assam Logo Campaign in U.K.

From time to time, Tea Board also organises trade delegations to importing countries to sort out ground problems and boost exports.

[*Translation*]

Garment Export

*370. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government encourage competition amongst the States to export best quality garments to other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the name of the State which is at the top in the list of 'Pattern' variety;

(c) the names of the States having expertise in the field of silk garments; and

(d) the quantum and value of silk and silk garments exported during each of the last three years. State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c). The

Government encourages exporters of all States to export quality garments. However, these efforts are not aimed at generating competition among different States.

Since textile products are not necessarily exported from the State in which they are manufactured, maintaining State-wise export data is not feasible.

(d) The total value of exports of silk products, including silk waste, was Rs. 675.57 crores in 1991-92, Rs. 734.22 crores in 1992-93 and Rs. 789.26 crores in 1993-94.

[*English*]

Income Tax Base

*371. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of the policy to widen the income-tax base by offering retail traders a simplified way of contribution to income tax;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government contemplate to revise the policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The simplified scheme of presumptive tax payment for small traders was introduced by the Finance Act, 1992.

The scheme which was initially introduced for two years, has been made open-ended by the Finance Act, 1994, keeping in view the response of the small businessmen and representations received in regard thereto. Though the scheme has been reviewed, it is too early to assess its efficacy.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Nationalised Banks

*372. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the nationalised banks are gearing up to meet the challenge posed by the foreign private banks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether cooperation has also been sought from employee unions in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d). To enable them to effectively meet the challenge posed by foreign and private sector banks, nationalised banks have taken steps to improve their productivity, efficiency and profitability. As part of the efforts being made in this regard, substantial funds have been made available to the nationalised banks for the purpose of recapitalisation. Performance agreements, emphasising, *inter-alia*, improvements in productivity and

mechanisation in selected areas, have also been entered into by the Reserve Bank of India with the nationalised banks. Further, agreement has been reached by the Indian Banks' Association with the employees' unions on the question of computerisation. In terms of the settlement, banks will be able to fully or partially computerise urban/ metropolitan branches with daily work load of 750 vouchers or more as also specialised branches.

Aids to Nationalised Banks

*373. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN THORAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the World Bank has agreed to provide finance for some nationalised banks in the country;
- (b) if so the amount proposed to be provided and the conditions thereof;
- (c) whether an experts team from the World Bank has agreed to visit India to discuss and finalise the modalities of the soft loans; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the nationalised banks which are proposed to be provided the assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d). The proposal for a Financial Sector Development Loan is under discussion with the World Bank, for which an Appraisal Mission is currently in India. The details of the amount of loan to be provided, conditions

thereto and the names of the nationalised banks and other institutions which are proposed to be provided assistance will be known only when discussions/negotiations are completed.

Export of Spices

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

(a) the details of the export performance in respect of major spices during 1992-93 and 1993-94;

(b) whether any special efforts have been made to find out new markets for spices; and

(c) if so, the details and the results thereof?

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

(b) and (c). With the collapse of the erstwhile USSR, special efforts were made by the Spices Board to identify new markets for spices. Consequently, in 1993-94, there was a record export of 175532 tonnes valued at Rs. 540.12 crores. There was also a substantial increase of exports of pepper to USA from 12371 tonnes valued at Rs. 39.79 crores in 1992-93 to 22118 tonnes valued at Rs. 82.75 crores in 1993-94.

After resumption to trade relations in Oct., 1993, South Africa has been identified as a potential market and recently there has been an exchange of delegations for promotion of spice trade.

STATEMENT

The details of export of major spices during 1992-93 and 1993-94

QTY IN M.T VALUE Rs.LAKHS

Commodity	1992-93(P)		1993-94 (E)	
	QTY	VALUE	QTY	VALUE
Pepper	23752	7831.31	46650	17966.95
Cardamom (small)	190	750.57	342	1386.35
Cardamom (Large)	1264	863.44	1745	1157.32
Chillies	16887	6768.11	33450	7559.15
Ginger	9517	1655.24	17150	2158.57
Turmeric	19665	4835.83	25250	5200.00
Coriander	13644	2082.92	12750	1947.03
Cumin	2308	1344.59	3150	1537.60
Celery	3138	466.98	3525	581.28
Fennel	2936	700.73	2625	605.60

Commodity	1992-93(P)		1993-94 (E)	
	QTY	VALUE	QTY	VALUE
Fenugreek	5246	566.94	4675	681.22
Other Seeds	1299	261.32	1885	351.32
Garlic	7483	707.37	2610	316.65
Other Spices	14133	2146.68	13650	2165.25
Curry Powder	2834	1033.03	3650	1314.80
Mint Oil	1263	2270.36	1155	2162.27
Spice Oleoresins & other oils	1261	6663.05	1270	6921.08
GRAND TOTAL	126820	40948.47	175532	54012.44

(P) Provisions! (E) Estimate

Sources: Spices Board, Cochin.

[Translation]

the above period; and

Silk Industries

*375. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick industries which have applied for loans to the nationalised banks for revival during each of the last two years;

(b) the number of the above industries which have been given loans by nationalised banks during the above period, year-wise;

(c) the amount of loan released during

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure smooth and timely credit flow by the nationalised banks to the sick industries for their revival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The date reporting system of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generate information in the manner asked for. However, according to RBI data as on 30.03.1992 (latest available), the number of sick Small Scale Industrial (SSI) units and sick non-SSI Units and outstanding credit of public sector banks in respect thereof was as under:

	No. of Units	Amount outstanding (Rs. crore)
SSI sick	2,28,447	3192.60
Non-SSI sick	*2,101	6622.72

* In view of multiple bank financing, the number of units shown does not reflect the actual position.

(d) RBI has issued detailed guidelines to banks regarding formulation and implementation of rehabilitation packages in respect of sick SSI units considered potentially viable. Rehabilitation packages *inter alia* provide for funding of existing dues of banks and financial institutions with extended period of repayment thereof in a phased manner, interest concessions, grant of fresh term loans as also fresh working capital facilities.

As regard non-SSI sick units, sick industrial companies are required, under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA), to be

referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) for determination of remedial and other measures which need to be taken in respect of such companies. Where a scheme for rehabilitation of a company is sanctioned by BIFR, public sector banks/financial institutions provide facilities in terms the sanctioned scheme.

Facilities to EOUs/EPZs

*376. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of facilities provided by the Government to the Export Processing Zones and Export Oriented Units to encourage export;

(b) the extent to which the utilisation of these facilities has increased the annual rate of export;

(c) if the increase is marginal, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have fixed any annual target for exports by these units; and

(e) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the extent to which the export has been made as compared to the targets during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRIPRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Facilities provided by Government to Export Processing Zones (EPZs) and Export Oriented Units (EOUs), *inter-alia*, include duty free import of capital goods and raw materials, exemption from payment of central excise duty on capital goods and inputs procured indigenously, reimbursement of central sales tax, 5 year tax holiday, simplified approval procedure and customs formalities, higher retention of 50% of export earnings in EEFC account and concessional lease rent on industrial plots and sheds in the case of EPZ units.

(b) to (e). The export target fixed for EPZ units and the exports by these units along with the export of EOUs during the last three years are given below. No targets are fixed in the case of EOUs.

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	<u>EPZ units</u>		<u>EOUs</u>		Percentage increase
	<i>Export Target</i>	<i>Exports</i>	<i>Exports by EOUs</i>	<i>Total Exports</i>	
1991-92	1188	1177.14	1045.96	2223.10	32.31
1992-93	1330	1376.31	1946.32	3322.63	49.46
1993-94	2050	1959.91	2863.37	4823.28	45.16

(c) Does not arise.

Pending Cases with BIFR

*377. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending

for clearance with the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction at present, State-wise;

(b) the number of the above cases pertaining to the private sector and the public sector, separately;

(c) the period for which the above cases are pending; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for their expeditious settlement?

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

(c). The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that as on 31.07.1994, 242* cases of sick industrial companies were under inquiry. While the State-wise position of these cases is shown in the Annexure, the year-wise brake-up is given below:

<i>Cases registered during</i>	<i>Number of cases</i>
1989	5
1990	6
1991	18
1992	52
1993	60
1994	101
Total	242

(d) BIFR has reported that continuous efforts are being made by it to expedite the disposal of references registered. The time taken for disposal of cases is steadily coming down. While the average time taken for disposal of cases

registered during 1987, 1988 and 1989 was 730 days, the average for 1990, 1991 and 1992 was 585 days. For the year 1993, the average time taken for cases already disposed off was 165 days.

* This does not include 68 cases in the penultimate stage (*i.e.* where draft schemes circulated or show cause notices for winding up have been issued) and 27 cases where proceedings have been stayed by Courts.

STATEMENT

State/Union Territory-wise list of cases under Inquiry in BIFR

(As on 31.7.1994)

State	Private Sector	Public Sector	Total
Andhra Pradesh	23	4	27
Assam	0	1	1
Bihar	4	6	10
Delhi	2	1	3
Gujarat	15	2	17
Haryana	2	0	2
Himachal Pradesh	4	0	4
Jammu & Kashmir	2	0	2
Kerala	2	4	6

State	Private Sector	Public Sector	Total
Karnataka	11	5	16
Madhya Pradesh	19	2	21
Maharashtra	28	6	34
Orissa	3	2	5
Pondicherry	1	0	1
Punjab	8	1	9
Rajasthan	9	1	10
Tamil Nadu	11	3	14
Uttar Pradesh	32	13	45
West Bengal	5	10	15
Total	181	61	242

[English]

Share in World Trade

*378. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the country's share in the total world exports at present;

(b) the items which registered an increase in export and import during 1993-94 and till date;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any export targets for the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(e) whether the Government propose to take any concrete steps to achieve these export targets; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) India's share in total world exports during 1992, the latest year for which such data are available, is estimated at 0.52%.

(b) The principal commodities/groups which registered increase in exports in US \$ terms during 1993-94 and during April-May, the latest period for which such data are available in 1994-95, are plantation, processed food, nuts and seeds, marine products, ores and minerals, leather and manufactures, chemical and allied products, gems and jewellery, sports goods, electronic goods, engineering goods, textiles,

handicrafts and carpets. The principal commodities which registered increase in imports during the above periods are synthetic and regenerated fibres, pulses, textile yarn and fabrics etc., leather, machinery other than electrical, manufacture of metals, non-ferrous metals, newsprint, paper board and manufactures, project goods and silk raw.

(c) and (d). The Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) envisages that exports will grow at 13.6% per annum in volume terms during the Plan period. Exports at the end of the terminal year of the Plan (1996-97) are estimated at US \$ 33.548 billion (Rs. 83869 crores) at 1991-92 prices.

(e) and (f). Export promotion is a continuous process. Steps are taken to boost exports in consultation with trade, industry and export promotion organisation. It is also a collaborative effort between Centre and the States. The cooperation of the States is being increasingly sought in the matter of export promotion. Accordingly, Govt. has formulated a new scheme called Export Promotion Industrial Parks (EPIP) Scheme for this purpose.

Exports during April-June, the latest period for which trade data are available in 1994-95 are valued at US \$ 5614 million (Rs. 17610 crores) indicating an increase of 9.5% in dollar terms (9.6% in Rupee terms) over the corresponding period in 1993-94.

Insurance Sector Reforms

*379. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI:
SHRI TARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some discussions with different groups on the report of the Committee on Reforms in the Insurance Sector have been held in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a view on the recommendations made by the Committee has been taken; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A statement is enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

The Committee on Reforms in the Insurance Sector appointed by the Government under the Chairmanship of Shri R.N. Malhotra, former Governor, Reserve Bank of India, submitted its report on 7th January, 1994. Following this Government announced its intention to evolve a broad national consensus about the future direction and content of reforms in this Sector. Discussions have been held with the managements and the Unions of the Insurance industry and with consumer interest groups. Chambers of Commerce and Industry and academics. Broadly in these discussions, the Unions did not support the recommendations relating to private sector entry in insurance, disinvestment by Government in the existing insurance entities, and their restructuring. The managements wanted to have a transition

period to prepare for competition and the consumer interest groups, chambers of commerce and academics generally supported the Malhotra Committee's recommendations.

Development of Civil Aviation

*380. SHRI ANKUSHRAO
RAOSAHEB TOPE:
SHRI ANANTRAO
DESHMUKH:

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

(a) the broad details of important policy initiatives taken to accelerate the development of civil aviation in the country during the last three years;

(b) the impact of these measures so far;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate a policy to ensure faster growth and healthy functioning of the aviation sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Following are some of the major policy initiatives taken in the last three years to accelerate the development of civil aviation:

- (i) Repeal of Air Corporations Act, 1953.
- (ii) Delicensing manufacture of civil aircraft with all up weight not exceeding 5700 kgs.
- (iii) Merger of International Airports

Authority of India and National Airports Authority.

- (iv) Restructuring of Indian Airlines and Air India as public limited companies.

- (v) Enactment of new laws to more effectively tackle hijacking and other unlawful activities against safety of civil aviation.

- (vi) Modernisation and upgradation of airport infrastructure.

- (vii) Encouragement of private investment for construction of aerodromes.

- (b) (i) Monopoly of public sector in scheduled domestic air transport operations has ceased to exist.

- (ii) Private operators can now become scheduled air transport operators.

- (iii) Considerable increase in the capacity of air transport operators has taken place.

(c) and (d). Government is already implementing a policy designed to ensure faster growth of the aviation sector in an orderly and safe manner.

ESI Residential Flats

3509. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) purchased

over 250 residential flats at Bangalore;

- (b) if so, the cost involved and when the possession of these flats was taken over;

- (c) whether all these flats were allotted to employees on taking over;

- (d) if not, the reasons and details of these flats not allotted so far;

- (e) whether the Government have any proposals for disposing of these vacant flats;

- (f) if not, the other plans for utilisation;

- (g) amount of infructuous expenditure and loss incurred by ESIC/Government; and

- (h) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (h). The ESI Corporation had purchased 253 flats of different categories from Bangalore Development Authority at the cost of Rs. 2.82 crores. Except one flat, the Corporation got possession of all the flats during 1990-93 and has since allotted 177 flats to the employees. Of the remaining 75 LIG flats, 60 flats are being modified/converted into MIG flats. After completion of modification/conversion work, all the flats are likely to be occupied by the entitled employees. The entire expenditure incurred on this account is thus expected to be fully utilized.

[Translation]

National Testing Centres

3510. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up more National Testing Centres at some places to improve the quality of products;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for modernisation of the existing National Testing Centres?

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 AMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) A centre of the National Test House has been opened at Jaipur in the month of February 1994 with facilities for testing in Civil engineering and Chemical disciplines. The NTH has long term plans for setting up more centres at Guwahati, Hyderabad, Cochin, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Gurgaon and Ranchi. A feasibility study for opening up a regional laboratory at Guwahati has been completed. For other proposed centres feasibility study, is in progress in the NTH.

(c) (i) Computerisation both in technical and administration activities has already been introduced in the NTH

Eastern Region, Calcutta and are being introduced in other existing test houses.

(ii) Modern office equipment facilities have been provided for the existing test houses.

(iii) The old and out dated equipments of the existing test houses are being replaced by modern and sophisticated equipments.

(iv) New facilities are being created in the areas of pollution control, calibration, metallurgical services, acoustic testing etc. The High Voltage Testing facilities has recently been inaugurated at NTH, Ghaziabad.

(v) R and D and training wings have been established.

(vi) Modern laboratory complex is coming up in the Salt Lake, Calcutta as an annexe of the existing NTH facilities at Calcutta.

[English]

Vacancies of SC/STs in Banks

3511. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN:

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons recruited in each grade in the public sector banks and Central financial institutions during each of the last three years and the SC/ST candidates among them;

(b) the number of vacancies for SC/ST arose, reserved, filled up dereserved in the above banks/financial institutions in direct recruitment and promotions during the above period;

(c) the position of backlog of reserved vacancies in each cadre, as on March 31, 1994; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to give due representation to SC/ST candidates in the above banks/financial institutions?

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

(c) The position of backlog of reserved vacancies in direct recruitment to various cadres as on 31st March, 1994 as at the end of the Special Recruitment Drive 1993 conducted at the instance of the Department of Personnel & Training was as under:-

	SC	ST
Officers	37	105
Clerical	524	535
Substaff	238	439

(d) Public Sector Banks/financial institutions have taken various steps to clear the backlog of vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Some of these are as under:-

- (i) Since 1989 four special Recruitment Drives have been conducted to clear the backlog of reserved vacancies in direct recruitment. The last such drive was completed on 31st March, 1994 as a result of which a sizeable backlog of reserved vacancies was cleared.
- (ii) The banks have been advised to place the indents on BSRBs/ employment exchanges in the proforma designed to take care of the backlog in Scheduled Caste

and Scheduled Tribe reservations in addition to the current reservations.

- (iii) To conduct pre-recruitment and pre-promotion training programmes for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes so as to enable them to improve their chances to compete in the qualifying examinations.
- (iv) The Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates are adjudged on relaxed standards both in the written test and the interview.
- (v) The standards of educational qualifications for direct recruitment to the clerical cadres have been relaxed in the case of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

(vi) Since 1989 dereservation of vacancies in direct recruitment to the clerical and substaff cadres of the banks are not allowed and the vacancies have to be carried forward as current backlog. Even in the case of officers the dereservation in recruitment is sparingly allowed.

(vii) The implementation of reservation policy by banks is reviewed at least once a year by the boards of the respective banks.

Mutual Fund Schemes

3512. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has relaxed its rules for the operation of mutual fund schemes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the foreign firms/institutions which have been allowed to operate in India to launch such mutual fund schemes during the last two years and the current year so far;

(d) whether the existing business of

UTI and LIC has been adversely affected thereby;

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

(f) the further steps being taken to have proper control and supervision over the operation of such mutual fund schemes to save the public from frauds or fraudulent deals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had on March 8, 1994 advised all banks that mutual funds sponsored by them need not seek its approval for floating individual schemes provided prior approval of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has been obtained. RBI had also withdrawn its guidelines for bank sponsored mutual funds on May 21, 1994. This step has been taken by RBI as SEBI notified Mutual Fund Regulations on January 20, 1993 under the SEBI Act, which are statutory in nature and are applicable to all mutual funds.

(c) The details of foreign firms/institutions who have set up the Asset Management Companies as joint ventures for launching mutual fund schemes during the last two years are given below:-

*Name of the foreign Institution
in the joint venture*

Name of the Mutual Fund

Morgan Stanley Inc.
Pioneer Asset Management Company
Kemper Corporation
Lazard Brothers
J.P. Morgan
Daewoo Securities
Soros Fund Management Company

Morgan Stanley Mutual Fund.
Kothari Pioneer Mutual Fund.
20th Century Mutual Fund.
Taurus Mutual Fund.
ICICI Mutual Fund.
CRB Mutual Fund.
GIC Mutual Fund.

(d) and (e). Unit Trust of India (UTI) has reported that the entry of new mutual funds has not adversely affected its business. During the year 1993-94, UTI collected over Rs. 10,000 crores through sale of units from more than 80 lakh applicants. Information relating to Life Insurance Corporation is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(f) Mutual Fund Regulations notified under the SEBI Act, 1992 empower SEBI to regulate and inspect the working of mutual funds. In addition, the regulations impose investment restrictions and obligations towards investors.

Mortgaged of N.T.C. Land

3513. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unit Trust of India; in principle, has agreed to lend 10% of the total value of the ailing National Textile Corporation (N.T.C.) surplus land, -- about Rs. 200 crore, immediately as part of the mortgage deal;

(b) if so, the outcome of the negotiations on the collateral security between the financial institution and the textile corporation;

(c) the location of the surplus land proposed to be mortgaged by the NTC; and

(d) the reasons for deterioration of the NTC's financial health and the accumulated losses amassed by it and its outstanding dues for the payment of which it has sent an SOS to the Textile Ministry?

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

CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The Unit Trust of India (UTI) has reported that it has agreed, in principle, to purchase the surplus land owned by the National Textile Corporation (NTC) in various cities in India, in response to a proposal from the Ministry of Textiles. Details have not been worked out so far.

(c) The surplus land is available in the cities of Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bombay, Calcutta, Coimbatore, Delhi, Indore and Kanpur.

(d) The Textile Ministry has reported that National Textile Corporation mills have been incurring losses due to, *inter-alia*, obsolete machinery, lack of adequate modernisation, low capacity utilisation, high man-machine ratio, surplus manpower, high manufacturing cost, low productivity etc. The NTC has also been facing an acute working capital shortage which has led to a shortage of raw material and fall in production.

[Translation]

Aircraft at Airports

3514. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

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

(a) whether several aircraft have been parked at the various airports of India for long periods;

(b) if so, the number of aircraft parked for the last two years, airport-wise;

(c) the names of the companies/operators to which these aircraft belong to;

and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION

AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The details of aircrafts parked during the last two years at the airports belonging to National Airports Authority and International Airports Authority are as follows:-

<i>Name of airport</i>	<i>Number of aircraft</i>	<i>Name of the companies/operators to which the aircraft belongs</i>
IGI Airport, Delhi	5	(i) Industrial Cable India Ltd; (ii) J.K. Synthetics (Raymonds) (iii) Vayudoot.
Calcutta	3	(Indian Airlines
Bhopal	1	Continental Aviation Pvt. Ltd.

(d) Airport Authorities collect landing, parking and housing charges and licence fee for hangers and other space allotted to air carriers at airports. In case of default of payment, necessary action permissible under rules is taken for recovery of dues.

[English]

Garments Export Promotion Council

3515. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to open an office of Garments Export Promotion Council in Gujarat has been lying pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c). No Sir. No proposal for opening an office of the Apparel Export Promotion Council in Gujarat is pending with the Government.

E. P. F. of N. T. C.

3516. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NTC (WBABO) Limited, Calcutta still has large amount of accumulated dues on account of employees provident fund for being deposited with the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner;

(b) whether the Government have decided to provide funds for such accumulated arrears;

(c) whether he has taken up the issue of providing funds with his counterpart in the Ministry of Finance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c). No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Purchase of Aircraft

3517. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of each category of aircraft purchased or decided to be purchased during the last five years;

(b) the names and particulars of the foreign parties/firms from whom the aircraft are being purchased;

(c) the total cost involved therein;

(d) whether some of these aircraft happened to meet air crash; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Trade with South Korea

3518. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India and South Korea have shown keen interest to improve trade relation between the two countries after economic liberalisation policies followed by India;

(b) if so, the extent to which trade between the two countries improved during 1993 in comparison to 1992; and

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

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) As against a trade turnover of \$515 million in 1992-93, the trade turnover in 1993-94 increased to \$ 749 million.

(c) Participation in fairs and exhibitions in each other's countries and exchange of business delegations is encouraged and all relevant trade information is provided to trade and industry. The next meeting of the Ministerial level Joint Trade Committee is also expected to take place in the near future.

[Translation]

Export of Diamonds, Gems and Jewellery

3519. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a heavy demand of the Rajasthan gems and various types of ornaments abroad;

(b) the number of persons engaged and the total capital investment made in this trade;

(c) the foreign exchange earned through the export of diamonds and jewellery from Rajasthan during each of the last three years; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to encourage the export of diamonds, gems and various types of ornaments from Rajasthan?

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

(b) According to a study conducted by Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Ltd. (RIICO), there are about 80,000 persons engaged in the gems and jewellery industry in Rajasthan. However, no data is available on the investment made in this trade.

(c) State-wise figures of exports of gem and jewellery (including gems) are not maintained. However, the exports of diamonds and jewellery (excluding gemstones) from Jaipur port during the last three years were as follows: -

(Rs. in lakhs)

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
Diamonds	153	142	208
Non-gold Jewellery	177	217	415
Gold Jewellery	50	148	112

(d) A number of steps, such as adjustment in the minimum value addition requirement for plain gold jewellery, enhancement of period for fulfilling the export obligation, rationalisation of the replenishment system etc. have been taken to encourage exports. These steps benefit all exporters of gems and jewellery including those from Rajasthan.

[English]

D.A to Government Employees

3520. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the Consumer Price Index as on June 30, 1994;

(b) whether another instalment of Dearness Allowance has become due to the Central Government employees;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to make the payment of the increased D.A. at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (General) (base 1960 = 100) as on 30th June, 1994 was 1366.

(b) to (d). In accordance with the recommendations of the IV Central Pay Commission, the additional instalment of Dearness Allowance is calculated with reference to the percentage increase in 12 monthly average of All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (General) (1960 = 100) over the base index of 608 to which the existing scales of pay effective from 1.1.1986 are related. The additional instalment of DA, due on 1st July each year, normally becomes payable with the salary for the month of September.

[Translation]

Bank Loans in Uttar Pradesh

3521. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount deposited in the nationalised banks in Uttar Pradesh and the

amount of loans disbursed by these banks to small/medium industrialists and unemployed youth for various projects, separately, during each of the last three years;

(b) whether some schemes have been formulated by the above banks for women and young entrepreneurs during the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether a large number of Khadi Gramodyog Schemes are pending with the above banks for the last eight months;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to clear the above schemes?

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

[English]

Tea Garden Workers

3522. SHRI PROBINDEKA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any facility for educating children of tea garden workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated during each of the last three years, company-wise; and

(d) the expenditure incurred during the above period in this regard, company-wise?

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

Trade with Australia

3523. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to increase trade with Australia;

(b) if so, the target fixed for the Eighth Plan;

(c) whether the meeting of Indo-Australian Mixed Commission has been held;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether any achievement has been made in this regard so far; and

(f) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to increase our trade with Australia?

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). The process of increasing trade with Australia is an on going exercise. While no specific

targets have been fixed for the Eighth Plan, a number of steps have been taken in the recent past to enhance trade.

(c) to (f). The 3rd Meeting of the Indo-Australia Joint Ministerial Commission was held in Sydney in February 1994. The meeting considered several areas for mutual cooperation and focussed on the ways and means for expanding the level of two-way trade between the two countries.

Interaction in consultative fora like the Joint Ministerial Commission meetings, exchange of business delegations, holding of discussions with trade and industry, participation in exhibitions, etc., are some of the important steps being taken by the Government to increase trade with Australia.

Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour

3524. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the Central allocation for rehabilitation of liberated bonded labour for the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the amount actually spent, year-wise, with State-wise break-up;

(c) the revised rehabilitation grant for the liberated bonded labour;

(d) whether any survey has been undertaken to assess the prevalence of bonded labour in the country; and

(e) if so, the brief conclusions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). A *Statement* is enclosed.

(c) The rate of rehabilitation grant under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme was enhanced w.e.f. 1.2.86 to Rs. 6250/- per released bonded labour, half of which is given as Central share. In addition, the funds available under the anti poverty programme like IRDP, JRY etc. can also be utilised for the purpose of rehabilitation of

bonded labourers.

(d) and (e). The State Governments are the implementing authorities under Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. The Ministry of Labour has been advising the State Governments to conduct periodic surveys through their existing agencies for identification of bonded labourers. As per the reports received from the State Governments, the total number of bonded labour identified and freed as on 31.3.1993 is 2,51,424.

STATEMENT

Allocation under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Rehabilitation Bonded Labour:		Expenditure under the scheme (State-Wise)			
(Revised Estimate)	(in lakhs)	1991-92	1992-93	1991-92	1993-94
300	190	320	320	26.60	101.41
		ANDHRA PRADESH			
		BIHAR	3.28	11.12	6.18
		KARNATAKA	-	-	171.50
		ORISSA	-	-	5.75
		KERALA	-	-	6.03
		RAJASTHAN	-	5.67	1.69
		TAMIL NADU	-	-	1.59
			3.28	43.39	294.15

Export of Engineering Goods

3525. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for exporting engineering goods for the Eighth Plan;

(b) the details of engineering goods exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the export of engineering goods?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Eighth Plan envisages export projections of Rs. 39611 crores at 1991-92 prices for export of engineering goods during the Eighth Plan period.

(b) The engineering goods exported include Ferro Alloys, Aluminium other than products, Non-ferrous metal, Manufactures of Metals, Machine tools, Machinery and Instruments, Transport equipments, Residual engineering items, Iron and Steel bar/rod etc., and Primary and Semi-Finished iron and steel. A statement indicating the value of exports to major countries of export during the last three years is annexed.

(c) Promotion of exports has been the constant endeavour of the Government. Measures taken to boost exports include various incentives under the Export-Import Policy including Duty Exemption Scheme, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Special Import Licences etc., Duty Drawback Scheme, exemption under section 80 HHC of Income Tax Act, assistance from Market Development Fund and making available deferred credit and line of credit to facilitate exports. Engineering goods exporters also receive promotional support under the various activities of Engineering Export Promotion Council.

STATEMENT

Value of export of engineering goods to major countries of export during the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94;
(Value in Rs. crores)
(PROVISIONAL)

Name of the Country		1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
1.	USA	505.22	712.20	929.72
2.	China Peoples Republic	7.00	194.91	518.45
3.	UAE	225.26	346.32	543.68
4.	UK	247.50	323.07.	421.53
5.	Singapore	202.43	387.69	393.68
6.	Japan*	281.17	263.22	366.10
7.	Sri Lanka	153.36	263.69	360.11
8.	Germany	192.23	239.65	270.41

Name of the Country	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
9. Malaysia	148.47	156.65	245.28
10. Chinese Taipei	69.43	145.56	279.55
11. Others	2823.00	3443.21	4077.04
TOTAL	4855.07	6476.17	8405.55

Acquisition of Aircraft

3526. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imposed any restriction on the acquisition of aircraft by the private airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). Applications from eleven Air Taxi Operators for acquisition of additional aircraft are pending. In order to ensure orderly growth of air transport services, the applications will be considered on merits keeping in view the:

- (i) limitations of airport infrastructure,
- (ii) limitations of air traffic control facility,
- (iii) the need to meet the growth in traffic, and
- (iv) the need to connect new stations by air.

Tax Deduction at Source

3527. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the recently introduced tax deduction at source (TDS) scheme in view

of the resentment in this regard,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). There is no immediate proposal to review the recently introduced tax deduction at source (TDS) scheme. The Central Board of Direct Taxes had issued Circular No. 681 dated 8.3.94 explaining the scope of the provisions of Section 1940 in the light of the judgement of the Supreme Court in the case of Associated Cement Company Limited Vs. CIT, Bihar and another. After the issue of the Circular, a number of petitions have been filed in various High Courts challenging the Validity of the Circular either in part or as a whole. A number of issues raised in various petitions have not yet been fully and finally adjudicated upon by the Courts and it is considered premature to undertake a review.

Cooch Behar Airport

3528. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the runway at Cooch Behar Airport is not sufficient for operation of Boeing-737 aircraft;

(b) if so, the action taken so far by the Government to expand the runway at the airport; and

(c) the time by which such a facility is likely to be provided there?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION

AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Due to lack of demand from airlines operators, National Airports Authority has no plan to upgrade Cooch Behar airport for Boeing operations.

[Translation]

Transfer of PSU Shares

3529. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any CBI inquiry was instituted in the matter of irregularities committed in the transfer of shares of public sector undertakings;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken action against the persons found responsible for the said irregularities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to prevent such irregularities and to rule out any loss to the Government in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) CBI had instituted two Preliminary Enquiries in the matter of irregularities alleged to have been committed in the transfer of shares of PSUs by the Allahabad Bank and SBI Capital Markets.

(b) The enquiries in both the cases

have been completed and the same are under legal scrutiny of CBI.

(c) and (d). The decision on action to be taken will be finalised after the report of CBI is received.

(e) The procedure for transfer of shares of individual PSUs purchased by bidders in the auctions held by the Government is now streamlined in accordance with the Stock Exchange regulations in force.

[English]

VABAL Scheme

3530. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the value based advance licences scheme is being used to convert black money into white and the Government are suffering a huge loss of revenue due to such misuse;

(b) if so, whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) have conducted any investigation in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the preventive steps being taken by the Government to stop the misuse of VABAL Scheme in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). On the basis of intelligence reports that Value-Based Advance Licensing Scheme was being abused/misused, which also

resulted in loss of revenue, the Income Tax Department as well as the Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence have taken action against several importers and exporters operating under the Scheme. Action initiated by the Income Tax Department in respect of 4 groups of assesseees has disclosed so far tax evaded income totalling Rs. 5.31 crores. In most cases, investigated by the DGRI, Show Cause Notices have been issued and cases are pending adjudication. The Directorate of Enforcement has also initiated certain enquiries.

(d) The Directorate-General of Foreign Trade had constituted an inter-Ministerial Committee to assess the areas and extent of abuse/misuse and the loopholes if any in the Value Based Advance Licencing Scheme and to suggest remedial measures. To plug loopholes, the Committee has recommended measures like issue of licences above Rs. 25 lakhs to a new exporter/firm only after proper verification, tightening of generic entries in input/output norms and exercise of greater care and caution by the Licencing authorities while granting licences. These recommendations have been accepted by the Government and incorporated in the revised edition of the Exim Policy and of the Handbook of Procedures, Vol. II.

The Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence has also alerted the field formations to maintain a close watch against abuses and attempted duty evasion under the Scheme.

Visakhapatnam EPZ Phase-II

3531. SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA: Will the Minister of

COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand Visakhapatnam Export Promotion Zone, Phase-II;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to provide incentives to prospective export business units under Visakhapatnam E.P.Z., Phase-II;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of incentives provided in this zone in comparison to units under Export Oriented Units outside the zone and the other export units?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There is no proposal at present for developing Phase-II of the Visakhapatnam Export Processing Zone.

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

(e) Incentives provided to Export Oriented Units and units in all Export Processing Zones are identical which include duty free import of capital goods and raw materials, exemption from payment of central excise duty on capital goods and inputs procured indigenously, reimbursement of central sales tax, 5 year tax holiday, simplified approval procedure and customs formalities, higher retention of 50% of export earnings in Exchange Earners Foreign Currency (EEFC) account and concessional lease rent on industrial plots and sheds in the case of EPZ units.

Investment Guarantee Agreement

3532. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA:
SHRI D. VENKATESWARA
RAO:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI
RAMAIAH:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN
OWAISI:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken initiatives to reach an investment guarantee agreement with several countries including U.S.A. and France recently;

(b) if so, the details of the agreements reached in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have also signed any agreement regarding French investment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Government of India have decided to negotiate Bilateral Investment Protection & Promotion Agreement with nine countries during the current year including USA and France. While the first round of negotiations with French Government have taken place, negotiations with USA are yet to commence.

No agreement have been reached with either of the countries and further rounds of negotiations with France would be necessary to arrive at a mutually acceptable agreement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Crab Farming

3533. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production and export of crabs in the country;

(b) whether the prices of crabs in local markets of coastal areas have substantially gone up because of indiscriminate export of live crabs to Asian markets;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to promote crab farming to meet the demand in domestic and international markets?

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) The total production and export of crabs in the country during the last three years has been as follows:

	<i>Qty. in tonnes</i>	<i>Value in Rs. crores</i>
1993-94	725	5.19
1992-93	556	2.87
1991-92	591	1.90

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) In view of the potential and vast resources, attempts have been made to generate an awareness about the technical feasibility and economic viability for aquaculture of crabs.

Sick Public Sector Undertakings

3534. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA
RAO:

SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:

SHRI BOLLA BULLI
RAMAIAH:

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN
OWAISI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Group of Ministers set up under his Chairmanship has reviewed the cases of some sick Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details of the Public Sector Undertakings, State-wise and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to revive sick Public Sector Undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). Government have set up a Group of Ministers under the Chairmanship of Finance Minister to periodically review the performance of Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs), particularly sick enterprises. The

functions of the Group of Ministers include *inter-alia* to consider in respect of cases of sick PSEs referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), the proposed package of relief to be presented to the BIFR and give directions and guidelines to Ministries for taking a stand or making a commitment on behalf of Government of India before the BIFR. The Group would also review the performance of sick enterprises which do not come within the purview of BIFR and also selectively consider other public enterprises' performance and prospects. The Group considers the cases of sick PSEs as and when referred to it. The proceedings of the Group are classified as secret.

[Translation]

A.D.B. Aid

3535. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH
SHAKYA:

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA:
SHRI SHARAD DIGHE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "A.D.B. concerned at aid under utilization" appearing in *Statesman* dated July 20, 1994;

(b) if so, whether amount of loan sanctioned by the Asian Development Bank for the construction of various development projects has not been properly utilised by December, 1993;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the projects under construction for

which loans were sanctioned by the A.D.B. during the above period and the total amount of loan sanctioned for them alongwith the quantum of amount utilized out of it?

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

(b) and (c). The question of utilization of assistance has been under review for quite sometime and the Government have taken steps to improve the utilization of external assistance. A project monitoring

unit has also been set up in the Department of Economic Affairs to monitor the utilization of external aid. The main problems faced in utilization of aid are:

- (i) delay in finalisation of contracts & procurement of goods;
- (ii) availability of counterpart funds; and
- (iii) changes in the scope of some of the projects.
- (d) As per statement enclosed.

STATEMENT
ADB ASSISTED PROJECTS AS ON 31.12.1993 (IN US \$ Million)

S.No.	Loan No.	Project	Loan amount	Cumulative Drawals	Remarks
1.		ADB Capital Markets	125.000	—	Request for loan assistance withdrawn.
2.	1212	Energy Conservation Improvement Project	147.000	—	\$ 107.77 million proposed for cancellation.
3.		Industrial Project	—	—	
4.	798	North Madras Thermal Power Project	150.000	94.115	\$ 12 million proposed for cancellation.
5.	842	Port Development Project	52.667	52.667	
6.	857	Railways Project	190.000	34.824	

<i>No. Loan</i>	<i>No. Project</i>	<i>Loan amount</i>	<i>Cumulative Drawals</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
7.	886	Telecom Project	135.000	47.316 \$ 20 million cancelled.
8.	907	Unchahar Thermal Power Extension Project	16.000	—
9.	918	Road Improvement Project	198.000	60.326 \$ 24.57 million proposed for cancellation.
10.	954	Second Telecom Project	118.000	51.567 \$ 50 million cancelled.
11.	988	Rayat-Seema Thermal Power Project	230.000	120.810 \$ 54 million proposed
12.	1016	Second Port Project	129.000	31.518 \$ 14.66 million proposed for cancellation.
13.	1029	Second North Madras Thermal Power Project	200.000	57.962 \$ 44 million proposed for cancellation.

No. Loan	No. Project	Loan amount	Cumulative Drawals	Remarks
14.	1041	Second Road Project	250.000	52.554
15.	1148	Hydrocarbon Sector Programme	250.000	125.117
16.	1140	Second Railway Project	225.000	4.817 \$ 107.300 million cancelled.
17.	1161	Power Efficiency Project	250.000	—
18.	1208	Financial Sector Programme	300.000	150.000 \$ 150 million, the Second Tranche, due in June, 94 has not yet been disbursed. by the Bank.
19.	1181	Coal Ports Project	285.000	—

No. Loan	No. Project	Loan amount	Cumulative Drawals	Remarks
NON-GOVERNMENT				
20.	975	IFCI	150.000	\$ 44.800 million cancelled.
21.	1072	ICICI	62.896	\$ 57.100 million cancelled.
22.	1117	Gandhar Field Development Project.	267.000	
Grand Total			3874.563	1051.397

Maternity Leave

3536. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H.
TOPIWALA:
SHRI RAJENDRA
AGNIHOTRI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request to extend the period of maternity leave to six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the States where the period of such leave has been extended upto six months; and

(d) the reasons for delay in taking any final decision in this regard and the time by which the final decision will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (d). The Central Government had received requests from various quarters to extend the period of maternity leave to six months. The purpose of maternity leave is to enable recuperation of the health of the mother after delivery. As such, the period of 12 weeks' maternity leave is considered adequate. There is no information about any State Govt. extending the period of maternity leave upto six months.

[English]

Anti-Tobacco Legislation

3537. SHRI R. DHANUSKODI
ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the economic impact of proposed anti-tobacco and anti-beedi legislation on Beedi workers;

(b) the extent to which the Beedi industry of Tamil Nadu is likely to be affected by such legislation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). It is felt that the proposed legislation may not significantly affect employment situation in beedi industry at least in the short term.

E.S.I. Hospitals

3538. DR. K.D. JESWANIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of E.S.I. hospitals/dispensaries set up at various places in Gujarat;

(b) whether the Government propose to upgrade certain hospitals/dispensaries out of them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of ESI hospitals/dispensaries functioning in the hired private buildings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). There are at present 9 ESI hospitals and 118 dispensaries in Gujarat. Except in Delhi and NOIDA the

administration of medical care under the ESI Scheme is vested in the respective State Governments. The Government of Gujarat has proposed upgradation of the existing 225 bed ESI Chest Hospital, Ahmedabad to 300 bed General Hospital.

(d) There is no ESI hospital functioning in the rented buildings. However, 45 ESI dispensaries are functioning in rented buildings.

Air Transport Policy

3539. DR. VISWANATHAM KANITHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the financial benefits accrued to the country so far after liberalisation of the air transport policy; and

(b) the extent to which the liberalisation is in the pipeline with regard to the Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION

YEAR	No. of Women Pilots
1991	11
1992	19
1993	13

[Translation]

Free Trade Zones

3541. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRIMATI DIPIKA
H. TOPIWALA:

AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The benefit arising out of liberalisation can not be quantified in exact financial terms, but there are about 16000 additional seats per day now available to the travelling public.

(b) Air Corporations Act has been repealed and Indian Airlines is now a company having more flexibility in its decision making.

Women Pilots

3540. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state the number of women pilots trained by various institutions in the country during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): The number of commercial women pilots trained by various institutions in the country during each of the last three years is as follows:-

Will be Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the State Governments for setting up of free trade zone in States;

(b) if so, the details of places identified therefor, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). The Governments of Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Sikkim, Punjab, Haryana, Orissa, Goa, Uttar-Pradesh, Kerala and Rajasthan have, from time to time, requested for the establishment of the Export Processing Zones. Some specific locations for setting up of Export Processing Zone suggested by the State Governments are Bangalore, Mangalore (Karnataka), Dhandari Kalan (Punjab), Gurgaon (Haryana), Bhubeneshwar (Orissa), Marnagoa (Goa), Jaipur (Rajasthan) and Kozhikode (Kerala).

Keeping in view the availability of funds and the need to optimise infrastructural facilities in the existing zones, it would not be possible, at present, to consider developing new zones in the country. However, the Central Government has recently decided to permit establishment of Export Processing Zones through private sector of State Government initiative.

[English]

Capital Inflow

3542. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the IMF comments in regard to the surge of capital inflow into India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The Government is aware of the monetary expansion arising out of the surge of capital inflows into India which the IMF has also mentioned in its Annual Report for 1994 released last month. To check this, Government has taken several steps. In the Credit policy announced by RBI on May 14, 1994, the CRR was raised to contain the scope of monetary expansion. Other measures being considered are open market operations by RBI and a cap on Central Government's borrowing from RBI. The Government has also ensured the supply of essential commodities to contain the inflationary impact of the monetary expansion.

[Translation]

National Stock Exchange

3543. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Stock Exchange has commenced its operations;

(b) if so, the purpose and the main features thereof;

(c) the amount incurred on setting up

of this stock exchange;

(d) whether there is any proposal to open such exchanges in other parts of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARAMURTHY): (a) The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has commenced its operations in the Wholesale Debt Market segment on 30th June, 1994.

(b) The NSE has been set up for providing efficient and transparent facilities across the country for trading in securities. The NSE is a screen based exchange without a trading floor. The NSE is expected to operate as a strongly automated stock exchange with member brokers all over the country eventually trading in the exchange through modern telecommunication facilities.

(c) The amount incurred by the NSE on capital expenditure as of end March, 1994 was approximately Rs. 65 crores.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to (d) above.

Computerisation in S.B.I.

3544. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering any scheme to computerise all branches of the State Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard and this scheme is proposed to be implemented?

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

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

[English]

Co-operative Banks

3545. SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the role of co-operative banks in economic development of the country;

(b) whether there is any adverse effect of liberalisation of economy on the co-operative banks;

(c) if so, the details of measures adopted by the RBI in this regard;

(d) whether some of the co-operative banks have been found violating the directives of the Reserve Bank of India; and

(e) if so, the measures being adopted by the RBI to streamline the working of such banks?

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

(a) The Co-operative Banks have been playing an important role in the economic

development of rural areas in the country. An overview of ground level credit during the year 1992-93 and 1993-94 by Cooperative Banks *vis-a-vis* Commercial Banks (CBs) and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) is indicated below:

(Rs. in crores)

Agency	1992-93	Percentage Share	1993-94*	Percentage Shares
Co-operative Banks	6563	47	8500	56
CBs and RRBs	7402	53	6600	44
Total	13937	100	15100	100

*Provisional.

(b) and (c) The ongoing economic and financial sector reforms are mostly applicable to the commercial banks and financial institutions.

competing with other agencies on business principles.

[Translation]

(d) Violations of RBI directives, the Co-operative Banks noticed during inspections by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) are advised to the concerned banks for rectification.

Tourist Map

3546. SHRIBHEEMSINGH PATEL:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(e) With a view to improving the financial viability, operational efficiency and managerial competence of the co-operative banks especially those incurring losses, NABARD has issued guidelines for preparation of action plans to be implemented by them so as to achieve viability in current operations in a span of 2-3 years. The Cooperatives like other financial institutions have to ensure attainment of viability by guarding against their non-performing assets, maximising on their returns and

(a) whether the Government propose to publish any latest national/international tourist map to promote tourism industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to depict the so far neglected historical tourist spots in the country in the above said map;

(d) if so, the names of such tourist spots; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e). The Department of Tourism has produced a Guide Map of India depicting major tourist attractions/destinations in the country. This Map also includes historical and religious tourist spots connected with tourism.

Industrial Sickness

3547. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has recently analysed the reasons for industrial sickness and the results of this problem;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

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

CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Agricultural Products

3548. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether liberalisation has increased our trade in world market:

(b) if so, the achievements made in the field of rubber, pepper, cardamom and cloves; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the export of these items?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There has been consistent improvement in the export of agricultural commodities from India. The details of exports of agricultural commodities, excluding cotton, since 1991-92, were as below:

Year	Exports
	(Rs. crores)
1991-92	4392.93
1992-93	5678.83
1993-94	7524.25

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(b) Exports of small cardamom and pepper since 1991-92 were as below:

Commodity	1991-92	1992-93 (Rs. Crores)	1993-94
Pepper	74.32	78.31	179.61
Cardamom (Small)	15.57	7.51	13.86

(Source: Spices Board, Cochin)

India imports cloves, as our production is insufficient to meet the domestic demand. Similarly, production of natural rubber in the country still falls short of the domestic demand and we have not reached a stage to export natural rubber in the international market on an appreciable scale.

(c) Government/Spices Board has taken a number of steps for the promotion of export of spices. These include:

- (i) quality evaluation and upgradation to international standards,
- (ii) promotion of export of value added spices in the form of curry powder, spice oil and oleoresins, branded consumer packed spices, dehydrated green pepper, etc.
- (iii) strengthening the market base in existing markets and identifying new markets,
- (iv) providing assistance for promotion of specific brands by individual exporters in overseas markets,
- (v) popularising logo as a mark of Indianness and quality to spices in consumer packs,
- (vi) sponsoring sales-cum-study delegation, participation in selected

international food fairs and organising buyer-seller meets,

(vii) providing grant-in-aid for setting up of laboratory and accreditation of ISO 9000, and

(viii) providing project feasibility report for establishment of curry powder/ground spices manufacturing unit.

Bank Loan in Maharashtra

3549. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI DHARMANNA
MONDAYYA SADUL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan provided by the public sector and scheduled commercial banks in Maharashtra to the farmers, unemployed youth and persons belonging to SCs/STs and minority communities, as against the targets fixed during each of the last three years, category-wise;

(b) the number of applications for loan rejected during the above period;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) the plans drawn up by the Government/RBI to provide financial assistance/loans to the persons of above categories during 1994-95 and to achieve the targets in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that the above borrowers do not face any difficulty in getting their loan sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (e). The data reporting system does not generate the information in the manner asked for. The credit facilities provided by banks to farmers, unemployed youth, persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/

Scheduled Tribes and Minority communities are included in the priority sector. In terms of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s guidelines on lending to priority sector, all Indian banks are required to extend at least 40% of their net bank credit to priority sector. No State-wise targets have been stipulated in this regard. The target of 40% is to be achieved by the concerned bank on an all India basis. However, certain targets are stipulated under Annual Credit Plan (ACP) prepared under Service Area Approach (SAA) scheme by commercial banks for a district. The targets and achievements against the same under priority sector in respect of all banks in Maharashtra under ACP 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95, as per information available from State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC)'s meetings papers for the State of Maharashtra, are as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

	Agriculture				SS.I.				Services				Total			
	Target		Achievement		Target		Achievement		Target		Achievement		Target		Achievement	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9							
1991-92	1490.70	1247.35	242.76	262.31	256.17	271.46	1989.62	1781.13 (90)								
1992-93	1323.17	1233.55	228.43	246.91	236.10	204.65	1787.70	1685.11 (94)								
1993-94	1429.27	1620.48	305.17	283.47	212.54	239.07	1946.98	2143.02 (110)								
1994-95	1643.24	-	362.00	-	255.24	-	2265.48	-								

The performance of the banks in this regard is continuously monitored at block, district, State and national level to ensure that stipulated targets under priority sector as included in ACP are achieved.

Income Tax Assesseees

3550. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of assesseees under the Income Tax Act at the end of March, 1994, State-wise; and

(b) the income involved till the financial year ended on March 31, 1994, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The total number of assesseees as on 31.3.1994 State/Region-wise is given in Statement I enclosed.

(b) The income/loss involved in the returns processed during the financial year 1993-94, State/Region-wise is enclosed as Statement II.

STATEMENT-I

NUMBER OF ASSESSEES STATE/REGIONWISE.

The number of assesseees in different States/Regions on 31.3.1994 are as follows:-

<i>STATE/REGION</i>	<i>APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF Assesseees AS ON 31.3.1994 (in lakhs)</i>
Maharashtra	21.22
Uttar Pradesh	7.63
Bihar, Orissa and N.E.R. States	7.66
West Bengal	11.99
Delhi	6.88
Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh	7.36
Gujarat	9.12
Karnataka	5.25
Madhya Pradesh	4.34
Kerala	2.41

STATE/REGION	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF ASSEESSEES AS ON 31.3.1994 (in lakhs)
Andhra Pradesh	5.67
Rajasthan	4.12
Tamil Nadu	8.31
Total	101.96

STATEMENT-II

Income or loss involved in the returns processed under section 143(1)a

/ assessed under section 143 (3) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 during the Financial Year 1993-94, State/Region-wise:

(Figures in thousands)

State/Region	Returns processed under section 143 (1) (a)/assessed under section 143 (3)			
	Category 'A'	Category 'B'	Category 'C'	Category 'D'
		Higher income		
				Others
Maharashtra	1651.97	15.03	50.95	16.42 5.44
Uttar Pradesh	607.69	2.38	5.86	2.40 0.94
Bihar	540.55	1.29	20.01	1.83 1.68
West Bengal	734.50	3.72	23.63	4.55 2.29
Delhi	516.99	5.74	23.91	5.41 1.68
Punjab, Haryana & H.P.	648.25	1.68	15.98	2.35 1.88

State/Region	Returns processed under section 143 (1) (a)/assessed under section 143 (3)			
	Category 'A'	Category 'B'		Category 'D'
		Higher income	Others	
Gujarat	881.16	4.09	20.62	3.06
Karnataka	398.97	1.79	22.74	3.97
Madhya Pradesh	326.84	0.88	4.03	0.72
Kerala	132.54	1.09	5.95	1.08
Andhra Pradesh	389.52	7.66	19.70	2.50
Rajasthan	313.79	0.77	3.04	0.64
Tamil Nadu	499.78	3.35	10.36	5.86
Central Charges	12.06	1.27	2.69	1.98

Export of Readymade Garment

3551. SHRI M. KRISHNASWAMY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of garments exported from Tamil Nadu during the last three years along with the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(b) the steps taken to provide better facilities to the exporters of garments in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G.VENKATSWAMY): (a) Export figures of readymade garments are not maintained State-wise.

(b) In order to step up exports of textiles, including exports of garments from Tamil Nadu, Government have taken a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer seller meets, fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export-production; special arrangements for duty-free import of raw materials for export production, ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

Tuticorin Airport

3552. SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN:

SHRI CHITTA BASU:

SHRI Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Tuticorin Airport at

Vagaikulam, commissioned about two years ago has become in operative;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount spent on construction and development of the airport; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to make it operative?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d). The Tuticorin airport at Vagaikulam was constructed at a cost of Rs. 3.66 crores and commissioned on 3.4.1992. Due to commercial and operational reasons, Vayudoot, at present, are unable to recommence its services to/from Tuticorin airport. This airport is fit for operations and airlines on their commercial and operational consideration can operate to/from this airport.

[Translation]

Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana

3553. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed youth in the country, who have applied for loan under PMRY during 1993-94 and the current year so far and the number of youth belonging to SCs/STs and backward classes among them, State-wise;

(b) the number of cases sanctioned and still pending, category-wise;

(c) the amount sanctioned and actually disbursed during the above period, category-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that the loans under the above Scheme are sanctioned without much delay and the Scheme is implemented properly in all States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRA SHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). Under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), against the target of 42040 beneficiaries during 1993-94, District Industries Centres (DICs) sponsored 85580 (provisional) applications for loan to banks and loans were sanctioned by banks in 31558 (provisional) cases. For the current year (1994-95) a target of 2.21 lakhs beneficiaries has been fixed under PMRY. The implementation of the Scheme by banks in the current year is in progress.

The number of beneficiaries belonging to the SCs/STs and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) who were sanctioned loans and the amount of loan sanctioned/dispensed under PMRY during 1993-94 is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the house.

(d) The Reserve Bank of India have advised banks to speedily dispose of the cases. Further, the progress of PMRY is monitored at the District Level by the District Level Consultative Committee and District PMRY Committee, at the State Level by the State Level Bankers' Committee and State PMRY Committee and at the National Level by a High Powered Committee on PMRY set up by the Department of Small Scale Industries.

[English]

LIC Policy Holders

3554. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether full cooperation is extended to policyholders by the Development and other higher officers of the Life Insurance Corporation of India;

(b) if not, whether the Government have received complaints from policy holders against the attitude of the above officers;

(c) if so, the details thereof during the last two years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The Government have received only 639 complaints from the policyholders during the last two years relating to the delay in settlement and repudiation of claims etc. of which 623 have since been settled by the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC). In a vast organisation like the LIC with over 2000 branches spread all over the country occasional misunderstandings between the policyholders and operating officers do emanate but they are promptly attended to and settled by the company. With a view to redressing the grievances of the policyholders and improving quality of service, Claims Review Committees have been set up by the LIC at Branch office, Divisional office, Zonal office and Central office levels to review the repudiated claims

from time to time. The Board of Directors of LIC constantly review the disposal of cases of public grievances and settlement of claims to ensure efficient customer service.

years;

(b) the number of applications accepted and rejected; and

[*Translation*]

I.D.B.I. Assistance

3555. SHRI LAL BABU RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received by the Industrial Development Bank of India (I.D.B.I.) from Bihar during the last three

(c) the financial assistance provided directly by the I.D.B.I. for industries in the State during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The number of applications from Bihar received, sanctioned and rejected by the Industrial Development Bank of India during the last three years is given below:--

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
Applications received	26	28	14
Applications sanctioned	18	18	11
Applications rejected/ withdrawn/closed	8	4	0

(c) The details of direct assistance sanctioned and disbursed by IDBI to

industries in Bihar during the above period are given below:

<i>(Rs. in crores)</i>		
	<i>Sanctions</i>	<i>Disbursement</i>
1991-92	279.5	100.2
1992-93	124.3	213.4
1993-94	60.9	50.8

Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi

3557. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI KHELAN RAM

JANGDE:
PROF. SAVITHRI
LAKSHMANAN:

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

(a) the expenditure incurred on the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of pilots trained by the Akademi during the aforesaid period, year-wise;

(c) the norms and criteria fixed for admission of trainees in the Akademi;

(d) whether the Government are encouraging the trainees to part with this training to cope with the shortage of pilots; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Expenditure incurred on Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) during the last three years is as follows:--

Year	amounts (Rs. in lakhs)
1991-92	293.91
1992-93	317.37
1993-94	278.36

(b) the number of pilots trained by IGRUA during the last three years is as follow:-

Year	Pilots
1991-92	51
1992-93	08
1993-94	43

(c) The eligibility conditions for admission to the Commercial Pilots' Licence (CPL) Course in IGRUA are as under:--

Licence with 60 hours experience, including 30 hours solo, in the preceeding three years.

(i) Upper age limit to 23 years.

(iv) Current medical fitness certificate of CPL standard.

(ii) Pass in 10+2 with Physics and Maths.

(d) No, Sir

(iii) Must hold valid Indian Private Pilot

(e) Does not arise.

International Airports

3558. SHRI KESHRI LAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of passengers handled at the international airports in the country during 1993-94;

(b) the percentage increase therein during this period as compared to the previous year; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the inflow of international passengers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) A total of 209.69 lakhs passengers were handled at International Airports during the year 1993-94.

(b) The percentage increase in passengers is 11.5%

(c) Additional traffic rights in the form of increased frequencies/seat capacities and right to operate to additional points have been granted to 18 foreign international carriers. Reciprocal rights were obtained for Indian designated carriers.

Consumption of Cloth

3559. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita requirement of cloth in metres by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan and the per capita availability of cloth in

metres at present; and

(b) the details of the action plan prepared by the Government to meet this requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) the per capita requirement of cloth by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan has been estimated at around 33.58 sq. metres. The per capita availability of cloth during 1993-94 was estimated at 25.81 sq. metres.

(b) Government has taken following steps to meet the requirement of cloth:--

- (1) Removal of restriction on creation and expansion of capacity subject only to locational guidelines.
- (2) Permitting import of textile machinery under OGL and reduction in duty on such machinery imports; and
- (3) Measures to ensure availability of raw material to the industry through policy intervention whenever necessary.

[English]

Employment Exchanges

3560. SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI THAKORE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revamp the employment exchanges of the country in the near future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). Functioning of Employment Exchanges is reviewed from time to time and proposal for improving and streamlining the services are discussed in the Meeting of the Working Group on National Employment Service which is normally held once a year. The Working Group recommends simplification of the procedure for providing better services both to the job-seekers and employers.

[Translation]

Group Insurance Scheme

3561. DR. P.R. GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have provided financial assistance to the State Governments to cover the landless agriculture labourers and the labourers in unorganised sector under the Group Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the amount of assistance provided during the last year, Statewise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make this Scheme more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) used to implement a Group Insurance scheme for the Landless Agricultural Labourers (LALGI) w.e.f. 15th August, 1987, in collaboration with the States/

Union Territories covering all landless agricultural labourers in the age group of 18-60 years. The entire premium under this scheme used to be borne by the Central Government. A "Social Security Fund" was set up in 1988 by the LIC for subsidising premia under Group Insurance Schemes meant for the weaker and vulnerable sections of the society. After setting up this Fund, the entire premium on LALGI is being met out of this Fund. In addition, Group Insurance Schemes were introduced to cover weaker sections of the society who are engaged in 23 identified occupations. 50% of the premium in respect of these Schemes is met out of the Social Security Fund.

The details of assistance in the form of premium subsidies under the LALGI and other Group Insurance Schemes in 23 identified occupations will be compiled and laid on the Table of the House.

(c) In order to give wide publicity to the scheme, the LIC print and display posters in the Offices of the Panchayats; Tehsils and Blocks; put up hoardings, distribute leaflets, screen films like "Nai Asha Nai Disha" and arrange radio talks in rural areas.

[English]

Siphoning Off Funds

3562. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item that the owner of Thomas Duff Group of companies is siphoning off funds as reported in the *Amrit Bazar Patrika*, Calcutta dated July 21, 1994;

(b) if so, the funds repatriated by this owner;

(c) whether the Government have made any inquiry into the matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action being taken to prevent such activities in future?

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

Currency Printing Press

*3563. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Mints Modernisation Plan way off target" appearing in the *Times of India* dated July 28, 1994;

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

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken for completion of modernisation work as per target fixed?

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

(b) Action for modernisation of the Mints was initiated by the Government in 1989. The initial cost of the modernisation of

the Mints at Bombay, Calcutta and Hyderabad was estimated at Rs. 118.28 crores, including foreign exchange component of Rs. 42.30 crores. However, the project could not be taken up owing to resource constraints. A decision has been taken to complete the project by December, 1996 at a revised estimated cost of Rs. 301.82 crores with nil customs duty.

(c) Most of the procurement actions have been completed. As against the revised cost estimate of Rs. 301.82 crores, a sum of Rs. 75.26 crores has already been spent so far in connection with this modernisation programme. The Government has constituted a Committee for close monitoring of the project so that the modernisation programme is completed within the stipulated time frame.

Tax Collection Boards

3564. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Lawaris pade hein rajasv vaseoli se jude dono board,." appearing in the *Jansatta* dated July 6, 1994;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to normalise the functioning of these boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b): Yes, Sir, but the news-item is not factually correct.

(c) Does not arise.

Customer Services

3565. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA

RAJE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the customer service of public sector banks in rural areas is dismal as compared to urban areas;

(b) whether it is also not satisfactory in the export sector;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d). No such reports have been received. However, Government are anxious to ensure improvement in customer services in public sector banks. A Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri M.N. Goiporia, the then Chairman, State Bank of India was constituted in September, 1990 to examine the issue. The Committee made wide ranging recommendations. Reserve Bank of India have already issued instructions to the banks for implementation of the accepted recommendations of the Committee.

Tea Promotion Centres

3566. PROF. SAVITHRI

LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements made by the four Tea Promotion Centres in the country;

(b) whether tea is sold at subsidised rates to the general public by these centres; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to popularise the Indian tea in the country and abroad?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Tea Board runs four tea bars/buffets in Delhi located at the Parliament/Yojana Bhawan, Udyog Bhawan and North Block. Through these bars/buffets quality India tea is served to the Members of Parliament, Senior officials and employees of the Ministries/offices located in the above mentioned buildings. Selling prices of tea at the above mentioned bars/buffets is intended to meet the cost of tea leaves and other ingredients but does not cover the cost of establishment and other overhead expenses.

In addition to these four centres run by the Tea Board at New Delhi, three additional tea centres are run by the Board at Bombay, Madras and Thirumalai.

(c) Tea is one of the most popular and widely consumed beverage in India. Domestic consumption of tea in the country is already increasing @ around 15 million kgs per annum. The Tea Board bars/buffets are meant for popularising various types of tea amongst the domestic consumers.

Steps taken by the Tea Board to promote Indian tea in the overseas market include unimotional promotional campaigns through Tea Board's offices abroad. It consists of (i) participation in trade fairs/exhibitions, (ii) media campaign to increase consumer awareness towards various unique characteristics of Indian tea, (iii)

media campaign to popularise Indian tea through Tea Board marketing symbol, and (iv) support to various foreign brands containing Indian tea. A part of the expenditure incurred by importers for promotional campaigns is met from Tea Board's budget. Tea Board has also independently undertaken Darjeeling and Assam Logo Campaign in U.K.

Handloom Units

3567. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of handloom units lying closed in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any survey in respect of these units;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to reopen them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Government has no access to the data on the number of handloom units lying closed in the country in view of the decentralised nature of this industry.

(b) No, Sir.

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

EPF Contribution

3568. SHRI ANANTRAO

DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, with a view to making non-payment of employee's share towards EPF contribution a cognizable offence; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). Under the EPF Scheme the employer is responsible for depositing the PF contribution including employees' share in the Fund. Under Section 14 AB of the EPF & MP Act, 1952 an offence relating to default in payment of contribution by the employer is already a cognizable offence.

Project LARGE

3569. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether project LARGE (Legal Adjustments for Globalising the Economy) has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government propose to take on their recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Sir, The Report is still awaited.

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

Agro Exports

3570. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESHWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council of Applied Economic Research has conducted a study that there is great potential for agro exports;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by NCAER; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). National Council of Applied Economic Research has conducted a study on the export competitiveness of 17 selected agricultural commodities. The main conclusions of the study are that the following steps are necessary to increase our agro exports:--

- (i) abolition of all export controls and regulations like canalisation, export quotas and minimum export prices;
- (ii) infrastructure developments in terms of bulk storage and handling facilities of rail heads and sea ports.
- (iii) long term investments in research and extension for improvements in yield and quantity, eco friendly production of fruits and vegetables and environment friendly packaging material for processed items.

(c) While the report has been received

only recently, the rationalisation export controls on agro-exports has been a major feature of the liberalisation of export trade in the last few years and is an on-going process. Similarly high priority has been given to improvement and development of infrastructural facilities required for export, in which private sector investment is also being encouraged. The Indian Council for Agricultural Research has undertaken programmes for improving the productivity and quality of agricultural produce. With the objective of facilitating exports of organic products, Government has constituted a Standing cum Accreditation Committee to evolve policies and procedures for accreditation of inspection and certification agencies.

Money Credit Scheme

3571. SQN. LDR. KAMAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the impact of Money Credit Scheme for excise duty on the production of minor oils used by soap industry;

(b) if so, the revenue sacrifice, during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the details of beneficiaries of the scheme and the amount of benefit derived by them during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Ministry of Finance has not made any specific as to assess the impact of the scheme on the growth of production of minor oils used by the soap industry.

(b) and (c). Required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Export of Edible Oils

3572. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to export edible oils;

(b) if so, the details thereof, itemwise;

(c) whether the country is in a position to meet the domestic requirement from the internal production before exporting it;

(d) if so, the domestic demand of edible oils at present, item-wise;

(e) if not, the reasons for exporting edible oils; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to meet the domestic demand?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (f). As per the EXIM Policy 1992-97, export of edible oils in bulk is not permitted. However, export of edible oils (other than groundnut oil) in consumer packs of less than 5 kgs. is allowed with the long-term objective of establishing a presence in the international market and because the foreign exchange earned therefrom contributes to the import of cheaper oils like palmolein, which may be necessary for domestic consumption.

As per the Economic Survey, 1993-94, the per capita availability of edible oil, (including groundnut oil, rapeseed and mustard oil, sesamum oil, nigerseed oil, soyabean oil and sunflower oil, as well as oils used for the manufacture of vanaspati) was provisionally estimated at 7.0 kgs in 1992-93.

To adequately cater to any shortfall in local demand, Government has decided to allow the import of palmolein freely. In addition, Government through the Technology Mission on Oilseeds & Pulses has been regularly working on improving the production and productivity of various oilseeds in the country.

[Translation]

Import of Consumer Items

3573. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Monetary Fund has asked India to lift the ban imposed on import of consumer items in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

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

[English]

was provided in BE 1994-95 which has already been released to the JCI.

Jute Collection Fund

3574. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the formation of jute collection fund for purchase of raw jute;

(b) whether the Government have provided any fund to JCI for purchase of raw jute during 1994-95; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) There is no such fund.

(b) and (c). An amount of Rs. 6 crores

Setting up Of EOUs

3575. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cent per cent export oriented units set up during each of the last three years in the county, State-wise; and

(b) the number and details of units out of the above which have started commercial production, particularly in Andhra Pradesh during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Number of 100% EOUs approved for setting up during each of last three years:-

STATEMENT

	1991-92	1992-93	1994-94
Maharashtra	22	122	75
A. P.	18	97	84
Assam	1	1	2
Gujarat	30	64	35
Haryana	10	42	25
Himachal Pradesh	2	2	5
Karnataka	25	55	54
Kerala	1	18	14

	1991-92	1992-93	1994-94
Madhya Pradesh	6	14	13
Orissa	8	9	5
Punjab	2	7	4
Rajasthan	16	48	40
Tamil Nadu	38	90	65
Uttar Pradesh	22	55	23
West Bengal	1	18	5
A & N Islands	1	2	1
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	—	3	1
Delhi	2	47	12

	1991-92	1992-93	1994-94
Goa, Daman & Diu	4	10	6
Meghalaya	—	—	1
Pondicherry	1	1	2
Others*	1	13	6
	211	718	478

* Deep sea fishing units for operation in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone.

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

Tourism Development

3576. SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA Kaur (DEEPA): Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspite of thrust given to tourism development by the Government in recent years, the situation is far from satisfactory;

(b) if so, the hurdles in the way of developing tourism; and

(c) the steps being taken to remove these hurdles?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). The thrust given by the Government in recent years has resulted in an upswing of tourist arrivals to the country and in foreign exchange earnings as well.

However, hurdles such as lack of adequate infrastructure, unsatisfactory transportation services, civic amenities not upto international standards etc., have come in the way of developing international tourism

in the country to its full potential.

The Department has taken up these issues with the different Ministries/ Departments and State Governments at various fora such as the Regional Tourism Ministers' Conferences who are attending to these deficiencies within their resource limit.

Smuggling

3577. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of smuggled silver and gold seized during each of the last three years from the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to check the smuggling;

(c) whether some customs officials found involved in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The value of silver and gold seized at IGI Airport, Delhi during last three financial years are given below:--

	<i>(value in Rs. lakhs)</i>	
	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Gold</i>
1991-92	0.68	865.85
1992-93	16.80	560.67
1993-94	0.33	288.23

(b) Anti-smuggling activities have been intensified at all the international Airports including IGI Airport. Flights coming from sensitive Airports are thoroughly rummaged. Measures taken to curb smuggling include greater surveillance over sensitive areas at IGI Airport, intensified intelligence collection, screening of baggage of passengers arriving on sensitive flights with the help of sophisticated equipments such as baggage X-ray machines and metal detectors and close coordination among all agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling.

(c) No customs official has been found involved in these cases.

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

Tourism Projects In Gujarat

3578. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

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

(a) the details including locations of the projects/schemes received for tourism development in Gujarat during 1994-95;

(b) the projects/schemes, out of the above, sanctioned; and

(c) the amount of financial assistance sanctioned for each project/scheme?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION

AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). The State Government of Gujarat have submitted a proposal recently for seeking central financial assistance for organising fairs and festivals in the State during 1994-95.

H.C.I. Hotels

3579. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of hotels being run by the Hotel Corporation of India, a subsidiary of the Air India; and

(b) the profits earned/losses incurred by each of these hotels during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Hotel Corporation of India runs the following hotels:--

1. Centaur Hotel Bombay Airport.
2. Centaur Hotel Juhu Beach.
3. Centaur Hotel Delhi Airport.
4. Centaur Lake View Hotel, Srinagar.
5. Centaur Hokke Hotel, Rajgir, Bihar. (This hotel is being operated in collaboration with Hokke Club, Japan).

(b) The financial performance of these hotels during the last three years is as under:--

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
Name of the Hotel	Profit/(Loss)	Profit/(Loss)	Profit/(Loss) (Provisional)
Centaur Hotel, Bombay Airport	1.99	2.13	4.36
Centaur Hotel, Juhu Beach	(2.72)	(2.65)	0.37
Centaur Hotel Delhi Airport	(2.17)	(1.47)	0.09
Centaur Lake View Hotel, Srinagar	(4.44)	(5.68)	5.44
Centaur Hokke Hotel, Rajgir	(0.10)	(0.17)	0.36

Sick PSUs

3580. SHRI V. SREENIVASA
PRASAD:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI PRAMOTHES
MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the BIFR has delayed the
revival schemes for the sick Public Sector
Undertakings including some proposals from
Non-resident Indians in this regard;

(b) whether the operation of these
PSUs has been adversely affected and
market goodwill jeopardised as a result of
reference of BIFR;

(c) whether the State Bank of India
and other financial institutions have also
partially withdrawn their support to the above
PSUs;

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

(e) the remedial measures taken
by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI. M.V.
CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and
(b). Under Section 15 of the Sick Industrial
Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985
(SICA), it is obligatory for Sick Industrial
Companies to make a reference to the
Board for Industrial and Financial
Reconstruction (BIFR). As per the provisions
of SICA, the BIFR has to explore different
alternatives for revival of a sick industrial
company before forming an opinion that it is
just and equitable that the company be
wound up. BIFR has also to give a reasonable
opportunity to all concerned including the
Administrative Ministry and the sick company
to be heard. Any request received for grant
of further time has also to be considered by

BIFR. Further, in the case of some sick public sector undertakings BIFR has on request granted time to the Administrative Ministry/company concerned to give their final views on issues like induction of additional funds and allied matters, which are essential to reach a final decision as to revival, or in the alternative, closure. Proceedings before the BIFR have also been stayed by Courts in respect of five public sector cases.

(c) to (e). Where a scheme for rehabilitation of a sick public sector company is sanctioned by BIFR under Section 17(2) and Section 18(4) of SICA, public sector banks/financial institutions provide facilities in terms of the sanctioned scheme. In other cases, banks/financial institutions extend need-based support and allow 'holding-on' operations on a case to case basis. Commercial banks have been advised by the Reserve Bank of India that they should not abruptly stop the credit facilities to such units but should exercise their judgment in regard to continuance of the 'holding on' operations.

[Translation]

Mines and Agricultural Labour

3581. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mines and agricultural labourers, separately in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the minimum wages fixed for both categories of labourers in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) According to the 1991 census, there are about 2.2 lakh mine workers and 58.6 lakh agricultural workers in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 both the State Governments and the Central Government are the appropriate authorities for fixation and revision of minimum wages in schedule employments under their respective jurisdiction. While the scheduled employments in Agriculture falls mainly under the jurisdiction of the State Government, the scheduled employments in mines largely fall under the jurisdiction of the Central Government. The minimum wages fixed for the lowest paid agriculture worker are Rs. 28.17 p.d. in the State of Madhya Pradesh which were last revised on 1.4.93. The minimum wages in mines sector as fixed by the Central Government are Rs. 28.00 and Rs. 34.00 for the lowest paid unskilled workers employed Above Ground and Below Ground respectively. These wages were last revised by the Central Government on 12.7.94.

Handicrafts Fairs/Exhibitions

3582. SHRI GAYA PRASAD KORI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of handicrafts fairs/exhibitions organised in the country during 1993-94, State-wise particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the norms adopted for selection of artisans participating in such fairs/exhibitions;

(c) the manners in which the income of such exhibitions is disbursed among the organisers and artisans; and

(d) the extent of profits earned by the organisers in such exhibitions during above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY): (a) State-wise numbers of handicrafts fairs/exhibitions organised departmentally or with financial support to other organisations in the country during 1993-94 including the State of Uttar Pradesh are as follows;

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the State</i>	<i>Number of fairs/exhibitions organised during 1993-94</i>
1.	Assam	16
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil
3.	Andhra Pradesh	21
4.	Bihar	5
5.	Delhi	44
6.	Gujarat	28
7.	Goa	5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	20
9.	Haryana	22
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	43
11.	Kerala	32
12.	Karnataka	19
13.	Madhya Pradesh	23
14.	Maharashtra	21
15.	Manipur	1
16.	Mizoram	2

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the State</i>	<i>Number of fairs/exhibitions organised during 1993-94</i>
17.	Nagaland	3
18.	Orissa	20
19.	Punjab	16
20.	Pondicherry	6
21.	Rajasthan	24
22.	Tamil Nadu	44
23.	Tripura	2
24.	Uttar Pradesh	72
25.	West Bengal	12
26.	Sikkim	1
27.	Andaman and Nicobar	1
28.	Chandigarh	1
29.	Meghalaya	1
Total:		505

(b) The norms adopted for selection of artisans for participation in the handicrafts fairs/exhibitions are:--

- (i) The participating artisans should be genuine craftspersons;
- (ii) Frequent repetition of artisans in such programmes is avoided; and
- (iii) Adequate representation is given

to the artisans practising languishing crafts and those belonging to weaker section of society.

(c) the developmental schemes of organising handicrafts fairs/exhibitions do not envisage any provision for generation of income. Hence the question of disbursement of income does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Women I.T.Is in Maharashtra

3583. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to State:

(a) the details of the ITIs for women proposed to be opened in Maharashtra, location-wise;

(b) the time by which these I.T.Is are likely to be started;

(c) the total expenditure to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the number of women candidates are likely to be benefited each year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (d). As per the information received from the Government of Maharashtra, three I.T.Is for Women are proposed to be setup at Kolhapur, Nanded and Sindhkhed Raja (Distt. Buldhana), as and when funds are provided by the District Planning and Development Committee of the respective Districts. The total estimated expenditure per I.T.I would be Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 1.5 crores. 288 women candidates are likely to benefit from these I.T.Is every year.

[Translation]

NABARD Scheme

3584. SHRI BIRSINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes being run by the Union Government through NABARD for

development of small farmers in West Bengal;

(b) the places where the above schemes have been launched in the State during the last three years; and

(c) the number of farmers benefited therefrom so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been providing refinance assistance in respect of the following important programmes/schemes of Government of India for development of small farmers in various States including West Bengal;

- (i) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP);
- (ii) Massive National Programme of Assistance for increasing agricultural production (MNPA);
- (iii) National Bio-gas Development Programme.

(b) and (c). NABARD has reported that all the blocks in West Bengal have been covered under refinance assisted schemes during the last three years. Information regarding the number of farmers financed by the banks under schematic lending in West Bengal State with NABARD's refinance assistance is not available. However, the estimated number of accounts of small farmers financed by the banks under schematic lending, with refinance assistance from NABARD, in West Bengal State during the year 1990-91 is 1,26,800.

[English]

International Price Reimbursement Scheme

3585. SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exporters were assured for immediate clearance of IPRS in a meeting held with Cabinet Secretary in Delhi during March, 1994;

(b) if so, whether the Government have released the funds to clear the outstanding amount under erstwhile International Price Reimbursement Scheme;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore and the time by which the funds are likely to be released;

(d) whether the Government propose to direct the commercial Banks for providing financial help against the approved claims of the exporters treating it at par with Government securities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) No assurance was given regarding the time frame for settlement of claims under International price Reimbursement Scheme in the said meeting.

(b) and (c.) Government have released Rs. 200 crores in 1993-94 for settlement of

a part of the claims under the erstwhile scheme. It has been decided that the balance of the claims pending under the Scheme may be met from the proceeds under the Engineering Goods Export Assistance Fund Cess. This will not require any further Budgetary support from Government for meeting the expenditure.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Garment Export Quota

3586. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 7470 on May 13, 1994 and state:--

(a) whether the another enquiry as stated being conducted by your own officials has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Government have received an enquiry report from the Textile Commissioner wherein it has been stated that the firm had tampered with both the Factory Licence and the SSI Registration Certificate, in order to get a larger allotment of quotas. The matter has been referred to the CBI for further action.

[Translation]

I.A. Concessions to Aged Passengers

3587: SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has announced fifty per cent concession in air tickets to the persons aged more than sixty five years and has also announced concession in the return tickets to the person travelling between Delhi, Bombay, Bangalore and Calcutta; and

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

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

(b) Indian Airlines has offered 50% discount on its normal Rupee Fare to Senior Citizens, who have attained the age of 65 years and above with effect from 1.8.1994. The passenger must stay at the destination for a minimum of seven days.

IA has also introduced concessional return fares with effect from 1.8.1994 between Bombay-Delhi, Bombay-Bangalore and Bombay-Calcutta giving 25% discount on the return journey. The tickets can be purchased upto 30.9.1994 and travel can be upto 7.10.1994.

[English]

Dhan Samridhi Scheme

3588. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation of India has launched a "Dhan Samridhi Scheme" to encourage the investors in the country; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof and the amount derived by the Life Insurance Corporation so far under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) have reported that the Life Insurance Corporation Mutual Fund (LICMF) has launched a pure growth scheme entitled 'Dhan Samridhi' which was opened on 21st July, 1994 and will close on 25th August, 1994.

The LIC have reported that it is a 5 year Pure Growth Scheme terminating on 31st August, 1999. The minimum subscription to the Scheme is Rs. 1000/- The maximum permissible investment per investor is upto Rs. 10 crores in multiples of Rs. 1000/-. The units issued under the Scheme are transferable at any time after their allotment. Repurchase is allowed after one year. It envisages investment in equities upto 60% and provides for declaration of dividend/allotment of bonus units. Under the Scheme, tax benefits will be available under Section 80(L), 48 and 112 of Income Tax Act, 1961. No tax is deductible at source. The Scheme has nomination and Lien Noting facilities. The Scheme which is opened to individuals, companies, bodies corporate, trusts, societies etc. will be listed in Bombay, Delhi and Calcutta Stock Exchanges.

The total amount mobilised under the Scheme will be known only after its closure.

Penalty For Losses in Banks

3589. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has imposed penalty in the banks incurring losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above banks have requested the Reserve Bank of India to waive the penalty; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Reserve Bank of India has intimated that it has not so far imposed penalty on any nationalised bank which has incurred losses.

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

Pay Scales of Bank Employees

3590. SHRI A. ASOKARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees and officers of the public sector banks have been agitating over the delay in the revision of their pay scales and accelerated promotions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the delay and the

time by which their grievances are likely to be redressed;

(d) whether the clerks in the above banks remain in the same post even after completing more than ten years of service;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). Indian Banks' Association has reported that the banks' employees have been agitating for various demands including early wage revision. IBA is seized of the matter and a few rounds of discussions for the VIth bipartite settlement have already been held. Wage negotiations are, however, by their very nature, a long and protracted affair and, therefore, no time frame can be stipulated.

(d) to (f). It may not be correct to say that the career prospects of the clerks in the banking industry are inadequate. In fact, 75% of the vacancies in the officers cadres of the public sector banks are filled by promotions from clerical cadre. Further, meritorious candidates may get promotions even within a period of 4 to 5 years. However, many officials in the clerical cadre of the bank do not opt for promotions as this could subject them to all India transfer liability.

Development Projects in J & K

3591. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government

have cleared hundreds of crores development projects in Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether accountability of the expenditure lies with the Centre or the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARAMURTHY: (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be furnished.

I.T.D.C Tie Ups With Foreign Hotels

3592. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Tourism Development Corporation propose to tie up with foreign hotels;

(b) whether similar proposals are there for the ups with the Indian hotels also; and

(c) if so, the details of the proposals of ITDC in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) ITDC is exploring possibilities of marketing tie ups with internationally reputed hotel chains for its elite hotels.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. All other major Indian hotel chains have tie ups with some foreign hotel chains, and since they are competitors of ITDC, it is not in business interest to have marketing tie ups with them.

Agreement Between NTC and Trade Unions

3593. SHRI K. MURALEE DHARAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agreement reached between Trade Unions and NTC management as per the Industrial Disputes Act 1947 has not been implemented so far;

(b) if so, the reasons for this inordinate delay;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY):

(a) No, Sir.

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

LIC/GIC Offices

3594. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of branch offices of Life Insurance Corporation and General Insurance Corporation functioning in each State at present separately; and

(b) the details of new Life Insurance Corporation and General Insurance Corporation branch offices proposed to be opened during 1994-95, State-wise, along with their locations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): enclosed statements I and II.

- (a) The information as reported by the Life Insurance Corporation & General Insurance Corporation is given in the
- (b) The details of new Branches to be opened during 1994-95 by the Life Insurance Corporation of India are given below:

<i>State</i>	<i>No. of Career Agents' Branches to be opened</i>	<i>Location</i>
Delhi	1	Delhi
Himachal Pradesh	1	Hamirpur
Uttar Pradesh	2	1) Jhansi 2) Shahjahanpur
Madhya Pradesh	2	1) Sagar 2) Ujjain
West Bengal	1	Calcutta
Karnataka	1	Belgaum
Andhra Pradesh	1	Hyderabad
Maharashtra	2	1) Bombay 2) Pune
Total:	11	

The General Insurance Corporation of India have reported that there are no plans at present to open more number of Branches during 1994-95.

STATEMENT-I

State-wise details of Branch Offices of Life Insurance Corporation of India as on 31.3.1994

<i>State</i>	<i>No. of Branches</i>
1. Andhra Pradesh	172

	<i>State</i>	<i>No. of Branches</i>
2.	Assam	67
3.	Bihar	100
4.	Goa	11
5.	Gujarat	142
6.	Haryana	31
7.	Himachal Pradesh	22
8.	Jammu Kashmir	17
9.	Karnataka	135
10.	Kerala	84
11.	Madhya Pradesh	131
12.	Mahrashtra	246
13.	Orissa	55
14.	Punjab	68
15.	Rajasthan	106
16.	Tamil Nadu	175
17.	Uttar Pradesh	241
18.	West Bengal	136
19.	Delhi	69
Total:		2008

STATEMENT - II

State-wise number of Branch offices of the four Subsidiary Companies of the General Insurance Corporation of India as on 30th June, 1994.

S.No.	State/U.T.	No. of Branches of the Four Companies				Total Branches
		National Insurance Co. Ltd.	New India Assurance Co. Ltd.	Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd.	United India Insurance Co. Ltd.	
North Zone						
1.	Chandigarh	3	7	5	3	18
2.	New Delhi	32	35	34	26	127
3.	Harayan	19	22	25	24	90
4.	Himachal Pradesh	14	6	10	8	38
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	10	11	11	46
6.	Punjab	46	44	41	51	182
7.	Rajasthan	34	30	38	51	153
8.	Uttar Pradesh	75	112	93	76	356

S.No.	State/U.T.	No. of Branches of the Four Companies				Total Branches	
		National Insurance Co. Ltd.		Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd.			United India Insurance Co. Ltd.
		New India Assurance Co. Ltd.					
East Zone							
9.	Andaman & Nicobar	-	1	-	1	2	
10	Arunachal Pradesh	1	-	4	4	9	
11.	Assam	21	20	20	26	87	
12.	Bihar	50	33	44	31	158	
13.	Manipur	1	1	3	5	10	
14.	Meghalaya	1	1	5	3	10	
15.	Mizoram	1	1	2	2	6	
16.	Orissa	16	26	18	18	78	
17.	Tripura	2	-	2	3	7	

S.No.	State/U.T.	No. of Branches of the Four Companies				Total Branches
		National Insurance Co. Ltd.		United India Insurance Co. Ltd.		
		New India Assurance Co. Ltd.	Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd.			
18.	Nagaland	1	1	5	2	9
19.	West Bengal	44	43	23	24	134
20.	Sikkim	1	2	2	-	5
	South Zone					
21.	Andhra Pradesh	40	61	43	79	223
22.	Karnataka	37	54	47	56	194
23.	Kerala	29	51	38	52	170
24.	Pondicherry	2	1	-	2	5
25.	Tamil Nadu	60	80	52	93	285

S.No.	State/U.T.	No. of Branches of the Four Companies				Total Branches
		National Insurance Co. Ltd.		United India Insurance Co. Ltd.		
		New India Assurance Co. Ltd.	Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd.	United India Insurance Co. Ltd.	United India Insurance Co. Ltd.	
West Zone						
26.	Goa	5	4	7		21
27.	Gujarat	32	45	33		162
28.	Madhya Pradesh	45	49	46		185
29.	Maharashtra	36	55	72		252
30.	Daman & Diu	-	2	2		4
Total		662	833	720	811	3026

Commission on Social Clause

3595. SHRI RAMCHANDRA MAROTRAOGHANGARE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be please to state:

(a) whether the Government have appointed a Commission to study the implications of labour rights and related issues forming part of 'Social Clause' in General Agreement of Tariff and Trade;

(b) if so, the composition of the said commission; and

(c) the time by which the recommendations of the said Commission are likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):

(a) A Commission has been appointed to study the various ILO Conventions; the adequacy of our legislation in the context of these conventions; the effectiveness of the enforcement of our

laws; and to develop an action plan for overcoming the identified inadequacies if any.

(b) The Chairman of the Commission is Dr. Subramanian Swamy and the Members are Shri S.L. Passey and Shri A.V. Ganesan.

(c) The Commission will make its recommendations within one year.

Export of Coffee

3596. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the total quantity of coffee exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):

The following are the details of export of coffee and foreign exchange equivalent earned therefrom during each of the last three fiscal years:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Quantity (in Tonnes)</i>	<i>Value (In Rs.lakhs)</i>
1991-92	111,455	34900.51
1992-93	113,600	38130.51
1993-94	132,821	56828.09

Names of the major countries to which Indian coffee was exported during the last three years alongwith/estimated

quantity and value are given below:

	Country	1991-92		1992-93		1993-94		(Qty. in tonnes) (Value in Rs. lakhs)
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	
1.	Germany	9945	3146.51	2390	655.12	23493	9580.02	
2.	Italy	10059	3065.04	--	--	17033	6378.78	
3.	Japan	1663	533.90	--	--	4666	1889.82	
4.	U.S.A.	9564	2216.87	--	--	--	--	
5.	Jordan	1916	488.88	--	--	--	--	
6.	South Korea	2100	534.55	1700	437.56	1685	575.47	
7.	Yugoslavia	5819	1706.90	--	--	--	--	

Country	1991-92		1992-93		1993-94	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
8. U.S.S.R.	41006	12864.52	--	--	--	--
9. Czechoslovakia	9383	3409.25	5390	1774.12	--	--
10. Poland	2131	1134.07	6128	2907.74	3348	1738.7
11. Kuwait	--	--	2174	741.34	1412	599.09
12. Russia	--	--	26585	9458.97	15909	10410.05
13. Saudi Arabia	--	--	4095	1317.78	1112	469.42
14. Dubai	--	--	1095	367.38	1117	515.28
15. Portugal	--	--	--	--	1744	612.67
16. Belgium	--	--	--	--	1405	594.94
17. France	--	--	--	--	2098	817.91

Country	1991-92		1992-93		1993-94	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
18. Netherlands	--	--	--	--	1405	615.6
19. Spain	--	--	--	--	2629	1014.30
20. Switzerland	--	--	--	--	3369	1445.00
21. U.K.	--	--	--	--	1202	1411.87
22. U.S.A.	--	--	--	--	10801	3868.21
23. Finland	--	--	--	--	1550	566.48
24. Greece	--	--	--	--	1576	534.15
25. Australia	--	--	--	--	1569	621.34
26. Canada	--	--	--	--	3129	1143.94
27. Slovenia	--	--	--	--	1859	636.18
28. Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	12330	5028.84
29. Slovakia	--	--	--	--	1453	568.81

[Translation]

Modernisation of Small Scale Industries

3597. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action plan is under consideration for entrusting the responsibility of upgradation of technology and modernisation of small scale industries in different regions of the country by increasing the activities of the industrial Development Bank of India in view of its enhanced resources; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, recognising the backlog of modernisation in the small scale sector, the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has identified technology upgradation as one of its thrust areas. As of date, 15 industry groups located in clusters in different parts of the country have been identified by SIDBI.

[English]

Export of Herbs and Spices

3598. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the districts of Chamoli and Garhwal in Uttar Pradesh hills have a vast, unexploited, natural stock of such herbs and spices

whose oil has a good market potential abroad for usage in medicines and perfumes;

(b) whether the Government have undertaken any measures to commercialise production and harvesting of such herbs and spices in these districts;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):

(a) Yes, Sir. The hill areas of Uttar Pradesh are richly endowed in medicinal plants.

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

Investments in Central Asia

3599. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a Joint Group to formulate a strategy on Indian investments in the Central Asia;

(b) if so, the details of composition of the said Group;

(c) whether this Group has been able to work out a feasibility report of a land route to Central Asia via Iran so as to enable Indian goods to retain their competitive edge in this region which is lost if goods are sent by air; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d). The Government of India had set up a Multi-disciplinary study team which visited Iran in July, 93. The study team found that the trade with Central Asian Republics was possible as Iran has reasonably developed transport infrastructure. The study team also recommended that there was definite advantage in voyage time via Iran in our trade with CARs. The same study team with minor modifications is now slated to visit Central Asian Republics shortly.

[Translation]

Export of Handloom Products

3600. **SHRI N.J. RATHVA:** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is great demand for handloom products of Gujarat in the international market;

(b) if so, the steps taken for the export of these items from Gujarat; and

(c) the target fixed for the purpose for the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) There is some demand for handloom products of Gujarat in the international market.

(b) The Government have been taking a number of steps to boost exports of

handloom items from the country, including Gujarat, such as sponsoring Buyer-Seller Meets, participation in fairs in major markets, releasing advertisements in foreign trade magazines, product development and quality upgradation through appropriate training programmes etc.

(c) The export targets for various textile products are fixed on a year to year basis. For the year 1994-95, an export target of US \$ 475 million (Rs. 1490 crores) has been fixed in respect of cotton handloom fabrics and made-ups.

[English]

Export of Medicines

3601. **SHRI PARASRAMBHARDWAJ:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the India's position in the world trade export for medicines; and

(b) the details of the medicines exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) In spite of growth of Indian Pharmaceutical industry, its share in world trade is not significant.

(b) The value of exports of drugs and Pharmaceuticals including fine chemicals for the last three years is as under:

(Value Rs. in crores)

EXPORTS		
1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
1347.4	1410.30	1781.40

As there is a large number of items under drugs and Pharmaceuticals, it is not possible to maintain specific country-wise/quantity-wise figures.

(SOURCE: CHEMEXCIL, BOMBAY,
DGCI&S Calcutta)

[Translation]

Textile Mills in Rajasthan

3602. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of cloth produced by handloom, powerloom and textile mills in Rajasthan during the year 1993-94;

(b) the amount earmarked by the Government to promote this industry in the State and the steps being taken in this regard;

(c) the quantum of various types of cloth produced in Rajasthan being exported at present;

(d) whether powerloom units in Rajasthan are on the verge of closure due to rising prices of cotton yarn; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) State-wise figures of production of cloth are not maintained.

(b) No separate amount is earmarked for any State in the budget of the Ministry of Textiles.

(c) Export data is not maintained State-wise.

(d) No Sir. However, reportedly, some powerlooms at Kishangarh in Rajasthan were lying closed, temporarily, on account of fluctuating trend in prices of yarn and sluggish cloth market conditions.

(e) The Government have taken following steps to arrest the increase in the price of cotton and yarn:-

- (1) decision to permit duty free import of cotton upto 5 lakh bales by spinning mills;
- (2) stopping of unutilised export quota of cotton out of 5 lakh bales of cotton released for export during 1993-94;
- (3) permission to import 30,000 tonnes of VSF at concessional rate of duty;

- (4) Imposition of stock limit of cotton; the Tamil Nadu State during the year 1994-95.
- (5) imposition of selected credit control. (c) and (d). Do not arise.

[English]

Supply of Janata Cloth

LIC Branches

3603. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of the Life Insurance Corporation in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the Government propose to open some more branches of Life Insurance Corporation in the State;

(c) if so, the locations thereof; and

(d) the time by which these branches are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARAMURTHY): (a) The Life Insurance Corporation of India has 175 Branch Offices in Tamil Nadu as on 31st March, 1994.

(b) The LIC have reported that no new Branch Office is proposed to be opened in

3604. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the supply of Janata cloth to Assam during the last three years was inadequate as compared to the actual demand;

(b) if so, the details of the demand made by Assam during the above period and the supply made thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to supply adequate quantity of Janata cloth to the needy persons in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c). Under the Janata Cloth Scheme Government of India allocate targets for production to individual States keeping in view the overall target of the country as well as past performance.

Details of target allocated to Assam out of the overall allocation for the country and the achievement are as mentioned below:

(Figures in Million Square Metres)			
	Target of Assam		Achievement
1991-92	450.00	30.00	31.08
1992-93	450.00	35.00	35.44
1993-94	370.00	31.00	27.00
(Estimated)			

The production in the target is due to Government of India's decision to phase out the Janata Cloth Scheme during the 8th plan period.

NRIs Deposits in Public Sector Banks

3605. SRIMATI. VASUNDHRA RAJE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of deposits made by Non-resident Indian in the Public Sector Banks as on March 31, 1994;

(b) whether any of those NRIs are keen to set up industries or any other business in India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The amount of deposits made by non-resident Indians in Public sector banks as at the end of March 1994 is Rs. 27871.19 crores.

(b) and (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that they have no information regarding keenness of these non-resident Indians to set up industries or any other business in India.

Acceptance of Cheques/Drafts

3606. SHRI TARA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether branches of Oriental Bank of Commerce and certain other nationalised

banks in Faridabad refuse to acknowledge receipt of cheques/drafts offered by customers for deposit in their account;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to enquire into such illegal commercial practices followed by these banks in Faridabad and take suitable action to protect the interests of customers there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Nationalised banks which have branches in Faridabad have reported that they generally acknowledge the cheques/drafts received from their customers. Oriental Bank of Commerce have reported, however, that with a view to provide better customer service and to reduce their waiting time at the counters, account holders have been offered the facility of depositing their cheques in the box provided for the purpose. Acknowledgement, if desired by any customer, is not refused by the bank.

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

Clearance of Acquaculture Projects By MPEDA

3607. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the details of the acquaculture and other projects cleared and financed by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) during 1993-94 and till June 30, 1994 separately?

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):

Details of aquaculture and other projects cleared and financed by MPEDA are indicated below:-

1993-94

(a) NEW FARM DEVELOPMENT:- Subsidy assistance amounting to Rs. 113.11 lakhs for new farm development, covering an area of 805.57 Hectares, was extended to 193 beneficiaries in the States of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Maharashtra, Gujarat and West Bengal.

(b) SHRIMP HATCHERIES:- Subsidy assistance to the tune of Rs. 43 lakhs was extended for establishing ten shrimp hatcheries in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

(c) SPAWNER-BANKS/NAUPLII REARING CENTRES:- Subsidy assistance to the tune of Rs. 5.48 lakh for establishment of Spawner Banks/Nauplii Rearing Centres was extended to four firms.

(d) EQUITY PARTICIPATION SCHEME:- Under the equity participation scheme, MPEDA financed ten projects pertaining to Prawn Farming, Processing and Gage Culture in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala,

Lakshadweep and Maharashtra. Assistance amounting to Rs. 361.75 lakhs was extended by MPEDA.

1994-95 (upto 30.6.94)

(a) NEW FARM DEVELOPMENT:- Subsidy assistance for new farm development amounting to Rs. 435 Lakhs, involving on area of 18.10 Hectares was extended to 3 beneficiaries in the State of Orissa.

(b) SHRIMP HATCHERIES:- Subsidy assistance amounting to Rs. 5 lakhs was extended for establishment of a Shrimp hatchery in Kerala.

Export of Onions

3608. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of onions exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom each of the last three years, country-wise.

(b) whether any target has been fixed for the export of onions during 1994-95; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The total quantity of onions exported and the foreign exchange therefrom during each of the last 3 years are as under:-

	QTY : In tons		Value : In Rs. lakhs			
	1991-92		1992-93		1993-94 (Provisional)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty	Value
Onion, Fresh	370950	14959	271689	11936	339605	18396
Onion, Provisionally Preserved	416	96	4501	673	5094	799
Onion Dried	1419	449	1868	616	862	379
	372785	15504	278058	13225	345561	19574

The details of country-wise exports are available in the Annual Number of Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by the Director General Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S) Calcutta, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(Source : DGCI&S).

(b) and (c). No specific targets have been fixed for export of onions during 1994-95.

Modernisation of Income Tax Department

3609. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) propose to launch a modernisation plan for the Income Tax Department in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated expenditure involved in modernisation of Income Tax Department;

(d) whether a large number of officers and staff of I.T Department are likely to be rendered surplus as a result of modernisation and computerisation;

(e) if so, the number thereof;

(f) the measure envisaged absorb and rehabilitate the surplus staff?

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

MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to instal, in phases, a modern and efficient computer system for centralised data base and processing with facilities for decentralised input/output.

(c) in the first phase, an expenditure of Rs. 19.90 crores will be incurred.

(d) No, Sir.

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

Tobacco Cultivation

3610. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to provide incentives to the tobacco farmers to switch over to the globally preferred varieties of Virginia and Burley;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of institutions responsible for this conversion of tobacco cultivation to more accepted varieties internationally;

(d) whether there is any long-term plan to achieve this objectives; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e). The Tobacco Board fixes the crop size of Virginia tobacco after taking into account the likely domestic and international requirement for different types of virginia

tobacco. In view of the shift in preference of importing countries to light soil tobaccos, various development and extension schemes are implemented by the Tobacco Board to encourage light soil farmers within the limitations of the current reported surplus of these varieties in the international market. Exploratory trials are also being conducted by the Central Tobacco Research Institute to identify new areas suitable for FCV and Burley cultivation.

Advance By Banks

3611. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount advanced by public sector banks to National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) during the last two years;

(b) the outstanding amount as on June

30, 1994;

(c) whether any cases of misutilisation of the loan by NDDB has come to notice;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check the misutilisation of loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). As per information available from Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the peak limits authorised to the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) for purchase of oils/soilseeds under the Market Intervention Operations (MIO) during the financial years 1992-93 and 1993-94 and the outstanding there against on a quarterly basis are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Peak Limit authorised</i>	<i>Peak Outstanding</i>
<i>1992-93</i>		
April - June	480	460.76
July - September	550	517.46
October - December	500	479.18
January - March	425	416.92
<i>1993-94</i>		
April - June	425	416.43

(Rs. in crores)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Peak Limit authorised</i>	<i>Peak Outstanding</i>
July - September	425	413.07
October - December	340	325.84
January - March	200	178.48

In this connection, RBI has further reported that the outstandings in the account of NDDB have been fully liquidated and no fresh credit limit has been authorised since April, 1994.

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

Fifth Pay Commission

3612. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fifth Pay Commission for Central Government employees has started its functioning;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has fixed any time frame for submission of interim and final report in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The Fifth Pay Commission was constituted vide Government Resolution dated 9th April, 1994 and it has since started functioning.

(c) to (e). It has not been the practice to fix any time limit for submission of Report(s) by the Pay Commission. The Fifth Pay Commission is required to make its recommendations as soon as feasible.

Import of Out Board Engines For Fishermen

3613. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from Matsya Fed, apex federation of cooperatives of traditional fishermen, Kerala for importing out board engines for fishermen;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) MATSY AFED has requested that they may be given the facility allowed in the import policy of an Actual User.

(c) Under the Export and Import Policy, 1992-97 (Incorporating amendments made upto 30.3.1994), import of Outboard Motors is permitted freely by Actual Users without import licence. However, for stock and sale purposes, import is permitted against freely transferable Special Import Licences which are granted to the Export Houses/Trading Houses/Star Trading Houses/Super Star Trading Houses etc.

Collection of Income Tax in J & K

3614. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether disturbed law and order condition in Kashmir valley has adversely affected the Income Tax collection in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the target fixed for Income Tax collection and the amount actually collected in the State; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the tax collection target in that State?

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

(b) The information for the last three financial years is given below-

	<i>(Rupees in Crores)</i>	
	<i>Target Fixed</i>	<i>Target Achieved</i>
1991-92	51.54	43.04
1992-93	76.29	47.62
1993-94	67.25	46.42

(c) The people are being contracted and are made aware of the provisions of Income tax Act. Efforts are also being made to convey that it is in their interest to comply with the provisions of Income tax. However, due to law an order position, it may take some more time to normalise the situation.

Job Security

3615. SHRI R. DHANUSKODI

ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalised the plans to assure job security to Beedi workers of Tamil Nadu through World Health Organisation funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the model of financial assistance formulated for Beedi workers who are likely

to be affected by the anti-Tobacco Bill?

gold biscuits;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) No such proposal with W.H.O assistance is under consideration of the Government.

(d) if so, whether the Government have taken any concrete measures in this regard; and

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

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Smuggling At Jammu Sector

3616. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Jammu Sector has seen some smuggling activities but there is no indication that it has become haven for smuggling.

(a) whether Jammu sector has become an haven for smuggling activities from across the border during the last two years;

(b) Due to fencing of Punjab border, there has been some diversion towards Jammu border.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether during the last three months there have been seizures of huge amount of

(c) to (e). Anti-Smuggling formations under the Ministry of Finance have seized gold biscuits for the period from May 94 to July 94 are as follows:

Month	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
May 94	251.00
June 94	110.00
July 94	174.39

Various measures taken to prevent smuggling in Jammu Sector include augmenting of anti-smuggling formations as well as equipping them with better means to combat smuggling and greater coordination between various Central and State agencies engaged in anti-smuggling work.

Flights

3617. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of in bound and out

bound flights operated by the Air India, the Indian Airlines and foreign carriers as on May 1, 1994;

(b) the capacity and number of passengers carried by each of them during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the amount of revenue earned alongwith profits repatriated by each foreign airline during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the inward remittances by the Air India and the Indian Airlines, separately, during the above period, year-wise and by country of origin?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Modvat Benefits

3618. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to extend the modvat benefits to capital goods used for Research and Development purposes; and

(b) if so, the details the provisions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). At present no such proposal is under consideration.

[Translation]

Pending Cases and Appeals

3619. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of refund and appeals pending with appellate authorities;

(b) whether the Central Board of Direct Taxes has taken initiatives for quick disposal of pending cases and appeals;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the achievements made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) As on 31.3.1993 there were 8285 direct refund claims under section 237 of the Income-tax Act pending with the Assessing Officers. Also about 2.73 lakhs appeals were pending with the Deputy Commissioner (Appeal) and Commissioners (Appeal) as on 31.5.1993 and about 2.38 lakhs appeals with the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal as on 31.3.1993;

(b) to (d). the Central Board of Direct Taxes have issued instructions to the effect that all refunds should be issued within 10 days of completion of assessments and appeal effects should be given within 15 days of receipt of the appellate orders. Further, the appeals filed before the Commissioners (Appeals)/Deputy Commissioner (Appeals) are expected to be

Commissioner (Appeals) are expected to be disposed of normally within a period of 18 months. The appellate authorities are also required to give priority to disposal of old appeals and appeals involving substantial revenue.

[English]

Domestic Tea Market

3620. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some new multinational companies are likely to enter the domestic tea market;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the terms and conditions laid down in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to protect the interests of the domestic tea market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). Multinational companies have long since been operating in the Indian tea market. These companies operate within the policy framework of the Government which is directed towards all round development of tea industry with particular emphasis on

increasing production and maintaining the distinct quality of Indian tea and protecting interests of domestic tea industry. Therefore, there is no question of operations of multinationals having adverse impact on the domestic tea market.

Subsidy to Nationalised Banks

3621. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had invested a huge amount as subsidy to make up the losses incurred by the nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the amount of subsidy given to nationalised banks during the last two years, bank-wise; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the profitability of the sick nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). In order to strengthen the capital base of the nationalised banks, Government have been contributing to their share capital. The total amount of funds allocated to the nationalised banks during the last two years is given below:-

Year	Amount (in Rs. crores)
1992-93	700
1993-94	5700

(c) In order to improve their profitability, nationalised banks have entered into performance agreements (MoUs) with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Accordingly, steps are being taken to improve credit management, reduce the volume of non-performing assets and minimise operational expenditure. The implementation of these agreements is being reviewed internally by the banks and by the RBI/Government.

C. D. Ratio in Kerala

3623. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the credit deposit ratio of scheduled commercial banks in Kerala as on March 31, 1994;

(b) whether, it is far below the national average;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to remove this imbalance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) the credit deposit ratio of scheduled commercial banks in Kerala as at the end of March 1994 is 44.34 per cent as against 56.62 per cent for the country as a whole.

(b) to (d). The credit deployment in a particular area depends on various factors like level of economic activity, entrepreneurship, availability of raw material, other infrastructural facilities, other investment opportunities and also law and order situation in that area. However,

Reserve Bank of India has constituted a Task Force to specifically review (i) the reasons for low credit-deposit ratio in Kerala (ii) the performance of banks with a relatively large share of business in State and (iii) to make recommendations for a time-bound improvement in credit-deposit ratios. The issues relating to credit deployment in the States are also discussed regularly at State Level Bankers' Committee Meetings.

[Translation]

Soiled Currency Notes

3624. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that soiled currency notes worth lakhs of rupees kept for burning by the Reserve Bank of India are being re-floated in the market;

(b) whether the Government have identified any gang indulging in this practice;

(c) if so, the details of the currency notes recovered from them; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such cases?

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

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

[English]

Growth of Banking

3625. SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether nationalisation of banks played a very key role in improving the rate of savings and speeding up the growth of banking sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARAMURTHY): (a) and

(b). Yes, Sir. The household Sector's savings in the form of deposits with banks has gone up from Rs. 795 crores in 1970-71 to Rs. 26013 crores during the year 1992-93. The share of commercial banks according to the latest data works out to about 80% of the household savings in bank deposits. Further, during the post nationalisation period, the number of offices of all commercial banks in the country has increased from 8262 in June, 1969 to 61248 in June, 1993. Similarly, the growth of rural branches of commercial banks has also gone up from 1832 branches in June 1969 to 35406 in June 1993. In addition to above, the aggregate deposits and bank credit of all scheduled banks in India has also increased considerably during the post nationalisation period as indicated below:

	(Rs. in crores)	
	1970-71	1992-93
Aggregate Deposits	6025	279168
Bank Credit	4808	164209

[Translation]

Review of EOUs/EPZs

3626. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the working of units under Export Oriented Units and Export Processing Zones recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the funds of Nationalised Banks and other financial institutions are invested as loan in these units;

(d) if so, the details thereof, separately; and

(e) the number of sick units in these Zones as on March, 1994?

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

(b) Details of performance of EOU/

EPZ units in 1993-94 are enclosed in the Statement.

(c) and (d). Data on loans provided by financial institutions and nationalised banks to EOU/EPZ units is not maintained by the

Government.

(e) the number of units whose performance is sub-optimal would emerge on completing the review of performance of EPZ units for 1993-94.

STATEMENT

Category	EOUs	EPZ Units
1. Total No. of operational units.	492	455
2. No. of operational units which have completed 1 year or more as on 31.3.94 and thus due for review.	390	399
3. No. of units which have achieved value addition.	120	199
4. No. of units in whose case there is marginal shortfall i.e., less than 10% and where shortfall has been condoned.	13	27
5. No. of units not meeting value addition but further action proposed after watching future performance.	139	123

Category	EOUs	EPZ Units	
6.	No. of units referred/being referred to DGFT for action in view of significant shortfalls.	35	23
7.	No. of units where scrutiny is underway.	83	27

Grey Cloth

3627. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of grey cloth has been curtailed heavily under new Janata Cloth Policy;

(b) if so, the percentage of grey cloth produced in Uttar Pradesh prior to 1st October, 1992 and to what percentage its production has been reduced now;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to compensate the loss the weavers are going to suffer due to heavy cut in production of grey cloth;

(d) whether any representation has been received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh in this regard; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) No, Sir. The production of grey cloth under the new policy has been brought down from 25% to 10%.

(b) Production under the Janata Cloth Scheme in the State of Uttar Pradesh mainly consist of dhoties and printed varieties and production of grey cloth is negligible.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Since under the phasing out of

Janata Cloth Scheme during the 8th Plan period emphasis is being laid on production of quality cloth, the proposals could not be agreed to.

Closure of Bank Branches

3628. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI
ASHRAF FATMI:
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of public sector banks in each State, as on March, 1994;

(b) whether some of the above branches are incurring losses continuously;

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

(d) whether the Government propose to close such branches;

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

(f) if not, the alternative measures proposed to be taken to make the above branches, profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The State-wise number of branches of public sector banks as on June, 1993 (latest available) is given in the Statement enclosed.

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

(d) to (f). Public Sector Banks have been given freedom by Reserve Bank of India to close down their unviable and loss making branches or to convert them into satellite offices. While closure of loss making branches at rural centres having a single commercial bank branch is not considered desirable, at centres served by two commercial bank branches (excluding Regional Rural Banks) the decision for closure of one of the branches was left to the

discretion of the bank through a process of mutual consultation. The Bank's proposal for closing of loss making branches located at well banked urban/metropolitan centres will be considered and permitted by Reserve Bank of India. The number of estimated branches proposed to be closed by nationalised banks is about 104. Nationalised banks have been asked to prepare action plans on certain key areas such as organisational set up mechanisation, human resources development, credit appraisal recovery measures, strengthening vigilance machinery etc. to improve the working and profitability of the public sector banks.

STATE-WISE NUMBER OF BRANCHES OF PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS AS ON 30.6.1993.

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>State/U.T.</i>	<i>Number of Branches</i>
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3333
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	49
3.	Assam	809
4.	Bihar	2995
5.	Goa	249
6.	Gujarat	2956
7.	Haryana	1000
8.	Himachal Pradesh	615
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	256
10.	Karnataka	2809
11.	Kerala	1674
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2781

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>State/U.T.</i>	<i>Number of Branches</i>
13.	Maharashtra	4539
14.	Manipur	56
15.	Meghalaya	124
16.	Mizoram	26
17.	Nagaland	62
18.	Orissa	1301
19.	Punjab	1966
20.	Rajasthan	1810
21.	Sikkim	39
22.	Tamil Nadu	3249
23.	Tripura	90
24.	Uttar Pradesh	5288
25.	West Bengal	3289
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	29
27.	Chandigarh	111
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	7
29.	Daman & Diu	10
30.	Delhi	1053
31.	Lakshadweep	8
32.	Pondicherry	60
Total		42643

[English]

Smuggling of Cloves

3629. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have banned to issue advance licences under the duty exemption scheme for import of cloves;

(b) whether smuggling of cloves through Nepal has taken place and causing serious drop in domestic market affecting local production and farmers;

(c) whether the Government have signed any bilateral agreement with Nepal in this regard:

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):

(a) Govt. has suspended the issuance of duty free licences for import of 'Cloves' with effect from 13.5.1994.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Govt. of India and His Majesty's Govt. of Nepal has signed an

agreement to control un-authorised trade across the Indo-Nepal border.

(e) Govt. of India have been taking up from time to time with His Majesty's Govt. of Nepal with regard to such violations.

Allocation by NABARD for Tamil Nadu

3630. SHRI M. KRISHNASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated by the NABARD for rural projects in Tamil Nadu during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the amount disbursed so far and the amount spent on various projects;

(c) the benefits given to the rural poor through NABARD projects; and

(d) the criteria adopted for disbursement of loans to the rural poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The amount of refinance allocated and disbursed by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to various agencies (Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks, State Cooperative Bank and Land Development Bank) in Tamil Nadu under schematic lending during the Eighth Five Year Plan so far is as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Allocation	17120	19924	19107
Refinance drawn by banks	16876	21407*	-

* Amount released was more than the allocation

The entire amount of refinance disbursed by NABARD is for rural projects only.

The purpose-wise/project-wise disbursements made by NABARD under schematic lending for the years 1992-93 & 1993-94 is furnished in Statement I enclosed. The purpose-wise allocation of refinance for the year 1994-95 is furnished in Statement II enclosed.

(c) the benefits given to the rural poor through NABARD projects are as under:-

(i) The entire amount disbursed under IRDP, SC/ST Action Plan, Central Sponsored Massive National Programme of assistance for increasing agricultural production, etc. is for rural poor.

(ii) In respect of area development

schemes like Minor Irrigation and other diversified purposes, NABARD has stipulated a condition that not less than 60% of the farmers concerned should be small farmers.

(iii) Rural poor are also assisted under Non-farm sector activities.

(iv) Various concessions viz. liberal terms and conditions like lower interest rate, lesser margin, longer repayment period, etc. are extended to rural poor.

(d) the criteria adopted for disbursement of loan to the rural poor by NABARD is as per Government of India guidelines viz. income level not exceeding Rs. 11,000 for a family, based on the price level of 1991-92 for identifying as small farmers/rural poor.

STATEMENT - I

Purpose-wise/Project-wise disbursement of refinance under schematic lending in Tamil Nadu during the first two years of VIII Five Year Plan.

(Rs. in lakhs)

<i>Purpose/Project</i>	<i>1992-93</i>	<i>1993-94</i>
Minor Irrigation	2239	1974
Land Development	33	55
Farm Mechanisation	2993	4112
Plantation/Horticulture	706	859
Poultry/Sheep/Piggery	1088	1836
Fisheries	170	678
Dairy Development	1206	1692

(Rs. in lakhs)

<i>Purpose/Project</i>	<i>1992-93</i>	<i>1993-94</i>
Storage/Market Yards	2	2
Forestry	3	151
Gobar Gas Plant	209	231
Non-farm Sector	2112	5409
Others	1827	169
Integrated Rural Development Programme	4178	4239
Total:	16876	21407

STATEMENT-II*Purposewise allocation of refinance for 1994-95 in Tamil Nadu**(Rs. in lakhs)*

<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Minor Irrigation	2985
Land Development	57
Farm mechanisation	2856
Plantation/Horticulture	1075
Poultry/Sheep/piggery	1609
Fisheries	820
Dairy Development	1780
Storage/Market Yards	25
Forestry	40
Gobar Gas Plant	443

(Rs. in lakhs)

<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Non-Farm Sector	3665
Others	1177
Integrated Rural Development Programme	2575
Total:	19107

Organic Foods

3631. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great demand for organic foods, in domestic markets as well as abroad;

(b) whether the farmers producing such foods in U.P. and Haryana are unable to market these products due to non certification, lack of market facilities and fair prices;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to encourage cooperative societies for marketing and exporting their products after obtaining the necessary certificates as required in this regard;

(d) whether the Government also propose to ask Cooperative Societies and Public Sector Undertakings such as NDDB/ Mother Dairy to market these products at a premium initially to satisfy the vast demand and potential and indirectly help exports through a labelling and certification process;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (f). There is a growing demand for organic foods. As this is an emerging market segment, consumer preferences and marketing procedures are still in the process of being evolved. With a view to facilitate the exports of organic products, Government have set up a Standing-cum-Accreditation Committee to evolve policies and procedures for accreditation of inspection and certification agencies.

Exports of organic foods are generally allowed freely. Cooperative societies and public sector undertakings can also undertake such exports on a commercial basis, besides, availing of various export incentives and schemes operated by the Spices Board, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and Tea Board etc.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Airports

3632. SHRI KESHRI LAL: Will the

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM
be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed agreements with the foreign agencies for financial assistance to increase the facilities at airports and also to modernise them;

(b) if so, the names of such organisations/agencies;

(c) the names of the airports which are proposed to be modernised under these agreements; and

(d) the facilities which are proposed to be provided there?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. National Airports Authority have signed agreements with the following foreign agencies for financial assistance:-

- (i) Export-Import Bank of the United States, USA.
- (ii) Export Development Corporation, Canada.
- (iii) Bank of America, U.K.
- (iv) Instituto De Credito Oficial, Spain.
- (v) Bank of America jointly with Banco Espanol De Credito, Spain.
- (vi) ESKPORTFINANS, Norway.
- (vii) Overseas Development Administration, U.K.

(c) The airports proposed to be modernised are:-

Agra, Ahmedabad, Aurangabad, Bangalore, Bhuj, Bombay, Calcutta, Calicut, Chandigarh, Coimbatore, Delhi, Goa, Guwahati, Gwalior, Hyderabad, Indore, Jamnagar, Jorhat, Kanpur, Madras, Mangalore, Nagpur, Port Blair, Pune, Rajkot, Trivandrum and Udaipur Airports.

(d) Radar, Instrument Landing System, Doppler Very High Frequency Omni Range, Distance Measuring Equipments and Other Automation Equipment would be provided under this programme.

[English]

Housing Loan for EPF Subscribers

3633. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Trustees, EPF has submitted the recommendations for setting up of Housing Finance Fund to the Government as decided in its meeting held on March 31, 1994;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme with formalities required for subscribers to get loan;

(c) whether the Employees Provident Fund Organisation also provides other facilities to the subscribers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the organisations

being covered under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (e). The Central Board of Trustees, EPF has recommended for setting up of a Housing Finance Fund for the EPF subscribers with provision for grant of loan/ assistance for acquisition of house, flat etc. In addition to Family Pension and EDLI benefits in the case of death, the EPF subscribers are also entitled to take withdrawals from their PF for the purposes of housing, marriage, education etc.

[Translation]

Corruption in Banks

3634. DR. P.R. GANGWAR:
SHRIMATI KRISHENDRA
KAUR (DEEPA):

Will the Minister of FINANCE be

pleased to state:

(a) whether bungling/corruption has been increasing in the public sector banks;

(b) if so, the number of cases detected during 1993-94 and the amount involved in each case; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Under the present data reporting system of RBI, information in respect of cases of bungling/corruption and amounts involved therein is not maintained separately. The information readily available relating to the number of frauds reported by public sector banks (including frauds in overseas branches) to RBI and the amount involved for the years 1991, 1992 and 1993 is given below:-

Year	1991	1992	1993
Number of frauds	1559	1717	2213
Amount involved (Rs. in lakhs)	6541.31	14449.10 +F\$1500	32032.43

(Note: Data provisional)

(c) The public sector banks at the instance of Government and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have taken several steps from time to time for checking corruption and prevention of frauds. These steps include issuing of comprehensive guidelines by RBI for strengthening the control mechanism in banks, review of fraud cases on a continual basis by RBI, setting up a Special

Investigation Cell in RBI, proper training of operational personnel etc. The banks have also been impressed upon to clear the arrears in balancing of books and reconciliation of inter-ranch and other accounts on a continuous basis so as to prevent frauds in these areas. RBI also monitors the progress made by the banks in implementation of various accepted

recommendations of the Ghosh Committee which enquired into various aspects relating to frauds and malpractices in banks.

[English]

Private Sector Banks

3635. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state:

(a) whether the Government's policy for allowing new banks in the private sector as part of the liberalisation of the financial sector and evoked poor response; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Consequent on the issue of guidelines on the subject in January, 1993, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have received 155 enquiries for setting up new banks in the private sector. Of these, 36 were in the prescribed format and 10 have since been granted 'in principle' approval. Licences have also been issued to UTI Bank, IndusInd

Bank and ICICI Banking Corporation Ltd. to commence banking business.

Profit Earned by NAA and IAAI

3636. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the net profit earned by the National Airports Authority and the International Airports Authority of India, separately, during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94;

(b) whether there has been fall in the profit earned by these authorities;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to tone up the financial position of the N.A.A. and I.A.A.I.?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD):

(a) the net profit earned by National Airports Authority (NAA) and International Airports Authority of India (IAAI) during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 is as follows:-

Year	Profit earned by NAA	(Rs. in crores) Profit earned by IAAI
1991-92	17.72	46.08
1992-93	16.87	45.73
1993-94	53.40	50.22

Figures of the NAA are provisional which are subject to revision depending on

final decision on loan and equity ratio.

(b) to (d). There has been marginal decrease in 1992-93 due to increase in operational expenses. The revenue has again increased in 1993-94 mainly on account of increase in various airport charges.

[Translation]

I.T. Exemption to Laddakh People

3637. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had withdrawn the income tax exemption available to the people of Laddakh;

(b) if so, since when and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide the same exemption to the suffering people of Laddakh again;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Income-tax exemption available to the residents of Laddakh under section 10(26A) of the Income Income-tax Act, was withdrawn from the assessment year 1989-90. This tax relief was given with effect from assessment year 1962-63.

The tax relief was withdrawn as it was

not benefitting the poorer sections of the people of Laddakh and instead was being misused by unscrupulous taxpayers outside Laddakh for laundering their black money.

(c) to (e). No, Sir. For the reasons given in part (b) and the fact that the present income-tax exemption limit of Rs. 35,000, alongwith other tax reliefs, takes care of the persons in the low income groups, there is no proposal to restore the income-tax exemption under section 10(26A).

[English]

Airport at Mumbai

3638. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE:
SHRI RAM NAIK:

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

(a) whether the Government have approved a plan for a new airport for Mumbai with two parallel runways, in the Mundwa-Rewas area of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the reasons for selecting the above site;

(c) whether the Government are aware that this plan has evoked opposition from local villagers;

(d) if so, the reasons for opposition by the villagers;

(e) the Government's reaction thereto;

(f) whether the Government are aware that the Government of Maharashtra has invited foreign participation in setting up of a

second international airport;

(g) if so, whether the Government approved the above proposal of the State Government;

(h) whether any other international airports are also proposed to be constructed in the country; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (i). No, Sir. However, International Airports Authority of India (IAAI) had set up a Committee to examine possibilities of constructing a new airport in the event the existing international airport at Bombay gets saturated eventually. The Committee came to the conclusion that construction of a new airport may require and investment of the order of Rs. 8600 crores. Since investment of this order is well beyond the capacity of IAAI, no action has been initiated on construction of a new airport. A Task Force has been constituted to make an assessment of the extent to which the infrastructure available at the existing airport can be improved and redesigned to enhance the capability of the airport to handle larger volumes of traffic. The Task Force is also required to submit a reasoned and well documented report of the time-frame by which the airport is likely to reach the saturation point in terms of traffic handling after the facilities are optimised.

Inland Air Travel Tax

3639. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of the Inland Air Travel Tax (IATT) collected by the Government during 1993-94;

(b) the purpose for which the amount collected through the IATT is used;

(c) whether the Government propose to raise the Inland Air Travel Tax;

(d) if so, whether this will be the third hike in IATT during the last three years; and

(e) the reasons for such hikes in the IATT?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) during the year 1993-94 a sum of Rs. 138.00 crores was collected as Inland Air Travel Tax (IATT) by the Government.

(b) the amount of IATT collected is regarded as revenue receipts to the Government of India. Five per cent of the tax collected is paid to the airlines as collection charges. This payment is made from the Consolidated Fund of India.

(c) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to raise the IATT.

(d) There was no increase in the rate of IATT during the last three years.

(e) Does not arise.

Public Sector Banks

3640. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of persons have obtained employment in Indian Overseas Bank and other public sector banks on the basis of forged Scheduled Caste and Schedule Tribe certificates;

(b) if so, the details of such cases detected, bankwise during the last two years and the current year, so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Information available for the years 1992 and 1993 is given in the Statement

enclosed.

(c) Government have issued clear instructions to the public sector banks to verify the claims of Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe candidates belonging to such communities at the time of their initial appointment and subsequently at the time of every important upturn in their career to ensure that the benefits of reservations meant for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe go only to the rightful claimants. If even after such verification it is established that their claims are false, their services should be terminated after necessary consultation with the concerned authorities and after following the prescribed procedure in this regard. Further, the banks have also been advised to invariably lodge complaints with the police against such persons and also take steps to ensure that they are prosecuted in the courts of law.

STATEMENT
Bogus Caste certificates detected DURING 1992 & 1993 IN PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS

NAME OF THE BANK	No. of cases detected during the year 1992	No. of cases detected during the year 1993
STATE BANK OF INDIA	7	2
STATE BANK OF BIKANER AND JAIPUR	0	0
STATE BANK OF HYDERABAD	0	11
STATE BANK OF MYSORE	0	0
STATE BANK OF PATIALA	0	0
STATE BANK OF SAURASHTRA	0	0
STATE BANK OF TRAVANCORE	1	0
STATE BANK OF INDORE	0	0
ALLAHABAD BANK	0	0
ANDHRA BANK	3	1
BANK OF BARODA	0	6
BANK OF INDIA	3	5
BANK OF MAHARASHTRA	1	4
CANARA BANK	17	12

NAME OF THE BANK	No. of cases detected during the year 1992	No. of cases detected during the year 1993
CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA	7	0
CORPORATION BANK	0	0
DENA BANK	2	0
INDIAN BANK	2	0
INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK	18	11
NEW BANK OF INDIA	1	0
ORIENTAL BANK OF COMMERCE	0	2
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK	3	2
PUNJAB & SIND BANK	1	0
SYNDICATE BANK	5	11
UNITED BANK OF INDIA	0	0
UCO BANK	1	0
UNION BANK OF INDIA	1	0
VIJAYA BANK	1	2
TOTAL:	74	69

[Translation]

LIC Branches in Gujarat

3641. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether the branches of Life Insurance Corporation in Gujarat have achieved the target fixed in regard to insurance policy during the last three years;

(b) the number of applicants to whom loan has been provided by these branches under various schemes, during the above period, division-wise and the amount thereof;

(c) whether loan has been granted to the Government, semi-Government and private institutions by these branches;

(d) if so, the rate of interest fixed thereof;

(e) whether some more branches of Life Insurance Corporation are proposed to be opened in Gujarat during 1994-95; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

[English]

Foreign Tourists

3642. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any growth in the foreign tourist traffic inflow during the last two years; and

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

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

(b) The details in respect of the major countries which contributed to the growth in tourist traffic during 1992-93 and 1993-94 are as given below:-

<i>Country of Nationality</i>	<i>Foreign Tourist Arrivals</i>		<i>%Change 1993-94/1992-93</i>
	<i>1992-93</i>	<i>1993-94</i>	
U.K.	254,450	297,731	17.0
U.S.A.	149,225	167,054	11.9
Germany	85,356	87,650	2.7
Srilanka	73,828	82,215	11.4
Japan	54,843	56,830	3.6
C.I.S.	44,239	53,096	20.0
Canada	43,775	50,895	16.3
Malaysia	37,264	37,706	1.2
Singapore	36,219	43,143	19.1
Netherlands	29,464	32,591	10.6
Switzerland	29,431	31,027	5.4

Country of Nationality	Foreign Tourist Arrivals		%Change 1993-94/1992-93
	1992-93	1993-94	
UAE	29,243	29,542	1.0
Australia	28,254	30,261	7.1
Nepal	26,143	29,386	12.4
Saudi Arabia	19,345	19,522	0.9
All countries	18,20,239	18,71,262	2.8

[Translation]

Shortage of Small Denomination Notes

3643. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that rupee one and rupees two denomination notes are not available in sufficient in the country due to which people have to face the difficulty;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure sufficient availability of Rs. one and Rs. two notes to the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). While the average life of rupee one note is six months, that of rupee two is about one year. As against this, the life span of coins is about 15-20 years. In view of the final cost consideration, a decision has been taken to coinise these denominations in a phased manner so as to utilise the capacity so released for printing of higher denomination notes. Production of fresh notes of rupee one and rupees two has accordingly been reduced. However, supply position of coins in respect of these denominations, is by and large satisfactory.

[English]

Insurance Services

3644. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of insurance

services in Life Insurance Corporation General Insurance Corporation has been deteriorating:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the quality of services of the above insurance companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). No, Sir. The number of maturity claims which were settled by LIC on or before due date and the number of death claims settled within 75 days of the death of the policyholder increased from 19.64 lakhs and 1.60 lakhs during 1990-91 to 27.37 lakhs and 2.63 lakhs respectively during 1992-93. The total number of customer complaints during this period came down from 15,110 to 14,235. In the case of GIC on a global basis, the claim disposal ratio and documents disposal ratio which was 63.2% and 76% in 1982-83 have gone up to 73.9% and 91.3% respectively by 1993-94. The GIC and its four subsidiaries have also taken up a programme of frontline computerisation; and issuance of computer-based policies in respect of motor and health insurance has already commenced in certain offices of the subsidiaries of the GIC.

With a view to redressing the grievances of the policyholders and improving the quality of services, Claims Review Committees have been set up by the LIC at Branch Office, Zonal Office and Central Office level to review the repudiated claims from time to time. The Boards of the LIC, GIC and its four subsidiary companies constantly review the disposal of public grievances and settlement of claims to ensure efficient customer service.

[Translation]

number of applications pending with banks.

Handloom Weavers

[English]

3645. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide loans to the handloom weavers on less rate of interest; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Loans to SSIs

3646. SHRI GAYA PRASAD KORI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the small scale units in Uttar Pradesh provided loans by the nationalised banks during the year 1993-94 and number of the applications for loans lying pending; and

(b) the total loan provided during the year 1993-94 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as on the last Friday of June 1992 (latest available) an amount of Rs 95.2 crores was disbursed by nationalised banks to 30,205 small scale industrial units in Uttar Pradesh. RBI's data reporting system does not generate information relating to the

Pending Insurance Claims

3647. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Insurance claims of all types pending settlement with Life Insurance Corporation/General Insurance Corporation as on June 30, 1994, category-wise;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the settlement; and

(c) the time by which the pending claims are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The requisite information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House,

Functioning of Stock Markets

3648. SHRI S.B. THORAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to issue new small investor friendly prudential guidelines for the functioning of stock markets to ensure efficiency and transparency;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) the details of steps initiated/under consideration for modernisation of the functioning of stock-markets; and

(d) the stand of the Government on preferential allotments of shares to promoters?

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

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

(c) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has already introduced several reforms in stock exchanges by restructuring the Governing Bodies of the exchanges, ensuring greater transparency in the operations of the exchanges and prescribing capital adequacy norms for stock-brokers. Such reforms with a view to modernising and improving the functioning of the stock exchanges are continuous process.

(d) SEBI has already issued on 4.8.1994 guidelines governing the issue of shares or warrants/fully convertible debentures/partly convertible debentures or other financial instruments made on a preferential basis to a select group of persons under Section 81(1A) of Companies Act, 1956. These guidelines are intended to protect the interests of the investors.

Interest Rates

3649. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Monetary Fund has asked Indian Government to cut down interest rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). Rationalisation of the interest rate structure is a major element of the financial sector reforms initiated by the Government since June 1991. While presenting the Budget for 1994-95 in the Parliament, the Finance Minister had announced a further reduction of one percentage point to 14 percent in the minimum lending rate of term loans of 3 years and above by the commercial bank as well as in the rate charged by the All India Financial Institutions to stimulate investment in the economy. Progressive reduction in interest rates has already been attempted and is a part of the reform process, which the International Monetary Fund has also mentioned in its Annual Report 1994 released last month.

Shopping Complexes at Airports

3650. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Airports Authority propose to convert a portion of airport terminal buildings into shopping complexes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A part of space in the terminal buildings is earmarked for concessionaries/retailers' shops as commercial space. These are being utilised

for Gift shops, Souvenir/Handicraft shops, Cafeteria, Snack Bar etc. Efforts are being made to commercially enhance the returns out of these facilities to maximise the non-aeronautical revenues at various airports.

Trade With Bulgaria

3651. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand trade relation with Bulgaria;

(b) if so, the details of areas identified thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The thrust areas identified during the tenth session of the Indo-Bulgarian Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, for establishment enhancement of trade and commercial links, are :- (1) agro-products; including poultry products, horticulture and pisciculture; (2) industrial sector products, such as fertilisers and heavy chemicals, leather and leather products, electronics, machine building, and (3) establishment of joint Ventures in trading for production and third country exports. In addition, lists of goods for export from India to Bulgaria and from Bulgaria to India were also identified.

(c) The various steps taken in this regard

including those under consideration, are:-

signing of various agreements during the President's visit to Bulgaria in May, 1994, like Veterinary and Sanitary agreement; an Agreement for cooperation in the area of quarantine and plant protection; Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation, and Agreement on Tourism, meeting of the Joint Business Council, establishment of an Indo-Bulgarian joint Venture Bank promotion and encouragement of joint ventures. Promotion of trade on the counter trade track. intensification of participation in trade fairs, etc.

Investment by GIC

3652. SHRI ANADICHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of schematic investment made by the General Insurance Corporation in Orissa for the various Schemes during each of the last three years; and

(b) the amount of investment proposed to be made by GIC in Orissa during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Assistance provided schematically by the General Insurance Corporation and its Subsidiary Companies to the State of Orissa for the last three years is as under:-

<i>Scheme(s)</i>	<i>1991-92</i>	<i>1992-93</i>	<i>(Rupees in Crores)</i> <i>1993-94</i>
Loans for Village Housing and Housing for Economically Weaker Sections of the Society.	2.14	2.58	7.63
Loans for purchase of Fire Fighting Equipment.	1.00	1.50	0.85

(b) GIC's proposed investment in Orissa during 1994-95 is yet to be finalised at the joint meeting of the representatives of the Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Urban Development.

**Export of Iron-Ore, Manganese And
Bauxite**

3653. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the

Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the total quantity of iron-ore, manganese and bauxite exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):

Country-wise exports by India

Qty: in lakh tonnes
Val: Rs. in lakhs

IRON ORE

	1991-92		1992-93		1993-94	
	Q	V	Q	V	Q	V
Japan	126.43	88056.84	134.24	66929.23	143.36	75053.47
China P Rep.	5.98	2687.68	23.34	11736.18	26.61	15171.27
Korea Rep	27.72	14252.84	17.60	7369.62	18.32	8631.70
Italy	10.94	3583.73	14.25	5825.03	20.47	7511.66
Others	64.06	34957.50	34.24	18558.57	52.10	29356.23
TOTAL	295.13	143538.59	221.67	110408.63	261.28	135724.33

MANGANESE ORE

	1991-92		1992-93		1993-94	
	Q	V	Q	V	Q	V
Japan	0.74	757.25	0.64	1115.32	1.59	2774.56
Korea D.Rep.	0.51	580.83	0.31	368.86	0.28	307.05
Korea Rep.	0.62	689.41	0.83	1074.34	0.54	563.65
Poland	0.33	876.91	--	--	0.21	296.01
Others	0.45	845.68	0.32	520.35	0.22	913.25
TOTAL	2.65	3750.08	2.10	3078.87	2.84	4854.52

BAUXITE

	1991-92		1992-93		1993-94	
	Q	V	Q	V	Q	V
Canada	--	--	--	--	0.38	312.30
UAE	0.46	141.18	1.39	540.55	0.84	295.03
USA	--	--	0.34	1687.29	0.26	1397.00
Finland	--	--	--	--	0.26	1351.37
Sweden	0.53	186.22	0.27	106.32	--	--
Others	0.23	73.20	0.47	192.87	0.29	125.69
TOTAL	1.22	400.60	2.47	2527.03	2.03	3481.39

(SOURCE: DGC&S, CALCUTTA)

[Translation]

- (v) Diu in Union Territory of Daman and Diu

Special Tourism Areas

3654. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the norms followed by the Government for declaring special tourism areas for the integrated development of the tourism;

(b) the details about the development of the areas which have been declared as special tourism areas;

(c) the names of the places of the Northern India which have been declared as special tourism areas so far; and

(d) the amount allocated by the Government for the development of each special tourism area during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM: (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The Special Tourism Areas are identified by respective State Governments in consultation with the Central Department of Tourism on the basis of the tourism potential of the area, accessibility, availability of suitable stretches of land etc.

(b) The following places have been identified as special tourism areas:

- (i) Bekal Beach in Kerala
- (ii) Muttukadu-Mamallapuram in Tamil Nadu.
- (iii) Sindhudurg in Maharashtra
- (iv) Puri-Konark in Orissa

The Kerala Government has notified 400 acres for acquisition under Land Acquisition Act in the Bekai Area and the Maharashtra Government has notified 61.65 Hectares for Acquisition under the Land Acquisition Act of the beach area at Mithbav for Sindhudurg in Maharashtra.

(c) No place has been declared as Special Tourism Area in Northern India so far.

(d) An amount of Rs. 1.25 crores has been provided in the budget of the

Credit Deposit Ratio

3655. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the credit deposit ratio of banks has declined over the past year according to the latest quarterly report from Reserve Bank of India's banking statistics division;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) The credit deposit ratio of scheduled commercial banks as on 18th March, 1994 was 52.2% and the same was 50.4% as on 10th June, 1994. The credit deposit ratio during this period has come down due to various reasons. The major ones are as under:-

1. The growth rate of bank deposits

during the period under reference was high at 4.4% as against the low growth rate in bank credit of 0.9%

2. Expansion of non-food bank credit was low due to number of factors such as the comfortable liquidity position of the corporate sector due to large mobilisation of resources from the capital market, international markets through Euro-issues, issue of Commercial Paper by highly rated companies and better inventory management with freely available imports.

In this context, it may be stated that till 22nd July, 1994 (latest available position), the growth rate of bank credit has improved to 2.2% from 0.9% as on 10th June, 1994. The credit deposit ratio has increased to 50.8% on 22-7-1994 against 50.4% on 10-6-1994.

[Translation]

Opening of an office of APEDA In Gujarat

3656. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested the Union Government to open a branch office of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

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

[English]

Excise Duty Outstanding

3657. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the name of companies against whom excise duty amounting to more than rupees Fifty crores is outstanding;

(b) the period for which the excise duty is outstanding in each case; and

(c) the steps being taken to expedite the recovery of the dues in each case?

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

Civil Aviation Development in North-Eastern States

3658. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes for the development of civil aviation planned to be implemented in North-Eastern States during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the amount granted by the Union Government for the development of civil aviation in the region during the above plan period so far, scheme-wise; and

(c) the details of development works in this regard undertaken in the region so far during the above plan period?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION

AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). In the Eighth Plan, National Airports Authority has allocated an amount of Rs. 109 crores for the development and upgradation of airports in the North-Eastern States. This includes Rs. 50 crores allocated by North-Eastern Council. In addition, an amount of Rs. 11 crores has been provided as budgetary support for the year 1994-95 by the Union Government for modernisation of Guwahati Airport and extension of runway at Tural Airport in Mizoram.

The major projects envisaged includes the following:-

GUWAHATI: (i) Expansion and modification of terminal building at an estimated cost of Rs. 12.45 crores. The work commenced in March, 1993 and is likely to be completed by middle of 1995.

(ii) Installation of Air Surveillance Radar/Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radar at an estimated cost of Rs. 28.15 crores. The work is in progress and is likely to be completed by 31st December, 1994.

DIBRUGARH: Strengthening of runway and associated pavements at an estimated cost of Rs. 8.6 crores. Work is likely to commence in September, 1994.

SILCHAR: Expansion and modification of terminal building at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.76 crores.

IMPHAL: (i) Construction of new terminal building at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.03 crores.

(ii) Construction of new technical block at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.2 crores.

TURA: There is a plan to build a new airport at Tura, at an estimated cost of

Rs. 6.17 crores. The work is yet to start.

AGARTALA: (i) Strengthening of runway at an estimated cost of Rs. 7.00 crores. Work is likely to commence in October, 1994.

(ii) Expansion and modification of terminal building at an estimated cost of Rs. 5.00 crores.

Foreign Loans

3659. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign loans taken by the big industrial houses during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94; and

(b) the details of loans advanced by the Union Government to foreign countries during those years, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be submitted as soon as it is available.

Loan Disbursement

3660. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loans disbursed by public sector banks during each of the last three years and the current year so far, State-wise;

(b) the share of lending to small farmers with the details of beneficiaries; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the ratio of lending to small farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The State-wise amount of advances of public sector banks outstanding as at the end of March 1992, 1993 and 1994 (latest available) is given in the statement-1 enclosed.

(b) The information regarding advances to small and marginal farmers is available only upto March 1992. Accordingly, the State-wise amount of advances to small and marginal farmers by public sector banks outstanding as at the end of March 1992, and number of borrowal accounts is given in the statement-II enclosed.

(c) In terms of Reserve Bank of India(RBI) guidelines, it has been provided that at-least 18% of their total advances

should be extended to agriculture sector. With a view to provide increased flow of credit to this sector, particularly to small and marginal farmers, it has been further provided in RBI's guidelines referred to above that all loan applications upto a credit limit of Rs. 25,000/- are to be disposed off within a fortnight, no margin money may be asked on agriculture loans upto Rs. 10,000/- no security or third party guarantee is to be insisted upon in respect of agriculture loans upto Rs. 15,000/-; in the case of crop loans availed of by small and marginal farmers the interest debited will not exceed the principal amount; and on loans below Rs. 25,000/- no penal interest should be charged. Recently, public sector banks have been advised by Reserve Bank of India to prepare specific action plans for the current financial year to enhance agricultural lending.

STATEMENT-1

Statement showing the amount of advances extended by
Public Sector Banks outstanding as at the end of March 1992, March 1993
and March 1994 (latest available)

(Amount in Rs. Crores)

State/Union Territory	March, 92	March, 93	March, 94
Haryana	2307	2649	2810
Himachal Pradesh	503	560	591
Jammu & Kashmir	277	310	317
Punjab	4578	5281	6132
Rajasthan	2996	3488	3651
Chandigarh	1031	995	1880
Delhi	12670	18235	20217
Arunachal Pradesh	24	26	28

State/Union Territory	Amount in Rs. Crores)		
	March, 92	March, 93	March, 94
Assam	1078	1172	1172
Manipur	76	85	87
Meghalaya	70	69	75
Mizoram	18	18	19
Nagaland	87	96	96
Tripura	111	126	121
Bihar	3518	3830	4000
Orissa	1963	2151	2173
Sikkim	28	30	28
West Bengal	8788	10530	10968

State/Union Territory	Amount in Rs. Crores)		
	March, 92	March, 93	March, 94
Andaman & Nicobar	7	23	18
Madhya Pradesh	5065	5512	5735
Uttar Pradesh	8948	9593	9722
Goa	497	584	579
Gujarat	7217	9308	8651
Maharashtra	25040	32118	34792
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	--	8	8
Daman & Diu	14	15	16
Andhra Pradesh	8905	10104	10592
Karnataka	7591	8794	9226

Amount in Rs. Crores)			
State/Union Territory	March, 92	March, 93	March, 94
Kerala	3607	4154	4469
Tamilnadu	12488	13887	15327
Lakshadweep	1	1	1
Pondicherry	164	180	201

STATEMENT-II

STATE-WISE OUTSTANDING AMOUNT OF ADVANCES EXTENDED TO SMALL AND MARGINAL FARMERS
BY PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS AND THE NUMBER OF BORROWAL ACCOUNT INVOLVED
AS AT THE END OF MARCH 1992 (LATEST AVAILABLE)

States/UTS	No. of Accounts	Amount of Advances outstanding (Rs. lakhs)
1.	2.	3.
Haryana	313437	18508
Himachal Pradesh	84553	3520
Jammu & Kashmir	16765	532
Punjab	368636	33728
Rajasthan	418242	18669
Chandigarh	2682	1122

States/UTS	Rs. lakhs)		
	No. of Accounts		Amount of Advances outstanding
	1.	2.	3.
Delhi	8078		407
Assam	165529		6233
Manipur	11488		343
Meghalaya	19330		664
Nagaland	17316		854
Tripura	47124		947
Arunchal Pradesh	4397		115
Mizoram	2140		164
Sikkim	6474		340
Bihar	1228958		39360
Orissa	738821		21153

States/UTS		Rs. lakhs)	
No. of Accounts		Amount of Advances outstanding	
1.	2.	3.	
West Bengal	960304	30625	
Andaman & Nicobar	2034	109	
Madhya Pradesh	638662	37583	
Uttar Pradesh	1647392	81233	
Gujarat	414613	16472	
Maharashtra	807642	34873	
Daman & Diu	245	29	
Goa	24452	994	
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	200	15	
Andhra Pradesh	1493370	74020	

<i>Rs. lakhs)</i>		
<i>States/UTS</i>	<i>No. of Accounts</i>	<i>Amount of Advances outstanding</i>
1.	2.	3.
Karnataka	977812	45584
Kerala	937228	42251
Tamil Nadu	2004981	98457
Pondicherry	36280	1498
Lakshadweep	346	18

Nationalised Banks

1994-95;

3661. SHRI R.SURENDER REDDY:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a good number of posts of Chairman and Managing Directors of the nationalised banks are presently lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof, bank-wise and the period from which these are lying vacant;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether in addition, a number of posts of Chairman and the Managing Directors are likely to fall vacant during

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any panel of names of the likely appointees has been shortlisted; and

(g) if so, the time by which the present vacancies of Chairman and the Managing Directors are likely to be filled up and the names announced and notified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The post of Chairman and Managing Director is vacant in two nationalised banks as per details given below:-

<i>Sr. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Bank</i>	<i>Date from which vacant</i>
1.	Andhra Bank	1.7.1992
2.	Indian Overseas Bank	1.8.1994

(d) and (e). The post of Chairman and Managing Director is likely to fall vacant in the following nationalised banks during 1994-95:-

<i>Sr. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Bank</i>	<i>Date from which likely to fall vacant</i>
1.	Allahabad Bank	1.12.1994
2.	Bank of India	1.2.1995
3.	Syndicate Bank	1.3.1995
4.	Punjab National Bank	7.3.1995

(f) and (g). Government have already initiated necessary steps for filling up the existing/likely vacancies.

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA
KONATHALA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

UNDP Aid

3662. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:

(a) the details of assistance provided

by the UNDP and other UN agencies during the last three years;

(b) the details of the projects for which aforesaid assistance was sought, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the assistance likely to be provided by such agencies during 1994-95 alongwith the projects to be undertaken with this assistance, State-wise?

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

Purchase of Small Aircraft

3663. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the Ministries at the Centre which approached for buying small aircraft for their use;

(b) the Ministries whose proposals have been sanctioned and aircraft acquired; and

(c) the norms for providing this facility?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No Ministry at Centre has approached the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for buying small aircraft for their Ministry's use.

(b) and (c). The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has laid down the following norms for recommending issue of licence for import of aircraft:-

(i) Aircraft imported into India for which

a Certificate of Airworthiness is to be issued, conforms to the type design and condition for safe operation.

(ii) No pressurised aircraft being imported, shall be more than 15 years in age. In case of non-pressurised aircraft it will normally be not more than 20 years of age.

Beedi Workers

3664. SHRI R. DHANUSKODI ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the funds earmarked for creating a social security network for redundant Tamil Nadu Beedi workers from anticipated legal restrictions;

(b) the manner in which the Government propose to ban sale of beedies in different States;

(c) the details of mechanism in this regard;

(d) whether adequate financial assistance has been earmarked for the rehabilitation of beedi workers in Tamil Nadu; and

(e) if so, the details of the financial sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). No such proposal is under consideration.

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

Safety Measures in Coal Mines

3665. SHRI TARA SINGH:

SHRI V. SREENIVASA
PRASAD:
SHRI RAM NAIK:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently decided to implement the recommendations made by the special safety audit regarding safety measures in coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for not accepting them; and

(d) the time by which all the recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (d). Safety inspection in coal mines otherwise called safety audit are undertaken in order to identify inadequacies in safety measures. Safety inspections in coal mines are not a one time but an ongoing exercise. Identified inadequacies are dealt with on a continuous basis.

Welfare and Pension Schemes

3666. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Journalist and Non-Journalist Organisations have requested the Union Government to implement the Kerala model welfare and pension schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). The EPF subscribers including journalists had requested the Central Government to introduce a Pension Scheme. The Government has considered the matter and decided to introduce a suitable Pension Scheme for all the EPF subscribers including the journalists. The proposed scheme provides for payment of monthly pension in the case of retirement, superannuation, death etc. A Bill to amend the EPF and MP Act, 1952 to enable the Central Government to frame the Pension Scheme has already been introduced in the Rajya Sabha.

Airports in Karnataka

3667. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal for construction of airport at Bangalore, Mangalore and Gulbarga with the help of private sector on the 'build own and operate' basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a), (b) and (c). At a recent meeting, Minister for Large and Medium Industries of Government of Karnataka proposed that the State Government be permitted to construct new airports at Bangalore and Mangalore with the assistance of private parties on 'build, own and operate basis'.

It was decided in the meeting that the

Department of Civil Aviation would have no objection to the setting up of new airports by the State Government at Bangalore and Mangalore with the help of private parties. However, the State Government would have to apply to the Director General of Civil Aviation and other concerned agencies for securing statutory clearances. The promoters will also be required to comply with all conditions and parameters set by concerned authorities.

It was also decided that Department of Civil Aviation would have no objection to the setting up of new airports by the State Government at Bangalore and Mangalore with the help of private parties. However, the State Government would have to apply to the Director General of Civil Aviation and other concerned agencies for securing statutory clearances. The promoters will also be required to comply with all conditions and parameters set by concerned authorities.

It was also decided that Department of Civil Aviation would have no objection to the development of an airport at Gulbarga by the State Government out of their own resources.

Donations to Political Parties

3668. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the donations to political parties and candidates are permitted under the Companies Act, 1957 and the Income Tax Act, 1961;

(b) whether this amount is required to be separately declared in the annual financial accounts;

(c) if so, the details of the provisions in this regard;

(d) whether the Government have kept any record of total donations made to each registered party during the last three years;

(e) if so, the details thereof, party-wise; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE: (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) As per Section 293A of Companies Act, 1956, a company, not being a Government Company and a company in existence for less than three financial years, may contribute directly or indirectly subject to certain specified conditions to any political party or for any political purpose to any person. Section 13A of Income-Tax Act, 1961 exempts voluntary contributions received by any political party.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Under Section 293A(4) of Companies Act, 1956 any amount contributed by a company to any political party of for any political purpose to any person, shall be disclosed in its Profit & Loss Account giving particulars of total amount contributed and name of the party or person. For the purposes of Section 13A of Income-Tax Act, 1961, the political party must maintain books of account and other documents including a record containing the names of addresses of persons making contributions in excess of Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten thousands).

(d) to (f). No record of voluntary contributions is kept as it is not a matter which primarily concerns the Government

of India.

[Translation]

Private Airlines

3669. SHRI RAM TAHAL
CHOUDHARY:
SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI
RAMAIAH:

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

(a) whether the major private airlines in the country are increasingly becoming competitors to handle the air cargo business and passengers;

(b) if so, the loss suffered by the Indian Airlines as a result thereof during 1993-94;

(c) the reasons identified for loss of business of the Indian Airlines to the private airlines; and

(d) the manner in which the Government propose to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. With the emergence of Air Taxi Operators, there has been a decline in the number of passengers carried by Indian Airlines. ATOs carried about 24.3 lakhs passengers during 1993-94. Indian Airlines would have earned an additional revenue of Rs. 460 crores during 1993-94, had there not been any air taxi operations.

As far as cargo business is concerned, the loss on this account was marginal.

(c) The provision of capacity by private

airlines is the primary reason for the loss of traffic by Indian Airlines.

(d) Indian Airlines has taken the following steps to improve the situation:

- Improvement in service both on ground and on board.
- Improvement in quality of food served on board and aircraft.
- Improvement in passenger comfort by increasing seat pitch in Economy class of A-300.
- introduction of Business Class in A-320 aircraft.
- Price incentives/concessions introduced for passengers.
- Removal of cancellation fee and introduction of refund fee of Rs. 100 per ticket in lieu thereof.

[Translation]

Consultancy Services

3670. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:
SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA:
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH
SHAKYA:
SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR
SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue earned from the export of consultancy services during each of the last three years;

(b) whether India's consultancy trade run by both public and private sectors is

faced with a serious setback because of the lead role assigned to foreign consultants in every foreign funded projects in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof ;

(d) whether the Government have received any representation from the Indian Export Organisations Committee on Consultancy in this regard;

(e) if so, the reaction thereto;

(f) whether a conference on development of consultancy trade in developing countries has been organised by the UNIDO at Geneva;

(g) if so, the main recommendations made by the conference; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). Foreign exchange earnings from export of consultancy services, including computer software, during the last 3 years have been as under:-

Year	F.E. Earnings (Rs. Crs.)
1991-92	720
1992-93	831
1993-94	1650 (estimated)
(SOURCE: FIBO)	

The above figures indicate a steady rise in the export of consultancy services.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) to (h) A Global Preparatory Meeting for the Consultation on Consultancy Engineering Services was held in Geneva, 20-22 June 1994, organised by UNIDO. The meeting was to prepare for the Consultations meeting which will be held in December 1994 under UNIDO auspices

Unemployment Allowance

3671. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the States which are providing unemployment allowance;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to provide financial assistance to the unemployed persons; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). According to the available information the State Governments of Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have been paying unemployment allowance at varying rates to certain specified categories of job-seekers, out of their own resources. Central Government is not in favour of paying unemployment allowance to any category of unemployed on account of resource constraints

[Translation]

Price Rise

3672. SHRI NITISH KUMAR: SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Control items sport inflation: C.M.I.E" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated May 10, 1994;

(b) if so, whether the increased in prices of the controlled items has considerably contributed increase in the rate of inflation in the country during the last three years.

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

(d) the percentage of increase registered in the prices of controlled items like rice, wheat, sugar-cane, diesel,

electricity, coal and petrol respectively during each of the last three years; and

(e) the impact of this increase on inflation in the country during the said period?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) Increase registered in the prices of items whose price are administered fully (Petrol, Diesel, Coal and Electricity) and partially in the form of farm support/PDS Issue Price (rice, wheat, sugarcane) for the last three years is listed below:-

Items	Percentage increase in whole sale prices		
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
Rice	21.8	14.5	7.2
Wheat	18.4	11.4	11.6
Sugarcane	6.4	13.2	21.5
Coal	6.4	20.5	15.0
High Speed Diesel	11.5	13.2	10.5
Petrol	27.5	10.5	4.5
Electricity	10.9	11.8	27.8

(e) The impact of the increase in administered prices on the annual inflation rate is shown below:-

Year	Annual Inflation (%)	Share of Administered Prices in inflation (%)
1991-92	13.7	12.4
1992-93	10.1	18.5
1993-94	8.4	23.7

Employment Exchanges

[English]

3673. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to ensure effective functioning of employment exchanges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have issued instructions to the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (d). The Employment Exchanges function under the respective State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The functioning of the Employment Exchanges is kept under review by them for improving efficiency. Instructions are also issued by the Central Government on simplification and uniformity of procedure in the matter of registration and placement.

Debts Recovery Cases

3674. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of debt recovery transferred or proposed to be transferred to the Debts Recovery Tribunals; and

(b) the five nationalised banks which have maximum number of such cases alongwith the amount involved therein, bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). As per available information, the number of suit filed cases involving amounts of Rs. 10 lacs and above which are liable to be transferred to the Debts Recovery Tribunals, as on 1.8.1993, was 10595. The five Public Sector Banks which have maximum number of such cases are:

	NO. OF CASES	AMOUNT INVOLVED (RS. IN LAKHS)
State Bank of India	1838	145875.66
Bank of Baroda	609	30247.00

345	<i>Written Answers</i>	SRAVANA 28, 1916 (SAKA)	<i>Written Answers</i>	346
	Bank of India	794	64022.93	
	Canara Bank	736	46038.00	
	Central Bank of India	777	45929.43	

C.D. Ratio in Madhya Pradesh

3675. SHRI PARAS RAMBHARDWAJ:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the average of one bank per people in Madhya Pradesh vis-a-vis other States and the overall national ratio of the same;

(b) whether there is a vast difference between the ratio of Madhya Pradesh and the whole country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to remove the disparity;

(d) the credit deposit ratio of the rural and semi-urban bank branches in Madhya Pradesh as against those in other States and the national average in this regard as on March 31, 1994;

(e) whether there is a vast difference in the same; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to remove the disparity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The average population per bank office in Madhya Pradesh is 12,000 (as per 1981 census) as against the national average of 11,000 as at the end of June, 1993 (latest available).

(b) and (c). The average population per bank office for Madhya Pradesh compares

well with the national average.

(d) Credit Deposit (C:D) Ratio of rural and semi-urban branches of Scheduled commercial banks in Madhya Pradesh as at the end of March, 1994 is 48.00 per cent as against the comparable national average of 45.37 per cent.

(e) and (f). The actual level of credit in relation to locally mobilised deposits in a particular State or region depends upon the credit absorption capacity of the State/Region, which in turn is determined and influenced by factors such as development of infrastructural facilities like irrigation, power, rail, road, transport, basic and technical education, entrepreneurship and availability of required inputs and marketing outlets for agricultural, industrial production etc. The issues relating to deployment of bank credit is monitored regularly in the State Level Banker's Committee Meetings.

Dual Tariff Charged by Hotels

3676. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN
OWAISI:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI
RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2561 on March 11, 1994 and state:

(a) whether the Committee set up to consider matters relating to the question of dual tariff charged by the hotels has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the recommendations made by the Committee and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) if not, the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). The Government have appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Tourism with the officials of Department of Tourism, Ministry of Finance and representatives of Hotel Industry and Travel Trade. In the meeting of the Committee with the representatives of Hotel Industry and Travel Trade it was decided to set up a working group of representatives of the Hotel and Travel Associations to work out a schema for withdrawing the dual tariff in a time bound manner.

The report of the Working Group is awaited.

Import of Sugar

3677. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:
SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN THORAT:
SHRIMATI BIBHU KUMARI DEVI:
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA:
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be

pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. and the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. have imported sugar recently as per the specification;

(b) if so, the total quantity of sugar imported by these organisations separately, grade-wise;

(c) the rate at which the sugar has been imported by these organisations, separately;

(d) whether the Government are aware that STC and MMTC have incurred a huge loss in such import;

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

(f) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. On the purchase of 4.97 lakh tonnes of sugar by STC and 5.05 lakh tonnes by MMTC during April-July 1994, the average import price (C&F) has been US \$ 391 & US \$ 383 per tonne respectively.

(d) No, Sir.

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

Agreements between I.A. and Employees

3678. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has

made any efforts to increase productivity of its employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Airlines has signed productivity related agreements with its employees;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the estimated annual financial gain to the Indian Airlines as a result of these agreements; and

(f) the effect of these productivity related agreements on over-time drawn by the Indian Airlines employees during 1993-94?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d). For better utilisation of resources and to increase productivity, Indian Airlines has signed productivity related settlements/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with 5 out of the 8 recognised Unions/Associations. As per the settlements/MOUs, the hours of utilisation in respect of pilots and flight engineers have been increased. The Unions/Associations have agreed to measures for performance improvement and enhanced production and elimination of wasteful work practices. The employees covered by the settlements/MOUs will be paid certain allowances.

(e) The gains accruing from productivity related agreements will be mainly in terms of better on time performance, higher utilisation of aircraft and better service to customers.

(f) During 1993-94, only one productivity settlement was signed with the Indian Commercial Pilots' Association. Since pilots do not draw over-time, the question of

effect on over-time payment does not arise.

Balance of Payment

3679. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the balance of payment position of the country during the years 1993 and 1994;

(b) whether the Union Government have received any suggestion from the International Monetary Fund in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The balance of payments position has improved considerably during 1993-94 as reflected from a sharp decline in current account deficit from US \$ 4.9 billion during 1992-93 to US \$ 230 million during 1993-94. The foreign currency assets of the RBI rose from US \$ 6.4 billion at the end of 1992-93 to US \$ 15.1 billion at the end of 1993-94. The reserves improved further to US \$ 17.5 billion at the end of July 1994.

(b) and (c). The IMF in their Annual Report 1994 released on July 27, 1994 mentioned that the Directors welcomed India's intention to use the opportunity presented by the recent improvement in balance of payments to make advance repurchases to the Fund. However, they cautioned that external viability was not yet assured, underscoring yet further the importance of continued fiscal and structural reforms to ensure that the balance of payments remained strong.

(d) The Government policy is under constant review and measures are taken as and when required to meet the emerging situation.

[Translation]

Recovery of Central Sales Tax And Excise Duty

3680. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Central sales tax and excise duty is yet to be recovered from public sector and private sector, separately; and

(b) the action being taken by the Government to recover the outstanding amount from them?

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

[English]

Export of Spices

3681. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the knowledge on beneficial uses of spices available in almost every Indian home has not been made use of for improving our exports;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the

Government to collect this information and utilise it properly for increasing our exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). The knowledge of the beneficial uses of spices such as aroma, taste, fragrance and colour has been utilised and propagated by the Spices Board through various publications, pamphlets, recipecards, catalogues etc.

Export of Plastic Goods

3682. SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN THORAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large quantities of plastic goods exported from India as finished products are lying uncleared at Dubai Port;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have found any irregularities about over-invoicing involved in the export of these consignments; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to curb these irregularities in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Enquiries made from our mission at Dubai have not confirmed that a large quantities of plastic goods exported from India as finished goods are lying uncleared at Dubai Port.

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

[Translation]

Appointments in GIC

3683. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons appointed in class I,II,III and IV posts in General Insurance Corporation and in its four subsidiary companies viz. New India Assurance Company, United India Insurance Company, National Insurance Company and Oriental Insurance Company during the last three years;

(b) the number of candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes out of them appointed;

(c) the quota reserved for the candidates

belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(d) the extent of reservation quota filled up through the above recruitments and the details thereof;

(e) the reasons for not filling up the full reserved quota;

(f) whether any directives have been issued to GIC in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The following table gives the requisite information as reported by the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC):-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total No. of candidates appointed</i>	<i>No. of candidates belonging to SC/ST</i>
1990-91	5324	1791
1991-92	3902	1500
1992-93	2749	1232

(c) to (g). For recruitment to Class-I posts reservations for SCs/STs is made at 15% and 7 1/2% on all India basis. For other classes, reservations are made on the basis of state-wise rosters maintained for this purpose. The GIC have reported that the induction of SC/ST candidates in the General Insurance Industry during the last 3 Years exceeded the All-India average. In case vacancies reserved for SCs/STs are not filled up for want of suitable candidates in certain Recruitment Centres, periodical special recruitment drives are undertaken to clear the backlog.

[English]

Public Sector Banks in Orissa

3684. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of public sector banks in Orissa, bank-wise;

(b) the amount of deposits made, loans sanctioned and actually disbursed by these banks to the farmers of Orissa during the

last three years, bank-wise;

(c) whether the nationalised banks have achieved the targets fixed for sanctioning such loans;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the amount recovered from the farmers during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The bank-wise number of branches of public sector banks functioning in Orissa as at the end of March 1994 (latest available) is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) to (d). Bank-wise amount of deposit

of public sector banks in Orissa as at the end of the years March 1992, 1993 and 1994 is given in the statement-II enclosed. As regards bank-wise information relating to loans sanctioned and actually disbursed by banks to the farmers is concerned, the same is not generated by the data reporting system. In terms of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s guidelines on lending to priority sectors, all Indian banks are required to atleast 18% of their net bank credit to agricultural sector. No State-wise target has been stipulated in this regard. The target of 18% is to be achieved by the concerned banks on an India basis. However, certain targets are stipulated under Annual Credit Plan prepared under Service Area Approach Scheme by the commercial banks for a district. The targets and achievements against the same under agricultural sector of all banks in Orissa under ACP, 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 were as under:-

(Rs. in Crores)

Years	Target	Achievement	% of Achievement
1991-92	266.64	177.22	66.5
1992-93	243.79	148.72	61.0
1993-94	250.16	204.12	81.6

From the above, it may be observed that achievement by banks in the matter of providing advances to agriculture sector in the State of Orissa is improving. The performance of the banks in this regard is continuously monitored at block, district, State and national level to ensure that stipulated targets are achieved.

(e) The borrowers' category-wise information regarding recovery of loans is not generated by the data reporting system

of RBI. However, the percentage recovery of direct agricultural advances to demand of all scheduled commercial banks in Orissa as on the last Friday of June 1991 and 1992 (latest available) were 57% and 45% respectively. RBI have issued various guidelines to banks for improving their recovery position in respect of their loans under all sectors. The issues relating to recovery are also discussed regularly in the State Level Bankers' Committee Meetings with a view to take necessary corrective measures.

STATEMENT-I

**BANK-WISE NUMBER OF BRANCHES
OF PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS IN ORISSA
AS ON MARCH 1994**

Name of the Bank	No. of branches
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	1
State Bank of Hyderabad	5
State Bank of India	459
State Bank of Mysore	1
State Bank of Travancore	1
Allahabad Bank	52
Andhra Bank	78
Bank of Baroda	31
Bank of India	109
Canara Bank	35

Central Bank of India	48
Corporation Bank	2
Dena Bank	2
Indian Bank	43
Indian Overseas Bank	68
Oriental Bank of Commerce	2
Punjab and Sind Bank	2
Punjab National Bank	47
Syndicate Bank	27
UCO Bank	159
Union Bank of India	43
United Bank of India	95
Vijaya Bank	6
TOTAL	1316

STATEMENT-II

BANK-WISE DEPOSIT OF PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS IN ORISSA
AS AT THE END OF MARCH 1992, 1993, 1994.

Bank Name	Deposits (Rs. in crores)		
	MARCH (1992)	MARCH (1993)	MARCH (1994)
Allahabad Bank	8959.48	9358.94	13678.00
Andhra Bank	19122.06	19373.76	24912.74
Bank of Baroda	4521.00	5795.00	6615.00
Bank of India	13397.00	15209.00	18670.00
Canara Bank	9767.25	11871.85	14319.04
Central Bank of India	7913.00	8848.00	10837.00
Corporation Bank	1237.03	2252.28	2971.26
Dena Bank	474.00	573.00	606.00

<i>Bank Name</i>	<i>Deposits (Rs. in crores)</i>		
	<i>MARCH (1992)</i>	<i>MARCH (1993)</i>	<i>MARCH (1994)</i>
Indian Bank	8536.93	8832.44	9363.76
Indian Overseas Bank	10316.29	11728.70	13953.10
New Bank of India	1540.00	1596.00	--
Oriental Bank of Commerce	1387.68	1995.88	3996.34
Punjab National Bank	7829.27	7207.43	9363.35
Punjab & Sind Bank	452.00	451.00	393.79
State Bank of India	124661.00	146730.00	169391.00
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	255.00	255.00	218.77
State Bank of Hyderabad	715.00	1500.00	1522.00
State Bank of Travancore	106.81	187.40	230.00

Bank Name	Deposits (Rs in crores)		
	MARCH (1992)	MARCH (1993)	MARCH (1994)
Syndicate Bank	5714.00	6631.00	6891.00
Union Bank of India	7615.57	9107.40	15156.88
United Bank of India	21918.00	25917.00	27930.33
UCO Bank	37698.00	43782.00	46055.77
Vijaya Bank	2706.29	2849.53	2503.00

Bus Services from Airports

3685. SHRI K. PRADHANI:
SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to provide bus services from the airports to the cities;

(b) if so, the date from which this facility is expected to be extended;

(c) whether such facilities are proposed to be introduced in every city where there is an airport nearby; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d). This facility already exists at all the 5 international airports viz. Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Trivandrum being managed by International Airports Authority of India. National Airports Authority have no proposal for providing such services at their airports.

Cargo Rate

3686. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the influx of a large number of cargo operators into the country has led to a price war as reported in the 'Economic Times' dated July 24, 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(d) the likely impact thereof on the Indian Airlines and the Air India; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to countenance this price war?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). With a view to cater to the needs of exporters, Government have been following an open sky policy for cargo flights. The cargo rates also have been deregulated and operators are free to charge any rate depending on commercial considerations subject to the condition that these rates are filed with DGCA. In view of this, there is bound to be fluctuation in rates depending on the demand and supply situation. This cannot be called as a price war.

(c) Since the cargo rates have been deregulated, there is no need to interfere in this regard.

(d) and (e). Air India's revenue has declined to some extent due to competitive market conditions. Air India needs to meet the challenge of a market driven system and Government does not intend to interfere in the play of market forces.

ITDC Investment

3687. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the investment made by the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) in its new ventures in the North-Eastern Region during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the ITDC has identified some new projects in the region for developing its units; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Though no new hotel project was commissioned/undertaken for implementation in North-Eastern Region during the last three years; ITDC released an amount of Rs. 2.81 lakhs during 1991-92 on account of its joint venture hotel at Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh.

(b) and (c). No, Sir.

Import of cotton

3688. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated quantity of cotton produced during 1993-94 in the country?

(b) the carry over stock from last year;

(c) the estimated total requirement of cotton for domestic needs, sector-wise;

(d) whether the Government have accorded permission to import cotton this year;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the quantum of cotton imported during the last three months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The total production of cotton during 1993-94 in the country is estimated to be about 120 lakh bales.

(b) The carry over stock of cotton from 1992-93 is 30.15 lakh bales.

(c) The sector-wise break of estimated

requirement of cotton for domestic needs during 1993-94 is as follows:

	(Qty. in lakh bales)
Mill	115.00
Non-Mill	8.00
Small	
Spinners	4.20

(d) and (e). The Government have removed import of cotton from the restricted list of the EXIM policy and permit import with zero duty.

(f) As per the information available with Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, during the period April-March, 1994, 3744 MT (approx. 22500 bales) were imported. During April 1994, 288 MT (approx. 1730 bales) were imported.

Airports

3689. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the air passenger traffic at Tirupati, Vishakhapatnam and Vijayawada airports in Andhra Pradesh has increased considerably in recent years;

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

(c) whether there is a long standing demand from the State Government and the travelling public for expansion of the infrastructural facilities particularly renovation of airport buildings, extension of runways to enable bigger aircraft to land at

and take off from the aforesaid airports and making available more seats and other passenger amenities for the travelling public;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal for expansion, renovation and modernisation of the aforesaid airports;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure involved therein; and

(g) the time by which the proposals for renovation, expansion and modernisation of the aforesaid airports are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). There has been increase of air passenger traffic only at Vishakhapatnam as per the details for the last three years given below:-

(No. of passengers)	
1991-92	88201
1992-93	57303
1993-94	90661

(c) to (f). Yes, Sir. The runway at Tirupati airport is being extended from 4500 ft. to 7500 ft. for operations of AB 320 aircraft at an estimated cost of Rs. 5.40 crores. A new terminal building at an estimated cost of Rs. 3.60 crores has also been planned at Tirupati. Doppler very High Frequency Omni Range (DVOR) at a cost of Rs. 1.40 crores and Distance Measuring Equipment (DME) at a cost of Rs. 0.85 crores are also proposed to be provided.

As regards Vijayawada, there is a

proposal for extension of runway from 5900 ft. to 7500 ft. at an estimated cost of Rs. 7 crores. A terminal building at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.5 crores has also been planned to accommodate 250 passengers with all modern facilities. Instrument Landing System (ILS), Very High Frequency Omni Range (VOR) and DME are to be provided at an estimated cost of Rs. 4 crores.

Vishakhapatnam airport belongs to Indian Navy and National Airports Authority has no plan, at present, for its development.

(g) The work on expansion of runway at Tirupati is likely to be completed by October, 1994. Navigational and Communication aids will be provided by February, 1996.

Planning for the project at Vijayawada is complete.

Import of Silk Waste

3690. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Karnataka to import silk waste from China to save spun silk units in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

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

Additional Duties of Excise (Goods of Special Importance) Act, 1957

3691. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:
SHRI R. DHANUSKODI
ATHITHAN:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several State Governments while drawing their share of Central Excise Duty collected by the Union Government on tobacco have also imposed entry tax on the same products;

(b) whether the Government have received information that some State Governments are levying taxes in addition to normal Central Excise Duty on several other items;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have taken initiatives to prevent such violation of Additional Duties of Excise (Goods of Special Importance) Act, 1957, in the States; and

(e) if so, the details of the steps taken to resolve the issue?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Detailed information on levies is being collected.

(d) and (e). Finance Minister has written to the Chief Ministers of the States which have levied tax on commodities covered under Additional Excise Duties to reconsider their decision. The matter was also discussed in the Conference of State Finance Ministers held on 27th May, 1994.

[Translation]

Sick Industrial Units in Uttar Pradesh

3692. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan assistance provided by the Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India (IRBI) to sick industrial units in Uttar Pradesh during 1993-94; and

(b) the industry-wise position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India (IRBI) has reported that it had sanctioned term loan assistance of Rs. 4.37 crores and disbursed Rs. 0.65 crore to two sick units in Uttar Pradesh during 1993-94 (April-March). The industry-wise break up of the above is given below:

(Rs. Crores)

Industry Group	Sanctions		Disbursements	
	No. of Units	Amount	No of Units	Amount
Food Manufacturing	1	3.74	1	0.02
Other Industries	1	0.63	1	0.63
TOTAL	2	4.37	2	0.65

[English]

New Economic Policies

3693. SHRI TARA SINGH:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has submitted a detailed memorandum to the Government for carrying forward the new economic policies;

(b) if so, the main points raised in the memorandum;

(c) whether the Government have examined the recommendations of the FICCI; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Yes Sir, while expressing the highest appreciations for the initiatives taken by the government in liberalising and globalising the economy, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has sent a detailed Memorandum to the Prime Minister requesting the government to take further reforms in the industrial sector, civil laws, labour laws, fiscal and financial sectors and at the State Level. The main suggestions made by FICCI include:

- To encourage the rapid and efficient growth of small and medium scale industries by minimising their transactions costs

through the provision of targeted infrastructure facilities.

- Radically increasing the pace of development of infrastructure to facilitate the development of agriculture, industry, tourism and services.
- Proper economic policy measures and adequate incentives for the development of roads, rails and port facilities.
- Effective and speedy implementation of recent policies on power, petroleum and telecommunications sectors.
- Law relating to labour should be suitably amended to permit closure of absolutely unviable sick units.
- To have a relpok at the BIFR mechanism to expedite the revival of viable sick units.
- Providing power to the Management to restructure labour force as per operational needs.
- Introduction of suitable compensation schemes acceptable to labour.
- Earliest shift to VAT both at Centre and State levels.
- To withhold the introduction of consignment tax to avoid fragmentation of economic markets.
- Emphasis on higher revenue collections through larger volume of production and not by hikes in

tax rates. Suitable fiscal incentives for higher volume of output.

- Curb on non-productive expenditure to enable Government to increase its capital outlay.

- Amendment of Expenditure Commission to monitor expenses of different government departments.

Conversion of government enterprises into corporations.

- Amendment of Companies Act to facilitate inter-corporate loans and investments, healthy acquisitions, mergers and amalgamations in line with international practices.

- The need for a sound financial strategy to support efficient and large Indian companies to become global players. Promotion of competition in Banking.

- Disinvestment of PSU shares to reduce Government debt.

- The need for active and speedy implementation of the economic policies by the States.

- The need for the formulation of suitable and effective schemes to arrest further deterioration of states and to put them back on rails.

(c) and (d). suggestions made by FICCI, other organisations and individuals are kept in view by the Government while formulating appropriate economic policies.

Loan Policy

3694. SHRI PARAS RAMBHARDWAJ:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps the Government have taken to ensure effective implementation of the bank loan policy to weaker sections and unemployed;

(b) whether there is any advisory Committee at lower levels to see that the loans do really reach the needy; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The public sector or banks are under instructions of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Government of India to extend financial assistance to weaker sections and persons below the poverty line for their upliftment on an ongoing basis. Banks have been advised by RBI to extend at least 10% of their total advances or 25% of their priority sector advances to weaker sections which comprise small and marginal farmers, landless labourers, tenant farmers, artisans, village and cottage industries and Scheduled Castes (SCs)/ Scheduled Tribes (STs) beneficiaries. Under the Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme, the public sector banks as a whole are required to lend 1% of their total advances as at the end of the previous year to weaker sections. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) is the major programme of Government to assist selected families of target groups in rural areas to cross the poverty line by taking up Self-employment ventures. Under the Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME), bank loans are provided to the

unemployed or under-employed urban poor living below the poverty line in Metropolitan areas, cities and towns with population exceeding 10,000 as per 1981 census. Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) for educated unemployed youth, which was launched on 2.10.93 provides 22.5% reservation for SC/ST and 27% for Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

The implementation of these schemes is monitored/reviewed in the District Level Consultative Committees and State Level Bankers' Committees. The banks also review the progress of those schemes and steps, wherever necessary, to ensure that the targets fixed under the Schemes are achieved. The Government also periodically reviews the implementation of the Schemes vis-a-vis the performance of banks in achieving the targets fixed for lending to priority sector, weaker sections, etc.

[Translation]

Beedi Workers

3695. SHRI SURENDRA PAL
PATHAK:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to implement the National Minimum Wage Policy by enacting a suitable legislation in regard to payment of wages to the Beedi workers to prevent their migration from one State to the other State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of the progress made in this regard so far;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to issue identity cards to all the Beedi workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). The subject of national minimum wage has been considered by several bodies and fora in the past. The National Commission on Labour (1969) was of the view that such stage for a country as a whole is neither feasible nor desirable. The 28th Indian Labour Conference (1985) recommended that till such time as the National minimum wage is feasible, it should be desirable to have a regional minimum wage in regard to which the Central Government may lay down guidelines. As per the recommendation of the Indian Labour Conference, the Central Government had circulated guidelines for regional minimum wages in July, 1987. The issue of a regional parity in minimum wages for Beedi workers was considered by the Regional Labour Ministers' Conference of the Southern Region held in 1987, which had set up a committee of Labour Secretaries of the Southern Region to examine the matter. This committee had come to the conclusion that it might not be feasible to aim at complete uniformity in wages and it would be proper if measures are taken to reduce the gap in the rates between different states over a period of time.

(d) From time to time the State Government and Welfare Commissioners have been requested to intensify the work of issue of identity cards to all beedi workers. Monthly targets have been given to the Medical Officers and Field Officers of Labour Welfare Organisations. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has undertaken a special drive to issue identity cards to all beedi workers in the State by April, 1995.

[English]

RAMAIAH:

Policy to Levy Taxes

3696. SHRI R. DHANUSKODI
ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a set national policy
on the issue of levying taxes on the goods
which have a national market and national
importance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to maintain
uniformity in implementation of these policies
in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V.
CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and
(b). The Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 has
~~declared certain goods as goods of special
importance in Inter-State trade or commerce~~
and provides for regulating tax on sale or
purchase of such goods in course of inter or
intra State trade.

(c) The question of tax reforms including
uniformity in taxation efforts of the States as
well as introduction of Value Added Tax was
discussed in the Conference of State Finance
Ministers held on 27.5.94. In pursuance of
the decision taken in the Conference, a
Committee of 11 State Finance Ministers
has been constituted to look into the whole
aspect of tax reform including uniformity in
taxation efforts of the States and gradual
introduction of Value Added Tax.

IDA Loan

3697. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA
RAO:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased
to state:

(a) whether India faces the risk of losing
access to concessional assistance from the
International Development Association
(IDA), the World Bank's soft loan affiliate if
donor countries accept the Bretton Woods
Commission's recommendation to change
the criteria for allocating IDA aid;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan prepared by the
Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V.
CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The
Bretton Woods Commission has not
~~recommended any specific changes in the
criteria for IDA allocation.~~

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

Cost of Operations of Indian Airlines

3698. PROF. UMMAREDDY
VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of
CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased
to state:

(a) whether the cost of operation of
Indian Airlines has been increasing during
the last few years;

(b) if so, the break-up of this increase in
cost since 1989-90, item-wise and year-
wise;

(c) whether any efforts have been
made by the Indian Airlines to reduce its
cost of operations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) A statement, showing the break-up
of increase in cost since 1989-90 to 1994-95
(Budgeted) is enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Indian Airlines has been taking the
following steps to control its cost of
operations:

- (i) Reduction in unproductive
expenditure.
- (ii) Check on total manpower.
- (iii) Optimum utilisation of fleet and
crew.

STATEMENT

YEARWISE AND ITEMWISE COST PER AVAILABLE TONNE KMs(ATKMs)

	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94 (R.E.)	1994-95 (B.E.)
ATKms (Millions)	1133.639	926.693	1089.773	966.789	1056.751	1192.837
COST PER ATKm		COST PER ATKm	COST PER ATKm	COST PER ATKm	COST PER ATKm	COST PER ATKm
PARTICULARS ATKm	(PAISE)	(PAISE)	(PAISE)	(PAISE)	(PAISE)	(PAISE)
1. Material Consumption, Outside Repairs (Aircraft) and Obsolescence	134.52	159.86	180.16	275.00	280.58	298.45
2. Aircraft Insurance	9.59	13.51	20.84	34.28	48.50	62.88
3. Aircraft Landing, Housing and Parking Fee	41.70	44.19	50.18	52.36	57.72	69.58
4. Route Navigation charges	24.06	24.06	30.25	30.92	41.87	51.99
5. Depreciation	65.56	138.33	165.08	201.54	226.83	222.58

	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94 (R.E.)	1994-95 (B.E.)
ATKms (Millions)	1133.639	926.693	1089.773	966.789	1056.751	1192.837
COST PER		COST PER	COST PER	COST PER	COST PER	COST PER
ATKms	ATKms	ATKms	ATKms	ATKms	ATKms	ATKms
PARTICULARS ATKms						
•	(PAISE)	(PAISE)	(PAISE)	(PAISE)	(PAISE)	(PAISE)
6. Interest & Financing Charges	84.35	139.26	168.28	183.10	188.47	170.72
7. Staff Cost 1	43.05	208.90	208.83	269.16	265.58	274.14
8. Other **	199.05	181.86	234.42	228.37	247.03	277.52
TOTAL	701.87	909.97	1058.04	1275.04	1356.85	1427.86

** Include Food services, Handling charges, Licence fee, Ground support costs & others Administrative Expenses.

Space for Airlines at Airports

3699. PROF. K. V. THOMAS:
SHRI R. ANBARASU:
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:
DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL:

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

(a) the total space made available to the Indian Airlines at various airports in comparison to the private airlines and the actual space occupied by each one of them during the last two years;

(b) the details of requests received from each airlines in this regard alongwith the actual space requested for during the above period; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[*Translation*]

Employees Provident Fund

3700. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that in Gujarat, separate shops are being floated to avoid contribution to Employees Provident Fund Scheme by the employees;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected during 1993-94 in the State; and

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

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

(a) to (c). No specific complaint about floating of a separate shop in Gujarat to avoid coverage under the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act appears to have come to the notice of the EPF Organisation. The Act is applicable to factories/establishments employing 20 or more persons. The EPF Organisation takes action to cover the shops and other establishments even by resorting to clubbing of such establishments if necessary and permissible under the Scheme.

Investment by FIIs

3701. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the total investment by Foreign Institutional Investors in the Indian capital market so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): As on 27.7.94 the cumulative Net investments in the Indian Capital Market by Foreign Institutional Investors registered with Securities and Exchange Board of India amounted to US \$ 2423.20 M (approximate Rupee equivalent: Rs.7601.58 crores)

Transfer of Shares

3702. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government propose to simplify the procedure for transfer of shares by NRIs to the resident Indians;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued as a result thereof; and

(d) the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Simplification of procedure is an ongoing process under the Government's liberalisation programme. The transfer of shares between non-residents and residents in general is governed by Section 19 of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA), 1973. There is, at present, no proposal to amend Section 19 of FERA 1973.

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

Export Inspection Council

3703. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of the Export Inspection Council (EIC) and its agencies, who have opted for the package under the voluntary retirement scheme, are being relieved immediately without notice;

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

(c) the amount likely to be saved and that spent on such voluntary retirement sought by the EIC officers and staff as a result 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) to (c). A

Voluntary Retirement Scheme was introduced, at an estimated cost of Rs. 32.13 crores, by the Export Inspection Council on 21.5.1994 for the employees of the EIC and the Export Inspection Agencies. This was not a retrenchment scheme but a Voluntary Retirement Scheme. One of the terms of the Scheme was payment of one or three months pay in lieu of notice, where admissible, in terms of the conditions of service/appointment of the employees. It has been reported that the monthly emoluments of the VRS optees was of the order of Rs. 47 Lakhs.

Tourism Promotion in Assam

3704. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AND AVIATION TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects for promotion of tourism in Assam approved during the Seventh Five Year Plan and the amount sanctioned therefor;

(b) the locations where these projects were proposed to be implemented;

(c) the names of the projects which have been completed and the expenditure incurred on each project so far; and

(d) the time by which the remaining projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Eight projects/schemes were sanctioned for Rs. 102.70 lakhs for promotion of tourism in the State of Assam during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

(b) to (d). The details showing the names of the projects/schemes sanctioned during the Seventh Five Year Plan in the

State of Assam alongwith amount sanctioned, amount released and places

where projects are located with status are given in the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

PROJECTS/SCHEMES SANCTIONED DURING THE SEVENTH FIVE YEAR PLAN

ASSAM

S.No.	Project/Scheme	Year of sanction	Amount sanctioned	Amount released	Status/Likely date of completion (Rs. in Lakhs)
1.	Youth Travel Festival at Guwahati	1985-86	00.86	00.86	completed
2.	Purchase of Mini Buses and Elephants for Manas/Kaziranga(Forest Lodge)	-do-	06.38	06.38	-do-
3.	Purchase of cruise vessel for Brahmaputra	-do-	13.00	13.00	-do-
4.	Forest Lodge at Manas	-do-	33.00*	33.00	-do-
5.	Way side facilities at Malbari and Rawla	-do-	15.68	10.34	-do-
6.	Const.of Standing/Sitting Gallery at Silbheta	-do-	09.75	05.00	March 95
7.	Provision of construction of Tourism Complex at Samaguri Lake	-do-	14.90	08.00	Dec. 94
8.	Provision of Boats at Majuli River Island in Jorhat Dist.	1988-89	08.50	08.50	Completed
TOTAL			102.07	85.08	

*Sanction revised in Dec.92.

Resturcturing of Regional Rural Banks

3705. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a result of restructuring of Regional Rural Banks a good number of employees of these banks are likely to be rendered surplus;

(b) if so, the estimated number thereof; and

(c) the measures taken to absorb and rehabilitate such surplus staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government for pruning of employees of Regional Rural Banks.

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

Institutes of Fashion Technology

3706. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS:
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:
SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.5504 on April 29,1994 and state:

(a) whether the Union Government have since taken any decision regarding

location and cost sharing arrangements for setting up the new Institutes of Fashion Technology;

(b) if so, the locations and cost of the Institutes likely to be set up, State-wise; and

(c) the cost proposed to be shared by the Union Government; State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c). Government have prepared a proposal for setting up additional Institutes of Fashion Technology. Different State Governments were asked to indicate their willingness to share the non-recurring and recurring costs involved in setting up and running these Institutes. The replies received are being evaluated and a final decision regarding the locations and the precise cost sharing formula will be taken after further consultations with State Governments, if necessary.

Trunks Routes of Indian Airlines

3707. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has made any study of its potential earnings if it takes aircraft on wet lease to run its major air routes;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) whether some private airlines have offered to collaborate and cooperate with the Indian Airlines in handling major trunk routes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government

thereto?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

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

C&AG Report on Adoption of Figures

3708. SHRI TARA SINGH:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in his Audit Report No.5 of 1994 for the year ended March 31, 1993 has indicated his Ministry for losses in crores of rupees due to incorrect adoption of figures;

(b) if so, the facts and details in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have taken concrete steps to streamline the working in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The C&AG during the course of their Audit Between 1.4.1992 to 31.3.1993 referred 13916 cases of under assessment involving revenue effect of Rs. 3490/- crores and sought the comments of the department.

They proposed 870 draft-paras for inclusion in their Report and sought comments of the Ministry. Out of these only

202 paras were finally included in the Audit Report No. 5 of 1994. Out of the 202 paras Ministry has accepted the objections in 154 paras.

(c) There are already departmental instructions existing for taking remedial action in all cases of audit objections to prevent any loss to the Revenue.

Employees Provident Fund

3709. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts to fix special norms for opening more regional offices of Employees Provident Fund Organisation in accordance with the study conducted by the National Productivity Council and the suggestions made by it;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the delay in disposal of claims and issuing slips and for further simplification of forms to filled by the claimants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The report of the National Productivity Council has since been received and is presently under consideration of the Central Board of Trustees, EPF.

(c) In order to provide prompt service to the subscribers, the EPF Organisation has launched a computerisation programme and has also evolved a "Central Action Plan" with "service to the subscribers as a key result area".

[English]

these sectors as per the statement enclosed.

Routes of Indian Airlines

3710. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of routes being served by the Indian Airlines where it is carrying less than 60 per cent of the public travelling by air;

(b) whether, on a monthly basis, the share of Indian Airlines on some of these routes is declining further;

(c) whether the Indian Airlines propose to wet lease its aircraft to other airlines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check the decline in public travelling by the Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) In June, 1994, there were 19 routes on which Indian Airlines' market share was less than 60% of the available traffic in

(b) The number of passengers carried by Indian Airlines in June, 1994, was less than that carried in May, 1994, on most of the above routes.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Following steps have been taken to check the decline in public travelling by Indian Airlines:-

- Improvement in service both on ground and on board.
- Improvement in quality of food served on board the aircraft.
- Improvement in passenger comfort by increasing seat pitch in Economy Class of A-300.
- Introduction of Business Class in A-320 aircraft.
- Prince incentives/concessions introduced for passengers.
- Removal of cancellation fee and introduction of refund fee of Rs.100 per ticket in lieu thereof.

STATEMENT

SECTORS WITH IA MARKET SHARE LESS THAN 60% IN JUNE 1994

SECTOR	JUN 94	MAY 94
BOMBAY-COCHIN-BOMBAY	27.5	30.0
BOMBAY-COIMBTORE-BOMBAY	20.0	24.5
BOMBAY-CALICUT-BOMBAY	37.5	40.0

SECTOR	JUN 94	MAY 94
BOMBAY-DELHI-BOMBAY	37.0	34.0
BOMBAY-TRIVANDRUM-BOMBAY	54.0	59.0
BOMBAY-MANGALORE-BOMBAY	34.0	31.5
BOMBAY-GOA-BOMBAY	29.0	30.0
BOMBAY-BANGLORE-BOMBAY	48.0	44.5
BOMBAY-JAIPUR-BOMBAY	41.5	46.0
BOMBAY-AHMEDABAD-BOMBAY	51.5	51.5
BOMBAY-MADRAS-BOMBAY	48.0	45.5
BOMBAY-CALCUTTA-BOMBAY	45.0	47.5
DELHI-CALCUTTA-DELHI	57.5	60.0
BOMBAY-RAJKOT-BOMBAY	45.0	49.0
BOMBAY-AURANGABAD-BOMBAY	46.0	45.5
DELHI-JAMMU-DELHI	46.5	47.0
BOMBAY-INDORE-BOMBAY	29.0	29.5
COCHIN-MADRAS-COCHIN	47.5	48.0
COIMBTORE-MADRAS-COIMBTORE	45.5	53.5

[Translation]

Public Sector Banks in Gujarat

3711. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the branches of the public

sector banks have been set up in Gujarat at the centres allotted by the Reserve Bank of India during the Branch Expansion Programme, 1990-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The details of centres allotted to public sector banks in Gujarat for opening branches during Branch Expansion Policy 1990-95 is

given in the statement enclosed. The opening of branches at the allotted centres by banks is subject to availability of suitable premises, all weather road, telecommunications etc.

STATEMENT

Public Sector Banks in Gujarat during Branch Expansion Policy, 1990-95.

RURAL CENTRES:

<i>Name of the Bank</i>	<i>Centre</i>	<i>District</i>
State Bank of Saurashtra	Mota Machiyala	Jamnagar
-do-	Kicha	Jamnagar
-do-	Pipalva	Jamnagar
-do-	Dhreshwar	Jamnagar
-do-	Mota Rinaganiyala	Amreli
-do-	Malshrom	Amreli
-do-	Charakha	Amreli
Bank of Baroda	Kadwaram	Amreli
State Bank of Saurashtra	Bhalvav	Amreli

<i>Name of the Bank</i>	<i>Centre</i>	<i>District</i>
Bank of Broda	Chadotar	Banaskantha
State Bank of Saurashtra	Bhadraval	Bhavnagar
-do-	Hanol	Bhavnagar
-do-	Malapara	Bhavnagar
-do-	Pithavadi	Bhavnagar
-do-	Kanpur	Bhavnagar
-do-	Chamardi	Bhavnagar
State Bank of India	IPCL Project Site, Jageshwar	Bharuch
State Bank of Saurashtra	Harshadpur	Jamnagar
-do-	Theba	
Bank of Broda	Darad	

<i>Name of the Bank</i>	<i>Centre</i>	<i>District</i>
State Bank of Saurashtra	Sanosari	"
-do-	Vad Panchasang	"
-do-	Ishawaring	"
Bank of Baroda	Samang	"
State Bank of Saurashtra	Dhaban	"
-do-	Nandana	"
-do-	Bhogat	"
-do-	Samour	Kheda
Central Bank of India	Bedwa	"
-do-	Kasor	"
-do-	Lambhval	"

<i>Name of the Bank</i>	<i>Centre</i>	<i>District</i>
State Bank of Saurashtra	Simanda	"
Bank of India	Sarkhej	"
Bank of Baroda	Jalsa	"
State Bank of Saurashtra	Khajeshri	Junagadh
-do-	Jamvala	"
-do-	Sonva	"
-do-	Jaragli	"
-do-	Bediya	"
-do-	Alidhara	"
-do-	Chodwadi	"
Bank of Baroda	Sumarsgare	Kutch
-do-	MOU	Mehsana

Name of the Bank	Centre	District
-do-	Chansol	"
-do-	Sena Daryana Gorida	Panchamahala
-do-	Shehra	"
-do-	Chavdi Bai Namuva	"
-do-	Bakor	"
-do-	Diwada Colony	"
-do-	Ranjit Nagar	"
-do-	Atwa	Surat
-do-	Goji	"
-do-	Masma	"
State Bank of India	Bhatpore	"

<i>Name of the Bank</i>	<i>Centre</i>	<i>District</i>
Bank of Baroda	Mota Varacha	"
-do-	Bamangam	Vadodra
State Bank of Saurashtra	Karjan	"
SEMI-URBAN CENTRES:		
State Bank of Saurashtra	Sanand	Ahmedabad
Indian Overseas Bank	Valsad	Valsad
State Bank of Saurashtra	Gandevi	"
Bank of Baroda	Mahuva	Bhavnagar
-do-	Sihor	"
Vijaya Bank	Gandhinagar	Gandhinagar
Bank of Baroda	"	"
Oriental Bank of Commerce	"	"

<i>Name of the Bank</i>	<i>Centre</i>	<i>District</i>
State Bank of Saurashtra	"	"
State Bank of India	"	"
State Bank of Saurashtra	Bharuch	Bharuch
Vijaya Bank	Ankaleshwar	"
State Bank of Saurashtra	Kheda	Kheda
Vijaya Bank	Anand	Kaira
Corporation Bank	Anand	"
State Bank of Saurashtra	Kapadvarj	"
Oriental Bank of Commerce	Gandhidham	Kutch
Bank of Baroda	Bhuj	"
Corporation Bank	Gandhidham	"
-do-	Bhuj	"

<i>Name of the Bank</i>	<i>Centre</i>	<i>District</i>
State Bank of Saurashtra	Mundra	"
Dena Bank	New Anjar	"
State Bank of Saurashtra Anjar		"
-do-	Bhachar	"
-do-	Madhapar	"
State Bank of India	Madhapar	"
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	Mehsana	Mehasana
State Bank of Saurashtra	Mehsana	"
State Bank of Saurashtra	Mehsana	"
-do-	Unja	"
-do-	Vijapur	"
Bank of India	Dahod	Panchamahals

<i>Name of the Bank</i>	<i>Centre</i>	<i>District</i>
State Bank of Saurashtra	Himatnagar	Sabarkantha
-do-	Indar	"
-do-	Kosamba	Surat
Oriental Bank of Commerce	Bardoli	"
Corporation Bank	Bardoli	"
State Bank of Saurashtra	Wadhwan	Surendranagar
Bank of Baroda	Dharang Adhra	"
Bank of Baroda	Surendranagar	"
State Bank of Saurashtra	Karjan	Vadodra
URBAN/METROPOLITAN/PORT-TOWN CENTRES:		
Bank of Baroda	Vastrapur	Ahmedabad

<i>Name of the Bank</i>	<i>Centre</i>	<i>District</i>
State Bank of Saurashtra	Sahakar Nikektan Society Road	"
Allahabad Bank	Sardar Patel Nagar Road	"
Corporation Bank	Neat M.J. Library	
Central Bank of India	Pritam Nagar	
Syndicate Bank	Vtva Ind. Est. Phase IV	
Bank of India	Rear of India Colony	
Indian Bank	Daxini Society	"
Punjab National Bank	Municipal Indl. Estate, Potall	Ahmedabad
Dena Bank	Parimal Crossing	"
State Bank of India	Asarva Natan Mills	"
State Bank of Hyderabad	Near L.M. Talkies	"
Bank of Baroda	Ahmedabad	"

<i>Name of the Bank</i>	<i>Centre</i>	<i>District</i>
-do-	Dandia Bazar	Bahruch
Oriental Bank of Commerce	Kotopore Darwaja	"
Allahabad Bank	Ambika Nagar	"
Canara Bank	Vanthali Darwaja	Junagadh
Andhra Bank	Madwani College	"
Central Bank of India Bank of Baroda	Rajmahal Road Subhash Nagar	"
State Bank of India	PLJ Road	Kheda
Central Bank of India State Bank of Saurashtra Oriental Bank of Commerce	Kapadwanj Road Dr.Yagnik Road Vivekanand Chowk	" Rajkot "
State Bank of India	Ajit Indl. Area	"
Bank of Baroda	Vishveshvar M.M. Road	"

<i>Name of the Bank</i>	<i>Centre</i>	<i>District</i>
Punjab National Bank	Shivnagar	"
Dena Bank	Vishalnagar	Surat
Punjab National Bank	Dabholi	"
State Bank of Mysore	Ashwinikumar Road	"
State Bank of Travancore	Kopodora	"
State Bank of India	Navsari Bazar	"
Central Bank of India	Umra Jakat Naka	"
Bank of Broda	Bhatau Road	"
Syndicate Bank	Bardoli Road	"
Bank of India	Matawadi	"
State Bank of Travancore	Vadodara Nizampur	Vadodara
State Bank of Mysore	Subanpur	"

<i>Name of the Bank</i>	<i>Centre</i>	<i>District</i>
Punjab National Bank	Gotri-Gayatri Nagar	"
Oriental Bank of Commerce	Ghelkhadi Road	Valsad
State Bank of India	Chhapra Road	"
Andhra Bank	Maharani Shanta Devi Road	
Canara Bank	Kandra	Kutch
Asian Bank	Veraval	Junagadh
State Bank of India	New Sena Road	Vadodara

[English]

Operations of Lufthansa

3712. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the matter relating to increase in operations of Lufthansa in India was discussed during the recent visit of German Foreign Minister to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an agreement was signed in this regard;

(d) if so, the terms and conditions thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

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

Excise Duty on Bars and Rods

3713. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI:
DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS
PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the small scale steel re-rollers using ship breaking material are imposed 15% excise duty on bars and rods without any modvat benefit on ship breaking material whereas large scale re-rollers using ingots/bilets are enjoying modvat benefits;

(b) whether any suggestions have been received in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). All steel re-rollers, whether using ship breaking material or other materials, are required to pay excise duty @ 15% ad valorem on bars and rods, subject to the concession available to the small scale units under the general small scale exemption scheme. All re-rolling units can take duty credit on their inputs subject to production of duty paying documents. Certain representations have been received that the deemed credit on ship breaking material is being denied on the ground that deemed credit cannot be allowed when no excise duty, whatsoever, has been paid on the ship breaking material. It has been requested that full credit of excise duty at any stage.

(c) This matter is under consideration.

Software and Hardware Parks

3714. SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA: Will the Minister COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various schemes to promote software exports during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94;

(b) the constraints being felt in exports to United States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government propose to integrate all the software and hardware parks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The

various schemes available to promote software exports during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94, inter alia included 100% export oriented scheme of Software Technology Parks, import of computer systems at concessional rate of duty under the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme, exports of software in an integrated manner along with hardware exports through Electronic Hardware Technology Park Schemes, Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/ Export Processing Zone (EPZ) schemes, etc.

(b) and (c). The major hurdles faced by Indian companies engaged in the export of computer software and services to USA relate to visa regulations and imposition of social security taxes which make exports through on-site-development of software more difficult and less competitive.

(d) At present there is no proposal to integrate all software and hardware parks in the country.

Software Industry

3715. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japanese and Indian delegates held talks recently regarding Japanese assistance and cooperation for Indian software industry, specially the small and medium sized companies which are making entry in Japanese market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) recently sponsored a delegation to participate in the

World Computing Services Industry Congress, 1994 held at Yokohama, Japan between June 12 to 15, 1994. The delegation held meetings with the officials of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry of the Government of Japan and other agencies. A delegation from Japan is expected to visit India in October 1994. These exchanges will be of benefit to the industry particularly to the small and medium sized companies as it would enable them to take advantage of interaction with companies from Japan.

Extension of Runway At Port Blair Airport

3716. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

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

(a) whether the Andaman & Nicobar administration had in the recent past submitted a proposal for extension of runway at Port Blair;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) The proposal is to extend the present runway from 6000 ft. to 11000 ft.

(c) The Union Government has approved the proposal, subject to the necessary environmental clearance as well as clearance of Ministry of Defence being obtained by the Andaman & Nicobar administration.

12. 00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to bring to the notice of the Government of India a very important issue.

Leakage of nuclear material like plutonium from the nuclear plants in some countries in Europe is a matter of grave concern.

Sir, this nuclear theft has created chaos and confusion all over the world. Recently in Germany a smuggler was caught offering weapon grade plutonium for sale. It takes only four to six kilogram to make a weapon which can totally destroy a big city. We do not know how much of the smuggled plutonium has been detected and how much has changed hands. This situation poses a very serious threat to a country like India whose neighbour, Pakistan is said to possess a bomb and is engaged in smuggling of nuclear material.

Sir, today in almost all the papers, it was reported that there is a hand of Pakistan in smuggling this enriched plutonium.

Sir, this is a very serious situation. If the weapon grade material is freely available, it will be a threat to the whole world. I think that the Government of India should raise this very serious issue in the world forums so that tight control is there to avoid theft of nuclear materials. This apprehension should be taken care of by the Government and it should raise this issue in the world forums.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is really a matter of concern to everybody, to the peace

loving people in the world and more so to India.

Pakistan is increasingly engaged, these days, in smuggling plutonium from Russia. Germany has obtained positive documentary evidence about it and some Pakistan nationals have been arrested there. The confiscated documents indicate that all these were destined to Pakistan.

Earlier the terrorists were using such materials for nuclear blackmail, crude bombs, etc. They were preparing bombs out of all these things. After the collapse of the erstwhile Soviet Union. There has not been much control on it although they are officially denying it.

It is time for the Government of India to take up this matter with the Soviet Union and also with the Government of Germany....(Interruptions)

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): It is not Soviet Union. It is Russia....(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): I am sorry. It is Russia. Now there is no Soviet Union. That is why these things are now happening.

The entire House is unanimous in expressing deep concern over the actions our neighbouring country is indulging on. This should be stopped immediately. Therefore, effective steps should be taken by the Government of India and, Sir, if necessary, a statement also, after ascertaining all these things, can be made in the House by the Minister concerned.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT (Rajapur): Sir, the reported incident of smuggling of plutonium is a matter of serious concern to

the entire world community. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, four nuclear weapon States emerged in that area and there were reports of brain drain in the nuclear field. The unemployed nuclear physicists were solicited by various countries in the world and I had occasion to apprise the Prime Minister of Belarus, one of the nuclear weapon States and I took this issue with him. He himself indicated his helplessness in this Matter.

MR. SPEAKER: You should understand that you do not speak for the sake of speaking. You should not disclose the discussion which took place outside the House and that too with a Head of the State.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: It was a public discussion. It was reported also.

MR. SPEAKER: Please continue.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: So it is a matter of such tremendous concern, because the criminal nexus has arisen in between those nuclear weapon states also. Added to that is a threat of large scale State terrorism which is emerging world-wide. Sir, you can imagine any terrorist organization taking charge of nuclear device can hold not only India but the entire world community to ransom. Therefore, a serious thought has to be given and a strategy evolved to combat this particular threat at national and international level.

Sir, I would request that we should take note of the seriousness of the event and we should have a full-fledged discussion in this House so that full-fledged strategy could be evolved wherein this matter could be raised at the international level.

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM (Inner Manipur): Sir, there has been a series of

killings in the State of Manipur causing great concern and panic in the minds of the people there. I request that the House takes note of the threat. Sir, on 18th August 1994, 23 jawans of the Assam Rifles were killed and some others injured. On the previous day also, six jawans were killed and some others injured. This happened in the hilly areas in the State of Manipur. In the valley, the Maitey insurgents had been killing the people. It has not even been reported in the press. There are abductions and kidnappings. So, Sir, a serious situation has arisen in the State of Manipur. The President's Rule has been imposed in the State. While imposing the President's rule, the Ministry which was ruling there, was dismissed because of this law and order situation. About more than seven months have passed but there is no improvement. Therefore, I would say that these happenings are due to lack of coordination amongst the enforcement agencies.

I would like to urge the Government to look into it. I would also like to urge the Government to depute effective officers and administrators who will devote their attention to the law and order situation in the State. But at the moment, under the President's rule, the officers deputed there are giving more importance to the minor works like repairing the roads and they are not taking the law and order situation seriously. So the State requires a change, a change in the style of functioning. The State also requires deputation of effective officers.

Lastly, I would like to urge upon the Government to depute some high officers to study the present situation and see if any change of administration can be made there.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): I would like to take this opportunity to very briefly refer to two security related issues.

The first has been mentioned by a number of hon. Members from the Treasury Benches relating to the alleged theft or smuggling of plutonium from Russian sources.

Now, all that we have to go by are really the newspaper reports or reports over Television or Radio. But the matter is of such importance that I think some authoritative version of it in so far as the Government's information on this is concerned, is merited. It is for the Government to consider that the issue of this kind of nuclear terrorism cannot be permitted to arrive on our shores and there are various other aspects of it. For example, verifiable capping of fissile material. You cannot have verifiable capping of fissile material unless you have an international register of fissile material, for example. Now all these are aspects connected with it. But because they are of sufficient importance I would urge for the consideration of the Government that they come to the House and share with the House what verifiable information they have in their possession.

The second— very briefly I will mention— relates to an incident of the ambushing of Assam Rifles personnel in Manipur. I do not think that it delights our hearts to refer to every ambush that might take place in any disturbed area of the country. But the fact that this is the first time that an ambush has taken place reportedly by NSCN terrorists, that it has taken place for the first time after the imposition of the President's rule and thirdly that 23 soldiers, riflemen of Assam Rifles, have been killed and reportedly 13 others rendered as casualties, which is a very large number, is sad. I am sure that every precaution was taken by everyone concerned to ensure that this does not happen. But the fact that it has happened disturbs us and I would request in this case also an initiative by the Government

to come forward, if possible today itself, and share with us whatever information they have in their possession.

PROF. M. KAMSON (Outer Manipur): It is really sad that these incidents, just mentioned by Shri Yaima Singh Yumnam, my colleague from Manipur and Shri Jaswant Singh, just now, the killings in Manipur, have happened in my constituency. All these killings of Army men and ambushing of soldiers, are going on in Manipur. I do not want to repeat all those things. This happened in my constituency. But what I would like to lay emphasis on is that killing itself is very bad. I condemn it strongly. But, what I would like to draw the attention of the Government is, that they must take more steps and initiative to see that such things do not happen. What happens is only some sort of action is taken by the Police or at the Government level. But ultimately what the Government has to do is — I have been saying and requesting time and again— that it should be dealt with at political level also. Because, this insurgency has been there— not only NSCN which has happened today— but also in other parts, in Assam the ULFA, the Tripura insurgents or in any other part of the North-East, there are insurgents all over there. They should be dealt with politically also. So, I would like to emphasise the importance of these things and that they have not been taken care of meticulously.

Secondly, the place where the incident occurred yesterday is Yangkhullen. This Yangkhullen is a place where more than one hundred years ago the first attack against the British troops took place.

That is the same place where this ambush took place yesterday. I want to tell that this area has been so much under developed that there are no proper roads. I think, the security personnel must have

been facing a lot of difficulties in that situation. We do not have any good road to go to different places. We do not have motorable roads. If proper roads and communication facilities were there, I do not think such types of incidents would have happened and that too in such a large scale.

Therefore, I draw the attention of the Government again on this point that keeping in view the security aspect and the development aspect and also as this is a border state, its development should be speeded up particularly with regard to road communication.

All these things are happening in the five hill districts of Manipur which include about 90 per cent of the total area of my constituency. The area is very much neglected in road communication and development. Therefore, the insurgency and all types of activities are going on.

Therefore, I request that the Government should come out in this regard and make a statement. One of my colleagues has given good suggestions. I request you to implement our suggestions and have more roads and undertake developmental work and take more precautionary measures to control the insurgency.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHOGENDRAJHA (Madhubani): So far as the news of theft of nuclear rich uranium from Germany is concerned, I apprehend that the Government of Russia is refusing to accept its responsibility for the problems cropping up after the disintegration of Soviet Union. It is obvious that they may or may not have any knowledge of it. However, it is not only Germany which possess nuclear arsenals but there are several Southern republics also which have

stored nuclear raw-material and where communalism and terrorism have taken the form of a civil war. We have friendly relations with all the countries. The Union Government should establish contacts with these countries and also try to ascertain the facts from other sources. The neighbours of these countries are supplying arms there. As some terrorists are also being sent to Kashmir by our neighbouring country, that material may be brought to our country clandestinely through these terrorists. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to ascertain the facts from all the sources and place them before the House and the people.

[*English*]

SHRIINDER JIT (Darjeeling): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I join my friends, Shri Yaima Singh Yumnam, Shri Jaswant Singh and Prof. M. Kamson, in expressing my grave concern over the latest ambush which has resulted in the slaughter of 23 jawans and injuries to 13 persons in broad day light.

This is not the first incident. In fact, these incidents have continued in a big way since 1991. Since 1991, over 1,100 people have been killed by the insurgents in the North-East. So, we need to take a fresh look at the whole problem. The hon. Prime Minister was pleased to inform the House the other day that he had adopted the North-East. He also took another laudable action in setting up three high level committees which have visited the North-East to study the problem. However, I feel that a fresh look at the entire policy is necessary. Merely pouring money into that area will not do and merely trying to seek a military solution will also not do. We need to deal with the issue politically.

I recall my first visit in 1966 to the North-East at the invitation of the then Governor of

the North-East, Shri Vishnu Sahay, a bureaucrat statesman, who told me candidly; òlf India ever disintegrates, the process of disintegration will commence from the North-East.ö So, I appeal to the Government that we must take a fresh look at our North-East Policy which has so far failed to deliver results. Earlier on, we have had agreements with different sections of the òUndergroundö. I think the time has come when we should be ready to talk to both the groups of the NSCN, namely headed by Issac Swu and Muivah and the other headed by Khaplang. I was in Kohima only a few weeks ago, I had an occasion to talk to a cross section of the leaders and other prominent people. All of them were clearly of the view that there was need to seek a political solution of the problem.

I strongly support their demand. We must seek a political solution within the framework of the Indian constitution.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, on the incident in Manipur, I would ask the Government to make a statement please.

On the weapon grade plutonium smuggling, if and only if authentic information is available, it should be shared, otherwise it need not be.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roser): Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to sugar muddle, not only the prices of sugar have soared but the Government has suffered a loss of crores of rupees. In this regard, I have given a notice of Adjournment Motion.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: It was discussed in the Business Advisory Committee and we are

fixing the discussion on it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Yesterday, the hon. Eble Deputy Speaker had stated that the Adjournment Motion is under consideration.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: No, your Adjournment Motion is out of order. It cannot be accepted.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have another question to ask. Shri Sharad, other hon. Members and the hon. Minister are also sitting here. Yesterday, we courted arrest. I had also talked to you in your chamber in this regard. The discussions regarding O.B.Cs have taken place here time and again. You had also taken an initiative in this regard at your level and directed the Government that it should hammer out a solution by mutual discussions. But today, the life of the youth is being ruined. The result of the preliminary test of I.A.S has come out. Only 12 per cent of the total students have qualified. There are 14 categories and in every category relaxation in age is given. However, there is no provision for age relaxation for the candidates of OBCs. When the hon. Prime Minister was leaving for his foreign tour, he had assured that he would take a decision at the earliest. Yesterday, the youth resorted to æChakka- jamÆ. we also courted arrest three times in support of this demand. The former Prime Minister, Shri V.P. Singh had addressed this rally. Sir, you are requested to give directions to the Government in this regard without any further delay. In this connection, I have also given a notice for Short-Duration Discussion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I shall see it and if it is accepted, we shall fix it up.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want some clarifications from the Government. On behalf of the hon. Prime Minister, it was declared in this House that every Member will be provided Rupees One crore each for undertaking developmental works in his/her constituency. The MLAs have already got Rupees five lakh each for undertaking developmental works in their respective constituencies. We have also given a list of developmental works to the officials of our constituencies. The members have also been provided a booklet containing the relevant rules in this regard. However, the statements of the hon. Ministers have put the Members in a dilemma. Sir, we have already given the list of developmental works in our constituencies to the District Magistrates on the basis of the information received from the Union Government. Today, our reputation among the public has become a matter of anxiety. Therefore, the Government should make its policy clear. It should make a declaration whether it intends to provide Rupees one crore to each Member or not so that the Members have a clean image in the eyes of the people.

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (Sasaram): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in regard to the question raised by the hon. Member, I would like to submit that the day before yesterday, the hon. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs had stated in the Rajya Sabha that the Government has already given the money to the State Governments and they have forwarded it further to the District Magistrates. It has caused apprehensions

in the minds of the people and we are being let down. As the hon. Member has said, if the Government is sincere in allocating funds for this purpose, it should make its stand clear and if not, at least it should make such declaration through various media so that the reputation of the hon. Members is restored.

Therefore, through you, I would like to demand from the Government that it should make its policy clear immediately.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): Sir, hon. Members know that the matter was discussed and settled along with the Prime Minister and Finance Minister who participated in the meeting. Some logistic problems have arisen with some States because of which there has been delay. But I would like to reassure the hon. Members and the hon. House that, as announced by the Prime Minister, the amount of Rs. One crore in addition to what is given in Jawahar Rojgar Yojna will be made available to each Member of Parliament.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): It is already in existence.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Unless you allow me to complete my point, it is not going to benefit anybody. If you continue to interrupt, it would be useless. Therefore, you should listen to me first.

[English]

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: The

settlement regarding the head of expenditure and the process of implementation of developmental work by the money that is going to be given, has taken place. In certain States, like in Madhya Pradesh, the money has been made available. We have started using it. We have already made a start in that State. In certain other States it is being considered. We have called a meeting and I am trying to see that before the end of the session we have a clear picture before us and the hon. Members can go back to the constituencies and start using the money for developmental purposes. *(Interruptions)* There are certain grey areas in the guidelines that have been given. Those guidelines need to be cleared up also for which I would request hon. Members and the Leaders to give their suggestions to you or to us and then we can give proper clarifications on this so that there is no problem in using that money. I am sorry that these problems have arisen; but as far as the commitment is concerned that is undiluted. That commitment will be met with and a separate head of account will be created in each district for the hon. Members to use it and there would be no problem in utilising this money. The M.P.s.Æ Local Area Development Scheme stands. It is not going to be diluted.*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not necessary to speak now.

[*Translation*]

Whenever we want to tackle the issue effectively, you interrupt and disturb us. *(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHARY

(Jagatsinghpur): Sir, I was opposed to it initially.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you not take your seat?

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Why are they putting us into embarrassing position?.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat; otherwise that would be your final word.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: They are creating embarrassing situation.

MR. SPEAKER: You have the pleasure of speaking; you do not have the pleasure of getting things done! ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down now.*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: I said in this House that it is a wrong thing. They are giving only assurance and putting us in embarrassing position. Last year they said they gave Rs.5 lakh and the people are running behind us.

On principle I am opposed to it.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat now.

I know that the Government wants this scheme to be implemented, the Prime Minister wants this scheme to be implemented, the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs wants this scheme to be implemented and others also want it to be implemented. But there are difficulties which have to be overcome. Firstly, the money should be

made available. Secondly, there should be clear-cut ideas as to how this money is going to be spent. Thirdly, we are very clear in our mind as to how the money has to be utilised and this information can be given to the concerned Ministry. The concerned Ministry has to be very clear on this point. They have to remove the confusion that is prevailing with them and then they have to pass on that information to the State Governments not to obstruct this kind of scheme being implemented. On these three points we shall have to be very clear and I request you to please see that this is done.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I think we will take the rest of the things on the next working day. Now, papers to be laid on the Table.

12. 31 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report and Review on the working of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi for 1992-93, and statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6299/94]

Consolidated Annual Accounts of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation, New Delhi for 1992-93 and statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A.SANGMA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Consolidated Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93, together with Audit Report thereon under sub-section (9) of Section 5A of the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6300/94]

Annual Report and Review on the working of Delhi Financial Corporation for 1992-93, alongwith Audited Report and statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A.SANGMA): Sir, on behalf of Shri M.V.Chandrashekhara Murthy, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Delhi Financial Corporation for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts under sub-section (3) of section 38 of the State Financial Corporations Act 1951.

- (ii) A copy of the Audit Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Accounts of the Delhi Financial Corporation for the year 1992-93 under sub-section (7) of section 37 of the State Financial Corporation Act, 1951.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Delhi Financial Corporation for the year 1992-93.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
[Placed in Library. See No.LT-6301/94]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under

sub-section (4) of section 15 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992:-

- (a) (i) A copy of the Annual Statement of Accounts of the Securities and Exchange Board of India for the period from the 21st February, 1992 to the 31st March, 1992.
[Placed in Library. See No.LT-6302/94]

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Statement of Accounts of the Securities and Exchange Board of India for the year 1992-93.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6303/94]

- (b) A copy of the Audit Report on the Accounts of the Securities and Exchange Board of India for the period from the 21st February, 1992 to the 31st March, 1993.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6304/94]

12. 32 hrs.

FINANCIAL COMMITTEES (1993-94)— A REVIEW

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I beg to lay

on the Table a copy each of the Hindi and English versions of the *Financial Committees (1993-94)—A Review*".

12. 32 1/2 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
 RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Eleventh Report

[English]

SHRI INDER JIT (Darjeeling): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Eleventh Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on the Dr.B.R.Ambedkar University Bill, 1994.

12. 33 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 22nd August, 1994 will consist of:

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's order paper.
2. Discussion on the Eighth Five Year Plan, 1992-97.
3. Consideration and passing of the

following bills as passed by Rajya Sabha:-

- (a) The Salaries, Allowances, Leave and Pensions of Officers and Servants of the Delhi High Court Bill, 1994.
- (b) The Salaries, Allowances, Leave and Pensions of the Officers and Servants of the Supreme Court Bill, 1994.
- (c) The Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 1994.

4. Discussion on the Resolution regarding Draft Agriculture Policy.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request that the following items be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Need to provide for a stoppage of Gomati Express at Firozabad (Uttar Pradesh) in view of the public demand.
2. Need to construct a railway overbridge at a railway crossing on the National Highway between Shikohabad and Bahai Firozabad district.

[English]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur): Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's Agenda:—

1. Regarding removal of the anomalies in the implementation

of One Time increase (O.T.I) in the pension of Ex-Servicemen and to cover the remaining categories of the Ex-Servicemen in the scheme.

2. Channelisation of the swan river and its seventy three tributaries in the Una district of Himachal Pradesh to protect the district from floods.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's Agenda:

1. Need to introduce a Shatabdi Express Train on Jaipur- Bandikui -Delhi railway line.
2. Need to start second channel immediately from Jaipur Doordarshan Kendra.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's Agenda:

1. Need to make the Tannery and Footwear Corporation, Kanpur, viable by making more investments instead of closing it down.
2. Need to resolve the labour unrest and unemployment problem arising out of the possible closure of NTC and BIC mills located at Kanpur.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Sir, I request that the following items may be included in next week's

agenda:

1. Allocation of adequate funds for proper development of Bareilly city which has been selected for developing as a counter Magnet City under the National Capital Region.
2. Conversion of Bareilly North-Eastern Rail factory, Izatnagar, into a coach factory.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): Sir, I request that the following items may be included in next week's Agenda:

1. Need to accord statehood to Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh to remove the regional imbalance and for administrative convenience and development of that area.
2. Need to take up the work of laying new rail line from Lalitpur to Singrauli under Central Railway by December, 1994.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): I request that the following items may be included in the next week's Agenda:—

- (a) Legislation for Nationalisation of textile mills under National Textile Corporation in Bombay as per the answer of the Minister of State for Textiles while replying to the discussion under Rule 193 on National Textile Corporation Mills in Bombay on 11 th August, 1994 in Lok Sabha.

- (b) Need to provide further concessions, benefits and facilities in the nature of ôVridhashramô, free medical treatment etc. to the senior citizens of this country.

as it is stalling minor developmental works in Garhwal Division of Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI (Badaun): Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's Agenda:

1. Need to introduce two daily chaircar trains from Bareilly to Kasganj and Kasganj to Mathura separately.
2. Need to introduce a Shatabdi Express between Delhi and Dehradun.

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA (Junagarh): Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's Agenda:

1. Need to check trafficking of narcotics in Saurashtra Kuchh.
2. Need to check incidents of atrocities being committed on women and children.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal): Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's Agenda:

1. The situation arising out of implementation of 27 per cent reservation in Uttaranchal of Uttar Pradesh (Pauri Garhwal and Kumaon Divisions).
2. Need to exempt the hill areas from application of the Forest Act, 1980

12. 38 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE : APPROVAL OF NATIONAL HOUSING POLICY—Contd.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up the discussion on National Housing Policy. The time allotted for the discussion was four hours. We have discussed this issue for seven hours and 26 minutes. Now, please we shall have to curtail our speeches so that we can take up other subjects also. I will request the Members not to repeat the points and be brief. We would like you to speak but speak very briefly and without repeating the points so that it should be completed today itself. It should not go beyond today.

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): Mr. Speaker, Sir, food is very essential for subsistence of man. Clothes come next in the list. Everybody tries his level best to earn bread for himself and his family. The third essential requirement is of shelter and everybody wants to construct a house even by compromising with his meals.

12. 39 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Nobody wants to remain without a house. It is very unfortunate that the problem of housing is becoming more and more serious in our country. Keeping shortage of houses in view, the United Nations

Organisation declared the year 1987 as æHouse for allÆ year, and the target was fixed and the then Government had also resolved to provide houses to all in the country by the year 2000. But we are sorry to say that the Government has not been able to take any step regarding such an important topic as housing. It had been envisaged to provide houses to all by the year 2000 but at present 10 crore people are forced to live without houses.

Sir, providing of houses means a good house including the basic amenities like electricity, water, sewerage system etc. So that house provided should give complete shelter, it should not be incomplete in any way. The slums, incomplete houses etc. prove to be breeding ground of problems and several diseases, that is why, a complete house with all basic facilities are required for the people.

Sir, though India has attained first position in the list of developing nations but we are still lagging behind several countries from the housing point of view and we are still finding it very difficult to solve this problem even after 47 years of Independence. The Centre formulated several schemes to solve this problem like "Shelter for the poor" and "Indira Awas Yojna" and states were provided funds for this but it seems the Government does not have full control over the State Governments which has resulted in the failure of these schemes and people are still living in difficulties.

Sir, we had prepared a draft of a housing policy in 1988 after the announcement made in 1987 and it was sent for the consideration of the State Governments. The State Governments did not take it seriously and the Central Government also shelved this policy. The draft was prepared again in May, 1990 which was presented before the House

in 1992 and we are discussing it today in 1994. It is evident from it that the Government is not at all concerned about this serious problem.

A conference of SAARC countries was held in Delhi a few days back which was attended by the Secretaries of SAARC countries like Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka etc. Our Housing Secretary, Shrimati Nirmala Buch was also supposed to make a speech in that but she did not attend the conference. We were to present before them the situation prevailing in India and it might have led to some concrete suggestions but we could not present our views. The Joint Secretary read out the speech of Shrimati Nirmala Buch in her absence. It brought dishonour to our country, though, your Ministry did not take it seriously. This policy was first formulated in 1988, then in 1990, then again in 1992 and now we are discussing it here in August, 1994. When will this policy be implemented and when would we be able to provide houses to people is the main question. You are requested to consider it seriously.

According to the 1991 census, about 5 lakh families were homeless, 39 lakh families used to live in othersÆ houses. More than one crore lived in Kachcha houses, six crore ten lakh families lived in one room tenements, more than one crore 40 lakh people lived in rented houses. The problem of housing is gaping at us. You are a woman. You can yourself perceive how shameful it is for us that 88 percent citizens of this poor country have no lavatories. Such a blatant situation would be prevailing in no other country. What an appalling situation it must have been for the rural womenfolk sitting on roadsides for defecation when they have to withhold the discharge of excreta and stand up whenever a vehicle passes by! What a despicable situation.

A friend of mine returned home alongwith his two British colleagues after spending 22 years abroad. While travelling from Delhi to Kota by train, their eyes caught the sight of the railway track running parallel to theirs where there was water-logging and people were sitting for defecation. When the Britons asked my friend as to what those people were doing, the latter had to bow his head in shame thinking that the country had not changed from what it was 21 years ago when he had left for abroad. But, immediately, he collected his wits and said that they were catching fish because he could not say to his foreign friends that there are no public conveniences for men and women in our country. 47 years have passed since we became independant. According to the data of 1991 census, 88 per cent houses do not have lavatories and people are compelled to defecate in the open. Under this Housing Policy, there is need to formulate a scheme providing for lavatories at least in villages. Only God knows whether they will be provided with house or not but arrangements for public conveniences should definitely be made.

We aim at providing houses for all by 2000 A.D. At first, a Housing Policy was formulated in 1988, then in 1990, it was discussed in Rajya Sabha and in 1992, in Lok Sabha and now, we are discussing it again in 1994. When will this target be achieved at last? You are a noble lady and give satisfactory replies in Lok Sabha but please do exert pressure on your Ministry. You need Rs.thirty thousand crores to accomplish this task. I cannot understand how can this Government mobilise such huge resources? Just imagine, wherefrom will this huge amount come so that every Indian is provided with a shelter. The poor should be provided with houses. The affluents can do everything for themselves. I do not think that this Government can

provide shelter to any poor man. I assert that this Government will be losing ground on this front due to its wrong policies and deeds. Therefrom, I request you to consider it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, look at Delhi itself. A labourer comes from his village here for earning bread. The Chief Minister of Delhi, Shri Madan Lal Khurana has stated that three lakh people come to settle here every year. Labourers in large number come from my area, Rajasthan and no buildings can be constructed here if they stop coming here. So, where shall a middle class man of Delhi go? He does not get a house. Please see the gravity of the situation and take concrete steps. You can exert pressure on the hon. Prime Minister emphasising the need for constructing houses in the country and formulate a healthy policy in this connection.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Urban Land Ceiling Act has been enforced but in Kota some people have purchased plots of land worth crores of rupees whereas you had given a ruling in 1988 that a person selling plots of 20 * 50 will be considered poor. Can they be given such a relaxation? I maintain that this is not happening in Kota alone but all over India. You are aware that the prices of land are sky-rocketing now-a-days. Then, the prices of cement too have increased. A cement factory owner earns such a huge profit that he sets up another factory after three years of business. Cement is used in the construction of houses and stone is also used. Stone is too costly and there is no price control on it. It is only those land and factory owners who decide the prices of stone. Now think, how can a poor man construct a house? He manages with a sheet of polythene on his roof. You should pay some consideration to it also.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government should amend the Rent Control Act because the house owners rather than letting their houses keep them vacant for years together and let out of marriages purpose etc. alone. That way, such people are making a mockery of that law.

This business is flourishing like anything. 70-80 people have been sent to jail under this Act.

In the last, I would like to say that corruption is rampant throughout the country in the name of stamp duty and you are aware of the foul play being played with those who go for the registration of houses in the concerned office. You are well aware of it. It is not a healthy practice. You are a common man and know everything about the evasion of stamp duty, the leakage and the bungling. Everyone knows that the officer related to Stamp duty i.e. the Registrar plainly says that what amount of registration you need, why do you go for this much of amount, go for the registration of this much of amount, pay this much of amount to me and keep the rest with yourself. The deal of a building of crores of rupees is done in few lakhs. The Central Government should have a check on it by enacting an Act. If such a step is taken, only then I will feel that this housing policy would be a success; otherwise we do not think that it will be a success since each wife asks for a house and the husband says that this is merely a dream and will remain a dream.

I would like to thank the Chairman of the Housing Board of Rajasthan who has helped me in getting my house.

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to avail myself of this

opportunity to participate in the National Housing Policy.

The most essential necessities of a civilised human being are food, shelter, clothing, health and education. The people of India expected before Independence that they would be able to secure their bare necessities after the achievement of Independence. But, not less than 47 years have already elapsed after Independence. Still, there is a good section of our population living without a roof over their head. We hang our head in shame when we find the people running hither and thither for the purpose of obtaining a shelter when it rains. However, thanks to the Government that they have ultimately brought a National Policy for Housing on the floor of the House for discussion.

Housing is a tremendous problem. It is a fact that there was a shortage of 31 million units in 1991. This shortage would be in the range of 41 million units in the year 2001.

The matter of housing problem does not affect all equally. There are people who are totally homeless. They require a minimum shelter. They require only a roof over their head. There are people who have a shelter but not adequate at all. They have some income and out of that income they can afford a part for housing. There are people who are able to build up their own houses out of their own resources. They need only land. Again, there are persons who have enough monetary resources to spend for housing. There are rich persons who also like to have more houses than one. Thus, the problem is there and the problem is tremendous. But the Government must not be blind to the distressed people living below the poverty line.

So, the policy must be eradication of

homelessness. I do emphasise upon this policy. There should be none in the country who is homeless. It is a national disgrace that there are persons not hundreds in numbers, but millions and millions, who are homeless. Really, we hang our heads in shame when we claim that we are the largest democracy in the world. So, the target group must be first identified both in the urban and rural areas. The poorest of the poor must be provided with shelter first of all. So long as there is one homeless, the Government money should not be spent for other purposes. Thus, for providing a shelter to the homeless, this should be the policy of the nation.

13. 00 hrs.

Housing problem is not a separate entity. It is one of the so many basic problems of the Indian economy. The poor had been deprived of the fruits of economic development. Only a few have been enjoying the privileges. The scope of enjoyment has been further widened by the liberalisation policy. The National Housing Policy Document has not underscored the very importance of distinctly upholding the principle of eradication of homelessness on a war-footing. So, I cannot agree with a national policy which does not give topmost priority to a problem which needs immediate attention. I cannot glorify myself for sharing a deck which is engaged in giving more and more to those who have, at the cost of those who have not. The dimension of the homelessness is so wide that at the end of 2000 A.D, there will be 41 million people who will be totally homeless in India. In this connection, I would draw the attention of the Government to Article 25 (1) of the Universal Declaration of Rights, 1948. That Article recognises that everyone has the right to certain standard of living including food, clothing and housing.

This right to adequate housing finds its acceptance in Article 5 (e) of the International Covenant on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the UN Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, 1975.

On the basis of these Universal Declarations of Right to Housing, we demand that the right to housing must be declared as a Fundamental Right like the right to speak, right to religion, etc.

Besides providing houses to the homeless, the problem of providing houses to the economically weaker sections, low income groups and middle class people should be carefully tackled. For this purpose, flow of finances should be tactfully managed. Here, both the Governments- Central and State- should have a coordinated and integrated approach. Government is the major player in this field. But records show that the Government spends only two per cent of the GNP for housing. This is unsatisfactory. The spending by the Government should be increased.

As regards other agencies, who provide finances for housing purposes, their role is not encouraging. According to experts, only ten per cent of the houses that are built are financed by financial institutions. 90 per cent of the houses are built from out of the borrowings and savings. In rural areas, 5.18 per cent of finance comes from formal financial agencies; 42.57 per cent comes from savings; 9.36 per cent from borrowings from friends and relatives; and 22.03 per cent from other sources.

In providing finances, the Central Government should decrease the rate of interest; and easy methods of providing finances should be evolved and that should be given effect to. The States should be helped.

Approval of National

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Sudhir Giri, you may remember that hon. Speaker has just expressed his desire that the speeches should be brief.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: I am going to just conclude.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Kindly conclude, please.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Sir, the States should be helped because this is a State subject. The States are heavily burdened. The States would definitely spend for housing purpose. But, the total expenditure must be shared by the Central and the State Governments. Three-fourths of the total expenditure in this regard should be shared by the Central Government.

Now, I come to IRDP programme. These programmes are there in order to provide housing facilities to the poor. Indira Avas Yojana also has a provision for providing houses to the rural people, the rural poor. But these are meant for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. It is a fact that in other castes also, there are poorest of the poor and they should also be provided with the benefits of this provision.

Under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, there is a provision of Rs.1,600 in plain areas and Rs.2,100 in the hilly areas as grant. This is not enough. This should be increased.

Financial institutions should be instructed to provide finance under certain regulations. The promoters should be allowed only on certain criteria. In Calcutta or in major cities, the promoters are being encouraged. They do come forward to build houses. But they are guided by the profit motive. This should be controlled.

Cooperatives and private entrepreneurs should be encouraged. Under the rules, their profit motive should be decreased.

Housing means not only houses but all amenities required for the housing. So provision of houses in rural areas should be accompanied by sanitation, kitchen, drinking water, etc. Slums in the urban areas should be provided with sanitation facilities. The poorest of the poor live in slum areas. They do not get sanitation facilities. They should be provided these facilities. The drainage system should be there. Due to lack of drainage system in the slum areas, the poor people are very much distressed, particularly during the rainy season.

Jhuggi and Jhonpri colonies are being created near the big cities. These colonies should be tackled in such a way that the minimum necessities of their life can be met.

For housing purposes, land is a major factor. There is the Land Acquisition Act. But certain provisions of this Act are not encouraging at all. The provisions of the Land Acquisition Act should be suitably amended. In the Standing Committee, this proposal had also been discussed. I think, the Government will come forward to suitably amend the provisions of this Act so that land could be acquired for the purpose of housing.

Now I come to valuation and land market management. In the land market management, there is speculation. Speculative forces are increasing the value of land required for housing purposes. I think, because of this, legal hurdles do come up. Those problems should also be tackled.

While concluding, I would say that there has been a proposal about low-cost housing. If low-cost houses mean low-quality and

*Approval of National Housing Policy**Postponement of the sitting of the House for want of quorum
Announcement by Speaker*

substandard houses and if those substandard houses are meant for the poor people, that should not be done. The poorest people are also human beings. They should be treated at par with other people. So, only the lowest quality or substandard houses should not be given to them.

The Government should establish more technological centres so that research and development programmes can be undertaken and low-cost housing facilities could be provided to the rural poor—the rural masses.

Now I will say a word about HUDCO. There are tremendous financial irregularities prevailing in the HUDCO. The Government should set up a machinery to go into the details of the financial irregularities which have been reported in different places. That should be taken up immediately.

I will say that all these things can be met if there is a strong will on the part of the Government. I think, since Independence, the Government did not have such a will. That should be emphasised. I earnestly solicit the Government to change its attitude towards the poorest of the poor and bring forward suitable legislation and measures for solving the housing problems.

[Translation]

KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA (Mayurbhanj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the National Housing Policy brought by the Government and would like to submit a few words. The policy of our Government is to uplift the poor. Therefore, it is ready to implement the National Housing Policy immediately. I, therefore, would like to congratulate both the Government and the Ministry for it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may

continue your speech after lunch break.

13. 10 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Ten Minutes past fourteen of the Clock.

At 14.10 hours quorum bell was rung. No quorum was made. At 14.13 hours quorum bell was rung again and no quorum was made. At 14.16 hours again quorum bell was rung and no quorum was made. Thereafter, the Secretary-General made the following announcement.

14. 20 hrs.

Announcement re: Postponement of the sitting of the House upto Forty Minutes past Fourteen of the clock for want of quorum.

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : There is no quorum. The House, therefore, cannot meet; and we may not start the House till there is quorum. Hon. Speaker has directed that the House should re-assemble at forty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14. 43 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at forty-three minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the chair]

ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER

Non-acceptance of resignations of the Members of the Legislative Committees.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members. I have

to make one short announcement. The resignation given by the Members of the Legislative Committees are not accepted. We request them to participate in the proceedings of the Committees.

SHR RANGARAJAN KUMARA MANGALAM (Salem): We join you, Sir.

MAJ. GEN.(RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal): We will abide by your decision, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Right.

14. 44 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE : APPROVAL OF
 NATIONAL HOUSING POLICY—
 CONTD.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kumari Sushila Tiriya to continue.

[*Translation*]

KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA (Mayurbhanj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Housing Policy. I support the resolution of Housing Policy and would like to thank the Housing Ministry. Earlier also, I had said that the policy of the Congress Party had been to uplift the poor and the downtrodden and to provide more and more facilities to the countrymen. Although this Housing Policy was presented in the House in 1992, yet I would like to thank

the Ministry for taking a swift action on it and for implementing it. Besides it, I would like to put emphasis on one or two things.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the year 1987 was declared as *Shelter for the Homeless Year* at international level. I think that in rural areas 18.8 million houses and in urban areas 5.9 million houses were required at that time. If an assessment is done on the basis of the new National Housing Policy, we will need 25.5 million houses in rural areas and 15.5 million houses in urban areas by the year 2001. My submission is that how this policy will be implemented and a house each will be provided to every person in the wake of the fast growing population. Even then I would like to thank the hon. Minister for bringing the policy, which we all are discussing here. This is the step of our party and it is the duty of the Government to provide houses to the people.

I support the Housing Policy and in this regard I would like to draw your attention towards one or two facts. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the minimum requirements in the houses available today.

I hail from Orissa. In Bhubaneswar, the Government has built houses but the facilities of drinking water, electricity, sanitation and sewerage have not been provided there. If a house lacks these basic amenities, it is not worth living. Whenever the Government proposes to implement this housing policy, these things should be kept in mind. Simultaneously, the concerned authorities should also be briefed about this.

There is no drinking water facility in the houses built by the Government in

Bhubaneswar. However, today almost all the cities are facing the same problem. The people are compelled to drink dirty water. Even in Delhi, it is often observed that worms are found in the tap-water. I would like to suggest that whenever the Government builds the houses, it should also instal water- filters of the latest technology in these houses so that at least every strata of people could drink clean water.

A few days back when I came to Delhi, a large number of people from Orissa and Bihar came to see me. These people come here in search of a job or a vocation or studies. However, the biggest problem for these people, particularly the students is to find an accommodation for themselves. I would, therefore, request that low-cost houses should be built for those people who come from outside in search of employment and hostel facility should be provided to the students in the city. The people of our State mostly go to other places for work. When we talk to these people, they tell that they are facing the problem of a house to live in. Simultaneously, they also complain of the problem of sewerage, drinking water and lavatory. The people living in slums are required to cook food by burning coal. The smoke emitted by coal not only increases pollution but also causes various eye ailments. I would like to state that these people should be provided lavatory facilities on the lines of facilities available in NOIDA. When they met me what they said was as follows:

"Apke Shahar Mein Aye to Gaon se
Bhi Gaye,
Makan Ki Aas Mein Pedon Ki Chhaon
Se Bhi Gaye."

Now, after losing their native place, they have come to this big city but here, they could not get a house to live in. Even if they go back to their village, they would not get anything there. Therefore, proper arrangement for their housing should be made.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government has pursued a policy of large scale demolitions. What happened around Jama Masjid in Delhi, is a pointer to that direction. Bhubneshwar, Bhopal and several other big cities have also witnessed the same situation. Even if a big building comes in its way, it is demolished. It is a matter of great concern. At least a notice should be served to rehabilitate the displaced persons.

Sir, HUDCO is engaged in construction of houses in big cities but such schemes are not implemented in villages. I would submit that HUDCO should also undertake construction of houses in the areas inhabited by the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes. Under such a scheme, these people should be given a concession of 25 to 30 per cent. So far as Indira Awas Yojana is concerned, it is true that these houses are no more worth living. If the houses are constructed in a proper manner, the people belonging to poorer sections, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes could be benefited. The material used in the houses constructed by DDA in Delhi and GDA in Ghaziabad is of sub-standard quality and that is why such houses get collapsed even before allotment. The officers found responsible for such lapses should be dealt with severely so that the houses are

constructed in proper manner in future. So far as the rules for allotment of houses are concerned, there should be separate quota for women, Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes. The interests of these people should be taken care of at the time of allotment of the houses and efforts should also be made to fulfill their needs. Such schemes should not remain only on paper. With these words, I conclude and thank you.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. The discussion on the National Housing Policy has been going on for a long time and my honourable friends have already gone into this issue in detail. However, it is true that as suggested by United Nations and concern expressed by the people on this problem, the Government took steps in this direction and prepared a draft of the National Housing Policy.

It is unfortunate that half of the population of this country is living below poverty line. I fail to understand as to why any scheme has not been included in this housing policy for such people. I think that the schemes which are being implemented now are meant for only 25 per cent people of the society. The National Housing Policy should be viewed in a broad perspective. Two-third population of India live in villages. Today, these people are migrating towards cities. As a result, the problem of houses in the cities is becoming more and more complicated. We have before us the problem of houses both in the cities and villages. I would like to know as to how many villages have been developed as model villages in the country? I would also like to know whether any procedure has been adopted by which the people of the villages could be stopped

from rushing towards cities and new slums in cities do not come up?

It is a matter of great concern that unauthorised construction is on the increase in the cities and the number of such companies is constantly increasing which are luring the public and creating such an atmosphere from which it seems that it will not be possible to develop the cities in a systematic way. We all are well aware about the conditions prevalent in the villages. Even after 47 years of independence, if one goes to a village, one does not find that the villages are being developed as model villages or any model is being prepared for them. Even today the villages lack the facilities of drainage and link-roads. I mean to say that even today the villages are not getting any facilities so that these could be developed in a proper manner and the influx of the people from villages to cities could be checked and this problem could be solved properly.

It is true that today three crore people need houses and after 10 years, we will have to provide houses to four crore people. After going through this policy, I do not understand how we would be able to provide houses to such a large number of people? Further, what type of facility we are going to provide to the poor living below poverty line?

14. 58 hrs.

[PROF. RITA VERMA *in the Chair*]

Madam Chairman, you are welcome.

I would like to know that how much more facilities you are going to provide to the poorer section of the society through National Housing Policy. I understand that in this policy, there is no provision for the 50

per cent of the society which could indicate that we are doing something in the direction of ameliorating their lot. How could those people whose income is less than twelve thousand rupees per annum, build their houses as the prices of cement, iron-bars and bricks have skyrocketed. These have gone out of their reach and purchasing power. In such a situation, they cannot even think of constructing houses. On the other hand, unauthorised construction in the cities is increasing rapidly and no steps have been taken to check it.

I would not like to go in detail but would like to have clear information in certain matters from the Hon. Minister sitting here. Today, under Urban Ceiling Act, the people living in the cities and adjoining villages are being affected adversely. I hail from Uttar Pradesh and this Act is being implemented there in 15 districts and as a result of which, the farmers are suffering like any thing. A new class of land-mafia has emerged there and it has taken possession of their land. In this way, they are exploiting the poor and the farmers. I think that there is a need to ponder over the Urban Ceiling Act to see as to what amendment should be made in this Act. Another point linked with this is that there is also a need to amend the Registration Act. In our four metropolitan cities, registration of any part of the country can be done. As a result, many irregularities are being committed and the common man is suffering the most. The Government should think over it and issue directions that such kind of registration should not be done in metro- cities.

15. 00 hrs.

Madam Chairman, there is also a need to amend Rent Control Act. Now a days such an impression is descending on the minds of the people that foolish persons

build houses and the wise men live in them on rent. Therefore, unless necessary changes are carried out in this Act widely and in true perspective, after consideration the Government would not be able to resolve the housing problem of the country.

Madam Chairman, more than half of the population of the country live below the poverty line and the people from the villages come to the cities in search of their livelihood. Unless migration of people from the villages to cities is checked, the problems will remain unresolved. In this connection, it is necessary that basic amenities are made available in the villages. It is only then that we will be able to succeed in this task and raise the standard of living of the common man.

Madam Chairman, through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister that though the draft of the Housing Policy is good, yet how long would it take to make the dream of the common man, the poor and the landless come true? When will they be able to own a house? Until and unless this issue is considered and their dream fulfilled, we will not be able to move in the right direction.

Madam Chairman, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): Madam, I express my deep sense of gratitude for the valuable suggestions made by Hon. Members of this House from both sides of the floor. I appreciate the critical but constructive comments of my friends from other side of the floor who have now joined us in discussing the National Housing Policy.

At the very outset, let me assure all the Hon. Members of this House that the National

Housing Policy document as placed before this august House is a product of ideas both at the national and state levels. We have discussed this policy in the parliamentary committee on Rural and Urban Development and incorporated all the constructive suggestions such as adoption of W.H.O norms, adoption of positive approach by Reserve Bank to improve the flow of resources that would make this policy document more effective and meaningful.

This document is a compendium of our objectives and the guidelines that we have set for ourselves to achieve these objectives. We have recognised the 14 elements of our housing policy, that will help us to achieve the goals set therein and thereby enable us to reach our objectives which are as under:

Housing norms, WHO guidelines for ensuring safety of the occupants,

Rural Housing. We are concerned for the majority population who live in the rural areas,

Slums and squatter settlements and housing for urban poor,

Supply and management of land,

Infrastructure like sewerage, water supply, roads, garbage,

Conservation of housing stock and rental housing by amending the Rent Control Act,

Housing finance by giving refinance facilities to housing finance institutions,

Building material and technology which will promote affordable and appropriate technology,

Special programmes for disadvantaged groups like all schemes for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, aged and women,

Role of Government, private sector and the community, the role is focussed for E W S, S T and S C,

Fiscal policy like giving excise concessions on alternative low-cost building material,

Legal and regulatory framework like amendments of Urban Land Ceiling Act, Rent Control Act, and Promulgation of Apartment Ownership Act, and

Human resource development by training through building centres also called Nirmati Kendras which are about 160

Action Plan for all these, is the base foundation on which the whole policy rests.

Hon. Members, I think you will be satisfied with all that we have taken up. I am really happy to say that hon. Members of this House have raised points on each of the 14 elements and though it may not be possible for me to individually reply to your valuable suggestions, I will highlight some of the broad issues that were stressed by various members during the course of their speeches. Mention was made of slums and squatter settlements and housing for the economically weaker sections.

When we talk of Government becoming a facilitator in the development of a housing market, we are not abandoning the interests of the economically weaker sections living in the urban areas. We fully recognise that market forces will have to be regulated to the extent that the accessibility and affordability of economically weaker sections is not compromised. We have unequivocally

stated that we shall avoid forceful relocation or dishousing slum dwellers. We encourage in situ upgradation of slums, renovation and progressive housing development with conferment of occupancy rights wherever feasible.

This was mentioned even in the Rajya Sabha and they said that the occupancy rights should be given to the people and we also believe in it.

We have specifically provided for the housing of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes wherein developed land and housing units in rural and urban areas are allotted to such families in proportion to their composition in the population.

We are as much concerned about the rural housing as the hon. Members are.

Since the majority of the population in the rural areas either belongs to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes category or falls below poverty line, the Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing a scheme for providing affordable housing to them. The scope of the Indira Awas Yojana for the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe and free bonded labourers in rural areas which was in operation in the Sixth Five Year Plan has since been extended to non-Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe rural poor. Initially there were complaints of poor quality construction. Upto March 1994 about 16.94 houses have been constructed under the Indira Awas Yojana with an expenditure of Rs.1.95 crore.

Another new centrally sponsored scheme has been launched under which assistance for sites and services in rural areas will be provided. An outlay of Rs.350 crore has been provided for the Eighth Plan.

There have been some references to the hurdles experienced in the application of the Urban Land Ceiling Act. All these come under legal and regulatory framework.

What I am going to say now is very important for each one of us, all those who own a house. It is very important.

We have already circulated a Model Rent Control Act that balances the interests of both landlords and tenants and facilitates rental housing in the market. There are also provisions for eviction of tenants under limited or long term tenancy to enable resumption of possession by the landlord in stipulated circumstances, with summary procedures for certain vulnerable groups, for example Government employees, retiring Army personnel and widows and the aged.

The Urban Land Ceiling Act is engaging our attention and we will be in a position to present before this House a modified Act which will do away with some of the hurdles as they exist now. The Government has also enacted a model Apartment Ownership Act that provides for protection of the interests of the apartment owners and also enables them to form associations for maintenance and upkeep of their apartments. A model regulatory act for builders and estate developers has also been circulated to all the State Governments to protect the consumers from indiscriminate exploitation of unscrupulous builders. Amendment to the National Housing Bank Act to provide for speedy foreclosure of mortgages is under active consideration of the Government. The question of streamlining the procedures by having a single window on the registrations and rationalising the stamp duty is also under active consideration.

I want to say that resource is our major

constraint.

A number of Members have drawn my attention to the inadequacy of resources for provision of houses and the infrastructure to start such a housing. I need not emphasise before this House the importance of managing our finances well to maximise investments in housing and infrastructure. To make housing affordable, we are encouraging house of cheap alternative non expensive building materials. To make finances accessible to the needy, we are providing refinance through RBI and NHB to 19 financial institutions. We encourage housing finance institutions to raise funds from the market through taxable and non taxable bonds but at the same time we ensure that the rate of interest for EWS and LIG is cross subsidised. In the new National Housing Policy, we have envisaged involvement of private developers in land development, construction and infrastructure provision with adequate safeguards to protect the consumers. Thus we will be able to augment Government efforts with private sector resources. We have directed all commercial banks to lend upto 1.5 per cent of their incremental deposits for housing finance loans. This is an increase of one per cent. The formal sector institutional finances in the Eighth Five Year Plan has been targeted at Rs.25,000 crores which is a considerable step up over the previous plans. The new housing policy proposes to evolve elastic resource mobilisation strategy to tap household savings in the formal and informal sectors. We also envisage tapping of annual provident fund accumulation and resource of insurance sector.

I have noticed that nearly all the Members who spoke drew our attention to the plight of small and medium towns which are actually transition areas from rural to urban economy. While there is a distinct

increase in urbanisation over the years, it is the conscious concern and effort of the Ministry of Urban Development to reduce the influx to metropolitan and mega cities. This has done through a strategy of development of small and medium towns. The Nehru Rozgar Yojana for urban poverty alleviation is predominantly directed to small and medium towns through SHASU (Scheme of Housing and Shelter Upgradation), SUME (Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises) and also ILCS (Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Schemes).

We are concerned about the rising cost of conventional materials like cement, steel and bricks.

In order to encourage us as well as production of alternate construction materials, we are providing a number of fiscal incentives by way of excise concessions to manufacturers of materials based on industrial waste like phosphogypsum, flyash and agricultural wastes. We realise the importance of indigenous local specific resources.

When Shri Manmohan Singh was making his Budget Speech, you will recall that he made a lot of concessions for us.

Through a network of 150 building centres, we are encouraging research and development of alternate and appropriate technologies based on local materials. India is a vast country and our agro-climatic zone requires a distinct and specific technology.

I value the suggestions made by the hon. Members and have noted them down for consideration.

[Translation]

But some hon./Eble Members have

raised such points and problems before us which are related to the States. For example, Sushilaji has said that construction of Ghaziabad flats is of inferior quality. This problem relates to the Ghaziabad Development Authority or to the Uttar Pradesh Government and they will deal with them. Similarly, some other cases have also been referred to. One Hon'ble Member has raised an issue of allotment of a house to some one in Badaun and the Government should do something for this. We cannot interfere in such matters. Even if we may like to do something, we cannot do. If we do something, that will be termed as interference in the States jurisdiction. Therefore, it will be better if they write to the Chief Minister or the D.M. in this regard. These points cannot be raised at national level.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): You may please circulate these things to the honorable Member so that he does not face such problems in future.

[English]

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: I respect Shri Amal Datta for his constructive criticism but would like to submit that strategies do not have a time frame but are a continuous process. The National Housing Policy is such a strategy. The fourteen elements of housing policy have a time frame.

I may finally add that it is the implementation that will eventually decide how good a policy this is, and towards this, I request the assistance of all the Members of Parliament. It is they who alone would create awareness at the local level.

[Translation]

Madam, In due course of time, the

needs of our country will increase and we will change our National Housing Policy with your consent.

These are some of the points which I have submitted before you and I hope that you will give your consent to them.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the Resolution.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Madam Chairman, I am on a point of order....(Interruptions)..... you please run the House according to rules. It cannot go on like this (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your Point of Order?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: My point of order is as to what is the business before the House for the next fifteen minutes. The Honorable Minister has finished her speech fifteen minutes earlier..... (Interruptions).....

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is no point of order.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): I have got to move a Bill for consideration now..... (Interruptions). My Bill starts now. Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill is the next item on the agenda.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: It will not continue after 3.30 p.m.

[English]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: After 3.30 p.m., let the Chair decide the next date. It can continue on Monday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the Resolution to the vote of the House. The question is:

"That this House approves the National Housing Policy, laid on the Table of the House on the 9th July, 1992."

The motion was adopted.

15. 19 hrs.

MOTOR VEHICLES (AMENDMENT) BILL

As passed by Rajya Sabha

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up the next item— Shri Jagdish Tytler to move that the Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): Madam Chairman, before I move the motion for consideration of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 1994, as passed by Rajya Sabha on 11th August, 1994, I would like to draw the attention of the House that Clause 51 of the Bill partly involves expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India and so it should have been typed in thick type or in italics. Inadvertently, the same has not been done.

Madam, with your permission, I would like to say a few words about the proposed amendments before I move the Motion for consideration of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 1994 by this House.

The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (No.59 of 1988), a Central Act, consolidates and rationalises various laws regulating Road Transport in the country. The Act was framed with a view to revise the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (No.4 of 1939). After the coming into force of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, Government received a number of representations/suggestions from the State Governments, transport operators and members of public regarding inconvenience faced by them while implementing provisions of the new Act/Rules framed thereunder. To examine and review the entire Act in the light of these representations, a Review Committee was constituted by the Government. Recommendations of the Review Committee were examined in consultation with the State Governments. The Government also considered the number of representations received from the trade sector and the public regarding making of additional provisions in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, which were received much after finalisation of the report of the Committee.

The Bill now before the House has been prepared keeping in view the recommendations of the Review Committee as also other suggestions. Some of the important provisions of the Bill provide for the following:-

- (i) modification and amplification of certain definitions of new type of vehicles;
- (ii) simplification of procedure for grant of driving licences;

- (iii) putting restrictions on the alteration of vehicles;
- (iv) certain exemptions for vehicles running on non-polluting fuels;
- (v) ceiling on individuals or company for holding permits removed to curb benami holdings;
- (vi) States authorised to appoint one or more State Transport Appellate Tribunals;
- (vii) increase in the amount of compensation to the victims of hit and run cases; and
- (viii) removal of time limit for filing of applications by road accident victims for compensation.

The Law Commission in its 119th Report had recommended to amend the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act so as to provide therein that every application for a claim be made to the Claims Tribunal having jurisdiction over the area in which the accident occurred or the Claims Tribunal within the local limits of whose jurisdiction the claimant resides or carries on business or within the local limits of whose jurisdiction the defendant resides, at the option of the claimant. This recommendation of the Law Commission has been accepted and the Bill also seeks to make necessary amendments based on this recommendation of the Law Commission.

The Bill also seeks to provide for a new pre-determined formula for payment of compensation to road accident victims on the basis of age/income. In case of the pre-determined formula introduced in the new Bill, the claimant shall not be required to plead or establish that the death or the permanent disability was due to any wrongful

act or neglect or default of the owner of the vehicle. The Central Government has also been given powers to amend the schedule indicating the rate of compensation from time to time. It is expected that with this provision not only the road accident victims would be appropriately and expeditiously compensated but there would be a substantial reduction in the pendency of cases with the Motor Accidents Claims Tribunals.

The Bill has already been passed by the Rajya Sabha on 11.8.1994.

With these words, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN (Amroha): Madam Chairman, the hon'ble Minister is moving the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 1994, which is an amendment to the Motor Vehicles Act of 1988. I welcome this but at the same time I would like to say that this Bill has been brought very late. Due to this delay, a large number of people have been killed on the roads and others have suffered a lot, as number of cases have been pending in the courts and there has been no hearing on them. The number of vehicles is increasing day by day and rules and regulations are not being adhered to. It is high time that something is done to check this tendency.

Madam Chairman, according to the statistics, 60,000 people were killed in the road accidents in the country in 1993. Thousands of cases are pending in the courts. The problems relating to vehicles and traffic are increasing day by day. Urbanization is the main reason for this. Because of the facilities available in the cities, villagers are coming towards cities. The facilities of education, health, employment and transport are available in the cities and due to these facilities people are coming towards cities resulting in their being crowded—be it a Town, Tehsil, District or a Metropolitan city. All this has led to traffic problems in the urban areas. It has, therefore, become very necessary to control this traffic chaos. Due to increase in the population also, the congestion and traffic has been on the increase. The population is increasing in every city. Therefore, we will have to think seriously about this.

As I have said, 60,000 people have been killed and loss of property worth Rs. 2000 crore has been incurred. The time has come when it has become necessary to save life and property for which rules should be framed and action should be taken accordingly.

There are several reasons of loss of life and property in road accidents but the main reason is lack of training among drivers. I urge upon the hon'ble Minister that one chapter of traffic sense should necessarily be included in civics so that people can get education regarding traffic rules etc. in their childhood itself. Until we do this, the violation of traffic rules will continue to take place.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chauhan, now it is 3.30 p.m. It is the time for private business. So, you will continue later.

15. 28 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Thirty-Fifth Report

[English]

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur):
beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-Fifth Report of the Committee on Private Members/E Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 17th August, 1994."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-fifth Report of the Committee on Private Members/E Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 17th August, 1994."

The motion was adopted.

15. 29 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: ENLARGEMENT OF FUNCTIONS OF NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES— *Contd.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we take up further discussion on the Resolution moved by Shri R. Anbarasu.

Shri P.C.Chacko — Not present

Dr. S.P. Yadav — Not present

Shri Ram Vilas Paswan

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the resolution presented by Shri Anbarasu. I am pained to notice that the Government is not serious about the problems of the backward classes despite the fact that these have been discussed in this House time and again. At the time of independence, the first and foremost issue before the country was whether the reins of administration would be assumed by a few people or it would be controlled by the common people and it was after prolonged deliberations that the principle of *one man one vote* was established. Not only the one man-one vote principle was adopted but every body's vote had the same value also and it was agreed that democracy means democracy for all sections of society and their lot would be improved. I have many times said that there is no dearth of Acts in this country but there is a lot of differences between Act and fact; there are many leaders but we are lacking the will. This holds good even today. Yesterday, backward classes students had come here. They blocked the road and courted arrest. I also went there and courted arrest. We have also raised this question in the Parliament many a times and the mover of the resolution has rightly said that we should discuss this issue raising above party politics. It will not be good for future if party politics is involved in discussing this issue because the direction in which the country is going today will, ultimately lead to a majority rule. The exploited class cannot be exploited for too long. Therefore, there are two ways to end this practice. One is the way of Parliamentary democracy and the other way starts where Parliamentary democracy ends. Some people dub Parliament as a Debating society. No problem is solved here. Sometimes, we also feel the futility of what we are doing here.

I have been a Member of this Parliament since 1977. I have won elections with a record highest margin not only in India but in the world.

At that time Chaudhary Charan Singh ji was the Home Minister. That time, the Congress had not won elections in Northern India. Our Parliamentary delegation had visited Belachhi. As Janata Party was in power here, responsibility lied on us to see that justice was done. We had brought the ashes of the people killed in that incident and raised the issue in the Parliament vehemently. Today's situation is no different from the one prevailing at that time. Today also women are raped and stripped. The downtrodden are being murdered even today.

Madam Chairman, the reservation quota of Class-I officers for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been raised from 7-8 percent to 9 or 9.5 percent after 47 years of independence. According to the Mandal Commission report, there are 52 percent backward class people but only 4 percent of them are in Government service. Members from Delhi are sitting here. Gujjars and Yadavs are the original people of Delhi but today they are downtrodden and backward class people and are working here as bonded labourers and to the migrants whom Government gave relief and subsequently granted reservation are today, in power in Delhi whereas the original people of Delhi are begging for their livelihood. They constitute 70-80 per cent of the population.

You are aware that the Mandal Commission report was submitted in 1980 but was consigned to the dust-bin. When in 1989, Janata Dal Government took over, it worked towards implementing that report.

Four years have passed since 1990 but the list of backward class people has not been formulated in Delhi till date. Such people have not been identified. Madam Chairman, there are three types of states—one where the list of backward class people has been formulated, then, those states where such people have been identified but not notified. The Central Government has not issued any notification with regard to West Bengal and Orissa. Same is the case of Rajasthan. But in Delhi, no identification has taken place. There is a conspiracy of eliminating the backward class people who are ready to fight for their cause over here. I can level a direct charge against the Delhi Government that Gujjars, Yadavs and Sainis are being kept out of the purview of such list being formulated for Delhi. As a result, only 12 percent people qualified UPSC exams. You are making such laws as would pave way for their elimination. Most of the leaders who took part in freedom struggle had studied abroad. Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru was one of them. Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Lohia and Jai Prakash Narain had also studied abroad. Subhash Chandra Bose had torn apart the ICS degree. Those who visit abroad are able to differentiate between slavery and independence. Similarly, the educated and advanced backward and Scheduled Caste people can appreciate how they were made slaves for thousands of years. They start fighting for this cause and you sideline them in the name of creamy layer. The people kept in the backward list can neither fight nor have any awareness. Consequently, there is a conspiracy of propagating the rule of those handful of people who have been ruling this country for long.

During our Government, we had issued a notification enumerating four things. There was the Ministry of Welfare which is headed by Shri Sita Ram Kesri today. Probably, he is not feeling well and has not been able to

come here. We provided in our notification that besides the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, 27 per cent reservation should be given to backward people also. Secondly, we asked not to enforce the decision of the court about creamy layer for at least next 10 years and extend reservation facility to all the rich and the poor belonging to backward classes, whosoever qualified because enforcement of creamy layer will hinder the success rate which is only 12 per cent at present. There should be no creamy layer provision until 27 per cent quota is filled up completely. Thirdly, we stated that if a candidate belonging to reserved categories qualified under the General list or merit list, he should be kept out of the purview of reservation. Fourthly, we said that it was our first phase and reservation is not everything Mandal Commission is about. Who are the people that control the lands, the factories, licence, quota and permits? Housing Policy was being discussed here. Can anybody show me in Delhi a tribal who has constructed a two-three storey house with his own resources. Leave Delhi aside, show me such an example in Ranchi, Bokaro or Jamshedpur even.

Our friend, Shri Bhuriaji comes from a tribal belt in Madhya Pradesh and is aware how lands of tribals were grabbed in his area and multistorey buildings constructed on their lands. No house for any tribal has been constructed so far. You get flared up if he makes some demand today. What option is he left with?

Our friend, Shri Rajesh Pilot is dealing with the Bodo problem. We, too, dealt with that but first we should understand what their real problem is. I have said here many times that we want to kill mosquitoes but are unwilling to clean the dirty drains and unless

the drains are cleaned, we cannot get rid of mosquitoes even if we spray DDT or do anything else.

With regard to today's resolution before us, I think that the intention of the Government seems to be malafide. Were it having a bonafide intention, the list could have been formulated within 2-5 hours in a joint meeting of Delhi Administration and the Ministry of Welfare because we were not to select any foreigners but some castes, some people from amongst the residents of Delhi as recommended and specified by the Mandal Commission for their social and educational development. The Registrar General of India has got full details of it. Gujars and Paswans were considered to be the criminal castes and even on the occasion of a new arrival in their family, the family head was called upon to report to the police station. But, today, even their identification process is delayed, what should we construe from it? Take the case of the Backward Commission. I was looking at the powers and functions of this Commission. It is written there that:-

[English]

"The Commission shall examine the request for inclusion of any class of citizens as a backward class in the list and hear complaints of over-inclusion or under-inclusion of any backward classes in such list and tender such advice to the Central Government as it deems appropriate."

[Translation]

It means that this commission does not have any power. Its only power is to include and exclude the names of castes in the list. When it has been given this sort of work only, why it has been named Backward

Commission. Rather, it should have been called Inclusion-Exclusion Committee.

Madam Chairman, the Chairman of Scheduled Castes Commission and the Chairman of Commission for Women have been given membership of Human Rights Commission, but the Chairman of Backward Commission has not been given that membership. Why is it so? 52 per cent of total population belongs to backward castes. For how long this injustice could be tolerated?

Madam, a few days back, when opposition boycotted the proceedings of the House, hon. Home Minister had made a statement in this House that he was ready to bring a Constitutional amendment on Tamil Nadu issue if opposition gives assurance to sit in the House and cooperate. I, at once contacted my all colleagues and took a decision in the meetings that all the M.Ps belonging to National Front and Left Front would vote in favour of that Constitutional amendment. We would not discuss it. We would only vote and come out. I do not know what happened to the said proposal of the Constitutional amendment after this announcement. Now this amendment is not being brought and it is being said that it is not possible to bring the Constitutional amendment in current session. I would like to know from hon. Rajesh Pilot that by when it is going to be brought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Only he can tell about it.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: If this is the position, why does he speak?

Madam, the issue pertains to Tamil Nadu. When Judgement on Mandal Commission was delivered on the basis of the Constitution, one person moved the

High Court on this issue in October 1993, and later in November 1993 another person moved the Supreme Court. Supreme Court has delivered its judgement on it that more than 50 per cent reservation should be restricted. Although, this matter is related to judiciary and I know and have seen on the record that during debate when one friend of mine was referring judiciary he was interrupted by Shri Bhatia by saying that that matter pertains to judiciary and judiciary should not be dragged out in between. I also agree to it. But who are heading the judiciary. People like you and me form judiciary. Why judiciary has given decision of 69% reservation in Tamil Nadu and 73% reservation in Karnataka and told that it should not exceed 50%. One person has moved the court and asked to maintain the limit of 50%.

Madam, Chairman, all parties such as Janata Dal, D.M.K., C.P.M., C.P.I. etc. convened a meeting on 30.12.93 in which unanimous decision was taken for implementing the decision of 69% reservation in Tamil Nadu. In January, the state Government sent its unanimous decision to the President for getting approval, but approval was accorded in July i.e. after seven months. I would like to know that why it was delayed by seven months while it was a matter to be decided within an hour. There is AIADMK Government in Tamil Nadu, not our, which supports your Congress-I Government. Tamil Nadu Government, immediately issued gazette notification on 19th July under public pressure when it received informations about President's approval for 69% reservation. Thereafter, some people moved the Supreme Court which issued stay orders on this issue and kept it pending.

Madam Chairman, it is a very serious

matter. The Supreme Court has done analysis of the Constitution. Its remedy lies in Constitutional amendment only. People will keep on moving the Supreme Court now and then, if amendment is not brought and court will give the same verdict. We are reminded of various clauses of the Constitution. I have read all the clauses of the Constitution whether it is Article 38 2, 49B, 49C or 46 or Article 16 or 15, the framers of the Constitution had tried their best to empower State Governments. It says that State Governments can provide the desired percentage of reservation for socially and educationally backwards. In Tamil Nadu, the law regarding 69% reservation is already in existence and in Karnataka the Congress Party is ruling where there is 73% reservation and it has been raised to 80%. Recently, Mr. Laloo Prasad Yadav, the Chief Minister of Bihar has made an announcement. If he provides 80% reservation, his friend Jagannath Mishra Would say that such steps are being taken only to fetch votes and are for political mileage. We are here for politics and not for ascetism. People like Ram Vilas Paswan and Rajesh Pilot would not have become Ministers without politics. It is all politics and politics is not a very bad thing. I do not find anything wrong in playing politics in the interest of majority. I will play this type of politics and would like to say that poor has no say in the polity of this country and the task of upliftment of backward classes is not being taken seriously and properly. I would like to know as to whether the people belonging to backward classes are snatching the right of others through this reservation policy? If it is so, I would like to say that reservation should be given according to the population percentage of that caste in the country. They all can work well. Do you think that with more reservation, Tamil Nadu, Meghalaya, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh are not functioning properly?

Today, if people from minorities and backward classes demand reservation they are labelled as communal. If this demand is raised by Sikhs, they will be called communal. In the opinion of these people, all are communal except them. This country cannot progress and become powerful till the so called patriotism remains in the hands of a small class. I demand to provide rights to the people in accordance with their number and percentage in the total population of the country.

What is there now-a-days in forests, where tribals live. They even cannot sell a DATUNE made of tree stems. The tribal people would bring these stems from Ranchi and sell DATUNE at Patna. They have no right over the wood of their forest, where they live. I would like to say that there are two options before us- first is non-violence and the second is of lack in Parliamentary Democracy. I would like to know as to where we are taking this country? Today, 50 years after the Independence, the majority class of the country is begging.

Yesterday the boys staged æChakka JamÆ for getting relaxation in age and later on the Government, the Prime Minister and the Welfare Minister gave assurance to this effect that they would consider the matter for providing five years age relaxation. We repeatedly told the Government to solve this issue before conducting UPSC examinations which were to be held on 26th June. Mr. Devendra Prasad Yadav raised this issue during the last session which was supported by all political parties, but 26th June passed and Preliminary examination was held. UNI report has been published which reveals that only 12 percent students could qualify this examination for which 27 per cent seats were reserved. Why this mockery then?

This matter relates to Scheduled Castes. Since 1991, when I came as an elected Member, I have been raising this issue time and again and everytime Kesariji has been giving assurance to this effect that a Bill on reservation would certainly be brought. What is in this Bill? Till now it follows Governments orders. Why the Government gets frightened from Tamil Nadu Government? It is so because the Tamil Nadu Government wants to convert this G.O. in to an Act as the violation of an Act is punishable but the matter regarding reservation for Scheduled Castes is still confined to G.O. Today officials give argument that candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes are not available, they will say that suitable candidates are not savailable and so on. That is why we have demanded enactment of the law. [Interruptions] There is nothing in carrying forward. You are aware of this fact that one lakh posts under Central Government have been carried forward. Now Government of India has adopted a new formula which says that it is not carry forward but shortfall. If a post has been lying vacant for the last three years, it is taken as carry forward category; rest are lapsed and become shortfall. The Government is not accountable for it. I would like to say that law should be enacted in this regard. This matter relates not only to Central Government but to the State Governments also. State Governments should be monitored properly then only you will know the correct position. Nothing can be achieved in this regard without enacting a Law by the Parliament. Appointments are not made against the reserve posts even when the authority gets a more qualified person than the requirement. The G.O. concerned has no clauses to punish such officials. We have enacted a law in Bihar that the officers, who deliberately dereserve the reserve posts will get imprisonment for three months. Here the Bill has already been prepared and it has

to be presented in this House but that has not been done.

Then the matter relating to reservation in promotion is there. The Supreme court has clearly stated that reservation will continue for the next five years and thereafter this facility will cease. The matter regarding Mandal Commission was before the Supreme Court which had no link with SC/ST but in the course of judgement, decision was given regarding SC/ST. As a result of this decision by the Supreme Court reservation in promotion was stopped. I thank Shri Manmohan Singhji for his immediate action regarding the matter of promotions in Syndicate bank. After lot of hue and cry by the opposition parties, orders were issued by the Welfare Ministry before the last session. The Supreme Court has given this judgement on 16th November 1992. What will happen after five years? The reservation in promotion will automatically be abolished in 1997. The Supreme Court has said that it was an annotation of the Constitution which says that reservation in promotion will not go on beyond five years. Its only remedy is constitutional Amendment. We all are unanimous on this matter, then why the Government is not bringing the amendment. This matter relates to Tamil Nadu. I request you to bring the amendment immediately. For the opposition side, I assure you that it will be passed without any debate. It might happen that some of our colleagues have objection about other states but states where such situation was prevailing before 16th November, I think, no member would have any objection whether they belong to ruling party or the opposition. In respect of Central Government, I would like to know that why this amendment is not being brought? In respect of State Governments, I would like to say that leave it to them, they will enact their own laws. If the matter relates to West

Bengal, Shri Chitta Basu would see to it as to how much per cent is to be fixed. There is Legislative Assembly also but the case of the State Government is pending. If some State Government wants to do any work, it is directed to bring the percentage down from 69 to 50 and Mr. Moily is asked to bring it down from 80 per cent to 50 per cent. This sort of action is being taken in this matter but have you ever thought of its consequences. Tamil Nadu has been the pioneer State in providing social justice. A movement had started in the times of Periyar Ramaswami Naikar and it resulted in making provision for reservation since 1927. Similar agitation is going on in Karnataka. Some days back we had attended a meeting of the followers called *aesharan* of Baseswar ji, who had advocated social justice eight hundred years back, in Bidar. The reservation quota has gone up to 80 percent in Karnataka. The State Government wants to implement it but others will not let them do it. I would like to say only one thing that there is a basic difference between the present and the past generation. The people belonging to the earlier generation tolerated all kinds of atrocities committed on them but the new generation wants to live with honour. They are not ready to be bogged down.

16. 00 hrs.

Merit is nobody's property. The merit of a person in the Union Cabinet belonging to whichever caste is second to none. When we demanded that a person belonging to our community should be made President, it was not accepted. Is the merit of the Vice-President second to anybody? You do not let one touch a cycle and, yet say that he does not know cycling. If you let him touch the cycle, he will learn through trial and error and one day he will be perfect in cycling. I would like to say that if we do not seriously consider the case of backward classes,

then it will have far-reaching consequences. At least we should pass those issues which are non-controversial and on which there is consensus between the ruling party and the opposition.

Madam, I feel that the resolution brought today is not controversial. The backward classes commission should be given the same rights as have been given to SCs/STs Commission, Minority Commission and Women Organisations. It should be ensured that whatever rights have been provided to it, from setting of up 08 educational Institutes to Government jobs, are enjoyed by it.

Madam, this is the new policy of the Government. Dr. Manmohan Singh ji is not present in the House; our colleague Murthy ji is present here. We are boasting of our policy but we view it from our own angle. What facilities have been provided to the people belonging to SCs/STs and backward classes under this new policy of the Government? When it is implemented the poor section of the society will not be able to stand the competition. Now, we can raise this matter in the Parliament as to why the backlog of the reservation quota in the Banks is not being fulfilled? What is the number of officers belonging to Scheduled Castes and backward classes there? But when it is controlled by the Private Sector then who will go and ask them? Now all the public sector undertakings are being transferred to the Private sector and the interests of the poor will not be protected. That is why we demand from the Central Government to ensure that there is provision for reservation for Dalits and people belonging to backward classes in private sector undertakings as well as public sector undertakings.

Madam, according to a judgement given by the Supreme Court, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan is included in the list of those

belonging to Scheduled Castes but on coming to Delhi he will not be considered as a Scheduled Caste. Bhuriaji belongs to a Scheduled Tribe in Madhya Pradesh but when he goes to Bihar he will not be considered such. I want to know how does caste changes as one changes a place? Nowadays, a person may go anywhere but he is known by his caste. I demand that a person belonging to Scheduled Caste, Schedule Tribe or backward class should be treated so wherever he goes in the country and he should be given all the facilities. For that an amendment should also be made in the Constitution.

Madam, in the end I would like to say that these days people move the courts of law for their rights. The governing body of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences provided a reservation of 50 per cent. People are moving courts against the implementation of reservation given under Mandal Commission. But there is no one in the Bench of Judges who belongs to our caste. The recommendation of the Mandal Commission should be implemented in courts also. The Judges, at times, give judgements against SCs/STs as no Judge belonging to Scheduled Castes has been appointed there under Mandal Commission. Why was judge K. Ramamurthy, who belongs to Scheduled Caste not appointed? Judgements are given against them without hearing them. The appointment of Judges should be such as would reflect the representation of every caste, every community. If it is not done then the only way-out is Parliament. A judgement was given by Allahabad High Court against the people belonging to Scheduled Castes by denegrating them. Similarly a judgement was given by Gujarat High Court against the Dalits. We have seen such cases under Mandal Commission. The same thing is happening with the list of SCs/STs. I urge upon the Government to introduce a

Constitution amendment bill for including all its reservation enactments in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution. This way nobody would be able to move the court. The people belonging to SCs/STs will be deprived of justice till the people continue to move the courts. Earlier, it was being said that the purpose of setting up of Mandal Commission would be defeated if a reservation was not provided in educational institutions. Reservation was finally provided in educational institutions but now efforts are being made to do away with it. Our first demand is to include all the clauses regarding reservation in 9th Schedule of the Constitution. Secondly, a constitution amendment should be brought to scrap the ceiling of 50 percent reservation. You may leave this matter to the State Government. You may have reservation of 27 percent and 22.5 percent for SCs/STs in the Central Government. Bhuraji may be aware that the population of SCs/STs constitutes 25 percent of the total population as per 1991 census. Now, the reserved quota should also be increased commensurate with the increase in their population.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted has passed. But in view of the importance of the topic, I think, the House would agree to extend the time for discussion of this subject for two more hours.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: As I was saying that the rights provided by Mandal Commission should be included in the 9th Schedule of the constitution and the work to fulfil the backlog should be undertaken. An act should be passed in parliament to fulfil

the backlog. The directions should be issued to those states which have yet to issue a list of SCs/STs and OBCs. For example, the same condition is prevailing in Delhi and Haryana. I do not know whether gujars and yadavs have been included in this list. An hon. member is saying that it has not been included since the government fears that if they are included in the list then they will have hold everywhere therefore, it is deliberate attempt.

The ceiling of 50 percent in case of reservation should be abolished and this matter should be left to the State Governments. Likewise, reservation should be made in private sector also. Similarly, if a person is covered in the list of Scs and Sts in a State, he should be given this right even if he moves to any other part of the country.

The SCs and STs Commission has been set up but its officials are not working. This Commission had been given sufficient powers but these powers have not been adequately used. In spite of grave incidents of Chuder and Kumher, the Commission has not paid a visit there. We do not blame the Government for it but we urge upon the Government that the National Commission for the Backward Classes should be brought at par with the Scs and Sts Commission, Women Commission and Minorities Commission. The Government claims that it also enjoys the power under the Commission of Enquiry. This Commission has the right to include a caste and to summon an officer but it does not have the power to deal with the cases of atrocities or the Constitutional issues. Please grant this power to it so that it may function properly. Unless this is done, the problem will not be solved nor will an eyewitness serve the purpose.

Earlier the people belonging to SCs used to be abused and it was said of them

that those who are enjoying the benefits of reservation are incompetent. An attempt was also made to prove that we were worthless. Although we may not be among the superiors yet we are second to none. Had the reins of power been in our hands we would not have let the country be ruined. Therefore, my submission is that such things should be pondered over seriously and due share in the reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs should be ensured. We are sorry to say that the Prime Minister of our country said a lot about Kashmir on 15th August, the Independence Day, since he cannot say anything about USA. Alright, speak on Kashmir, but not a single word was uttered about the 52 per cent Backward and 25 per cent downtrodden people of the country. Babri Masjid was demolished and he did not utter a single word about it from ramparts of the Red Fort. Nothing was said about corruption. This is an indicator of the guilty conscious. 52 per cent of the population of this country constitutes of Backwards, 25 per cent of the Dalits and 14 per cent of the Muslims. They thus constitute 91 per cent of the total population. The ruling party cannot run the Government for long if it ignores and neglects 91 per cent of the population. The rule of one person, *sia*. Now there is no Soviet Union. That is why these things are now happening.

The entire House is unanimous in expressing deep concern over the actions our neighbouring country is indulging in. This should be stopped immediately. Therefore, effective steps should be taken by the Government of India and, Sir, if necessary, a statement also, after ascertaining all these things, can be made in the House by the Minister concerned.

SHRISUDHIR SAWANT (Rajapur): Sir, the reported incident of smuggling of plutone vote has proved that today changes have

come in the country. Earlier they used to be the Chief Minister of a particular Caste in the State but today one can see Chief Ministers of each caste. Pilotji, the edifice of the Central Government will also crumble down, if remedial steps are not taken immediately. Therefore make amends before it is too late and give the Dalits, Backward Class and the people belonging to the Minority Communities their due rights.

With these words, I support this resolution whole heartedly. I urge upon the Government that an amendment should be brought at the earliest to remove the evils of the society and give justice to the exploited people.

SHRI GANGA RAM KOLI (Bayana): Madam Chairman, besides the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the condition of the Backward Classes is miserable. There was a proposal of setting up of Parliamentary Committee for their upliftment. The main objective should be to make efforts for the maximum development of the Backward Classes. Like the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes they should be provided the facility of reservation in promotion in Government jobs. The economic condition of the Backward Classes is very poor. They do not have clothes even to wear on. They earn their bread and butter as daily wagers. They do not have houses even to live in. The Backward Class Commission should be set up in each State for their betterment and the States should make arrangement for reservation for their development.

Madam, the benefits of reservation are not reaching the actual beneficiaries among the Backward Classes and the Scheduled Tribes. Therefore, they cannot have any relief from it today. Only a few among them take advantage of it. They are only bonded labourers and this area is reserved for them

only. There is no limit to their exploitation. The situation of this section of society in Madhya Pradesh is miserable. A woman has only one saree to wear which she washes and after drying it, wears again. There is no arrangement of clothes and employment for them. Same is the condition in regard to houses. Madam, Chairman, their condition in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh is also miserable. As far as Rajasthan is concerned, since the BJP Government has come to power, the Chief Minister, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, has done a lot for the Backward Classes. You might be aware that today the condition of the Backward Class people who are being exploited is turning from bad to worse. They perish in winter, summer, rainy season and in every weather.

Madam Chairman, I would like to conclude with one suggestion that for the all round development and progress of the Backward Class people, a parliamentary committee should be set up. It should submit a report to the Government so that timely action is taken on their problems and their lot is improved.

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Madam, I rise to support this Resolution. This Resolution is very simple. Broadly speaking, it has two objectives. One aspect is that the powers and functions of the National Commission for Backward Classes be further expanded. According to the mover of the Resolution, the function of the Commission is to recommend to the Government ways and means for the all-out development of the OBCs. He also suggests that the Government should consider such recommendations periodically. The second objective of the Resolution is that there should be a Committee of the Parliament to oversee the performance of the Commission

as well as the implementation of the Central projects meant for the development of the OBCs. These two objectives are very clear. I don't think anybody who wants to have all round development of the OBCs can find any reason to oppose these simple, clear and very specific recommendations. So far as Parliament is concerned, Parliament should naturally have the right to oversee the implementation of the progress of the projects meant for the development of the OBCs.

Why this demand for the expansion of the powers of the Commission? Well, I would like to quote Clause 9 of the National Commission for Backward Classes Bill, 1993:

"9 (1) The Commission shall examine requests for inclusion of any class of citizens as a backward class in the lists and hear complaints of over-inclusion of any backward class in such lists and tender such advice to the Central Government as it deems appropriate."

That means the Commission can decide on both inclusion and exclusion of backward classes as OBCs as it deems fit. If it decides that a particular community deserves to be included in the lists, it can advise accordingly. Similarly, if the Commission comes to the conclusion that the inclusion of a particular community is unjust, it has the power to advise the Government to exclude the community from the lists. The Commission can decide upon both exit and entry of the backward classes into the lists. Naturally, the function of the Commission is to allow some caste or community to be recognised as an OBC or exclude some community from the OBCs lists as it deems appropriate.

Therefore, the purpose is not to bring about the total development of the socially and educationally backward communities of our country, who constitute, as they say, 52 per cent of our population. Therefore, it is highly commendable to have a fresh look in this matter.

Madam, in this connection, Mandal Commission becomes very much relevant. We, on behalf of our Party, are committed for the speedy and full implementation of the Mandal Commissions report. I underline full and speedy because it is a landmark event in the history of the struggle of the under-privileged, the downtrodden, the educationally deprived and the socially ostracized. This is a very potent weapon to give effect to the concept of social justice. It is also a manifestation of the perception of affirmative discrimination. Willingly, knowingly, we have to discriminate in favour of the weak, in favour of the under-privileged against those who have been enjoying the privileges for ages and ages together. Somebody might feel it is discrimination. Yes, it is discrimination. This is affirmative discrimination. This discrimination is purposefully done in order to see that the downtrodden, the under-privileged and those who lag behind are brought forward so that they may be put at par with other advanced sections of the society. Mandal Commission is for this.

Madam, Mandal Commission, as a matter of fact, is the real reflection of this conception of affirmative discrimination. As I said, we want speedy and full implementation of this Mandal Commission recommendations.

What does the Mandal Commission say? What are its major recommendations? There are three aspects of the Mandal Commission's recommendations. It is very

unfortunate that some of our friends and colleagues in this House and outside simply highlight the reservation part of the Mandal Commission recommendations, as if Mandal Commission did nothing, except to point out the urgency and necessity for reservation. I want to point out and highlight that Mandal Commission's report has broadly, three different and very important aspects. One is reservation, another is educational concessions and lastly and the most important aspect of it, is the social restructuring, or structural changes as they call it.

If you allow me, I will just go through these aspects. So far as the reservation part is concerned, 27 per cent reservation is sought to be given to OBCs and others. In case of educational concessions, an intensive time bound programme for adult education, special schools with free boarding and lodging and financial assistance to foster business enterprises for OBCs setting up of small scale industries. As regards structural changes, radical land reforms and transformation in existing production system, specially in agriculture should be made.

A part of the surplus land available due to ceiling laws be given to OBC. Madam, so far as reservation is concerned, it has been implemented to some extent but not fully. Therefore, I say that there should be full implementation of the reservation, as recommended by the Mandal Commission. I do not minimise the importance of reservation. I do not say that there is no necessity of reservation because there may be some heart burning. Therefore, I have been all along saying that it is the affirmative discrimination, viz. we are discriminating, knowing fully well, in order to see that those who are lagging behind also come forward. That aspect is also there. But, complaints are also there that it is not being implemented

fully. It is for the Government to explain as why a decision of the Government is not being implemented fully and speedily. I join my voice with Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and others that it is not being implemented fully. There are lapses and there are many shortfalls which should be corrected so that the genuine grievances of the people are removed.

So far as the educational concessions are concerned, just now he quoted some figures. We want an IAS Officers coming from OBC or Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe community. That is a social prestige. It is not that a particular young man belonging to OBC is getting some monetary benefits but it is the recognition of a person from OBC or Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe community who is also a partner in the Government of the country. Naturally the people belonging to these communities have more faith in him and they look to him as their man in the administration. A Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe Police Officer creates confidence in the minds of the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes that it is their man in the administration who will protect their interests. This is a great psychological question. I think the House should understand that it is not merely the question of Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe getting a very very good source of income but it is the social prestige not only of that individual but of the community he belongs to. This is the psyche and unless we understand this psyche we should not be able to transform the society, or to understand the social realities as are prevailing now.

Just now it was pointed out that the OBC candidates are entitled for 27 per cent reservation. But the percentage of the successful candidates did not exceed more than 12.5 per cent. It is because they were

not properly qualified and so they could not compete properly. For that, what is the arrangement to be made so that their qualification is upgraded? Special concessions are to be given. Special scholarships are to be provided for so that they can also compete, if not with others but among themselves. They should be helped properly so that they can acquire the capability and skill for that purpose.

Some Corporation has been there in this regard. It was established some three or four years ago. I have forgotten the date of inception of OBC Corporation for rendering economic assistance. Up-till now only Rs.34 Crore have been spent. The amount was granted by way of economic assistance for OBCs.

Mr. Anbarasu, I am speaking with agony. The statistics speak for themselves. 52 per cent of the 90 crores of people are getting, over a period of four to five years, only Rs.34 crores. Even if it is taken as 35 or 40 crores; is it sufficient? Is it the way of uplifting economically and socially backward communities in our country who comprise a major chunk of our population? Therefore, the Government should also think in a different way so that the genuine grievances of these people are redressed.

Lastly, Madam, I want to say something about this 50 per cent limit on reservation. This is a judicial verdict, therefore, a responsible person like me cannot challenge it here, and I won't. But, let me quote the opinion of the fellow judges. I am just quoting what the other judges of the same Bench said about the 50 per cent limit. If I myself say so, then certainly some of the hon. Members will say, why Chitta Basu, you are challenging the judicial verdict! But, Judges of a Bench may give conflicting judgements. Madam, in the Mandal case,

Justic B.P. Jeevan, speaking for himself and for Chief Justice Kania, Justice Venkatchaliah and Justice Ahmadi, said:

"The reservation contemplated in Clause 4 of Article 16 should not exceed 50 per cent. While 50 per cent shall be the rule, it is necessary not to put out of consideration certain extraordinary situations inherent in the great diversity of the country and the people."

Even if they ruled for 50 per cent limit, they also felt the necessity of a special consideration in extraordinary situations. He was of the view that in certain extraordinary situations, some relaxation in this rule may become imperative. Justice Ratnavelpandian said: "The decision fixing the percentage of reservation only up to a maximum of 50 per cent are unsustainable." Justice P.B. Sawant, while accepting the 50 per cent limit, suggests that "this percentage may be exceeded for extraordinary circumstances." Therefore, there are other views also. I also appreciate these views. Social realities are different from State to State. There are historical reasons for it. We just cannot compare West Bengal society with the society of Tamil Nadu, nor can we just compare the Tamil Nadu society with the society of Haryana. This social stratification is developed out of historical reasons. These differences arose out of historical and social development. There are differences in the development of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs and for that the social realities should be taken into consideration by the legislators while fixing up the percentage of reservation, not simply because certain judgement has been delivered from Delhi.

Therefore, I appeal to the Government that some mechanism has to be devised; I

cannot just say that this should be the mechanism. As far as Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are concerned, that is a different case in the sense that these reservations have been in existence for many years.

But after getting a clue from that, if some Chief Ministers say that, now, it is 100 per cent reservation for $\alpha x \in$ State and 95 per cent reservation for $\alpha y \in$ State, then I would say that that would be giving too much of flexibility.

In Tamil Nadu, this 69 per cent reservation has been in vogue, if I am not mistaken, for the last about twenty years or so. In Karnataka, this 73 per cent reservation has been in vogue for the last several decades. They had acquired certain rights naturally. So, their rights cannot be just snatched away. If you try to take them away or snatch them away, naturally, there will be resistance. Therefore, this 50 per cent limit, as judicially pronounced by the Supreme Court, should not be enforced in letter and spirit on all these States. To begin with, at least, the existing rights should be protected. In order to protect those existing rights, a Constitutional Amendment is necessary. The Tamil Nadu Government have satisfied themselves by asking the Centre to include it in the Ninth Schedule. I am told by very senior Constitutional experts that by simply including it in the Ninth Schedule it will not protect the Act completely and fully. Therefore, the Law Minister should take into account various aspects.

My suggestion would be that there should be an all-Party meeting at the earliest to devise a mechanism, firstly, to protect the existing rights and secondly, to what extent the State Legislatures are to be given the power in order to determine the percentage of reservation in their respective States. But the States must be consulted; the States

must have their rights; and the States must not be denied the opportunity of explaining their position, particularly, in relation to these matters which concern the society and which concerns the grass-root realities.

With these few words, I again support the Resolution. I also thank the hon. Member for taking the trouble of bringing forward this Resolution. I hope that there will be a general consensus in support of this Resolution.

[*Translation*]

DR. S.P.YADAV (Sambhal): Madam Chairman, I rise to support the resolution moved by our friend from Congress, Sh. Anbarasu.

This resolution relates to the extension of scope of the National Backward Class Commission. The contents of this resolution should speak for the extension of rights and functions of the commission but I think that there are some other concealed motives behind it. Even after 43 years of India's independence 52 per cent people have been denied their constitutional right of 27 per cent reservation. No consideration was given to it.

In 1977, during the first regime of the Janata Party Government, the Mandal Commission was constituted. This Commission after studying in detail the social, topographical, political, economic and other aspects of the whole of India, submitted a detailed report in the House in 1980. Till 1990, this report was kept in cold storage and no action was taken thereon. When Janata Dal came into power in 1990, hon. Eble V.P. Singh gulped down such a bitter cup of poison, opened a Pandora's box which nobody was able to shut and implemented the Mandal Commission's report with effect from 7 August, 1990 for

which he had to sacrifice even his Government. There was a person who dared to give 52 per cent people of backward classes of the country their rights without caring for the consequences. He tried to accomplish it by ignoring the political repercussions.

Madam, Delhi was shaken by strong agitation and the tremors were felt in far and near corners of the world but we are happy that the law and rule enumerated by hon. V.P. Singh for the backward people are followed and propagated by all political parties, States etc. according to their own circumstances.

Madam, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan said just now that the Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav has declared to grant 80 per cent reservation. I have also read about it in the newspaper and the former Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Jagannath Mishra has opposed it and termed it as a political move. I would like to say that it is clearly provided in Article 164 of the Constitution by the fathers of the Constitution that in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, there will be a Minister in charge of the portfolio of the welfare of the Tribals. At the time of framing the Constitution, it was specifically mentioned therein that in these three states, there would be a separate Minister for them. This provision was made because the population of backward classes, SCs and STs was dominating the areas but the Government never paid any attention to this Article of the Constitution. We have got an opportunity to speak on this subject in the context of resolution moved by Shri R. Anbarasu. There are 38 per cent SC, ST people and 52 per cent OBCs in Orissa. In Bihar, there are 22.5 per cent SCs, STs and 52 per cent OBCs. This is the percentage of people living in these States but no attention has been paid to them and they have been

ignore for so long. But now, people have become aware of their rights. Their representatives have entered the Parliament now and they know how to champion their cause. They are conversant with all laws. The working and functions of the Commission are not known to us and we do not know as to what the Commission is doing. We came to know through newspapers that the Government has from time to time provided some funds for that but there is a great responsibility on the Commission.

The greatest onus lies on the Chairmen, Secretary and Members of the Commission to study the position of OBCs in the country. They are stated to be 52 per cent but the Commission should see whether their percentage has increased over the years and should give reservation accordingly. Shri Paswan said just now that the percentage of SCs, STs has increased from 22 to 25 per cent. Similarly, the percentage of OBCs must also have increased.

Likewise, this Commission will have to look into the Cases of the Backward Castes, which have not been included in the list. I know about a caste, Kharagwanshi in Uttar Pradesh, which is the most Backward Caste culturally, educationally, and socially and economically but it has not been included in the list. Only Khagar Caste has been included in the list while the same caste is known as Kharag, Khagar, Karagwanshi and Khagi. It is possible that later on some people might have changed the name of this caste from Khagar to Khagi. Now the Tehsildar or the SDM is not issuing Certificate of OBC to the people belonging to Khagi Caste. Therefore, my submission is that the castes which have not been covered in this list should be included in it.

Madam Chairman, the fate of the OBCs

is not going to change merely by getting jobs in which they have to face obstacles. I am related to education. Therefore, I know about the discrimination being done to them in schools and colleges. None other than the son or the relative of the Head of the Department can be a topper and can get first class. That student will be given 48-49 marks out of 50 while the other intelligent student will get only 18-20 marks. Often it happens and the Government is unaware of it but we know that such sort of partiality is being done. The similar issue was raised during zero hour that only 12 per cent Backward Caste candidates could qualify the examination conducted by UPSC. The reason behind it may be that they do not let these students qualify so that the vacancies be kept unfilled. We have before us the experience of Scs and Sts. The reservation for them is 22 per cent but only 8 per cent vacancies have been filled so far. When such type of irregularities are done in the examinations and favouritism is also shown then how the Backward Class people will get justice since the examiners are also like us. The Commission will have to keep an eye on it. It has to keep a check on partiality. There is the system of revaluation in universities. If a student feels that in a particular paper he secured less marks then he can apply for revaluation by depositing fee. This system should also be adopted in the case of the examinations held by the Union Public Service Commission and other states. If a candidate feels that he has secured less marks or he has been given less marks deliberately then he can go for revaluation.

The Commission has so many responsibilities on its shoulder. It should conduct a survey about the irregularities and Central and all the State Governments should be informed. That issue should be discussed here in this House so that the condition can be improved. In addition to

that, I would like to say that making reservation in jobs will not serve the purpose. The Commission should prepare a team of the people belonging to Backward Classes so that they can manage to overcome their economic and social hurdles and provide for their development. They should not depend only on agriculture but must come forward in industrial sector also. They must also have their share in it. For that they should be imparted industrial training to set up their own industries based on agriculture or other industries for which the raw material available in that area can be utilised. There are much potentials of raw material in rural areas and keeping that in view, arrangements should be made for their education as well as training.

There are many other small jobs for them as we were discussing the Motor vehicle Act in the House. They can take up driving. If they are given training in it, they can be good drivers. Both the government and the Commission will have to search the talent. If they are not searched out then a number of persons will remain idle in the rural areas. If the people of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Muslims and the Backward Classes do not get opportunities for development, their future will be dark. If they are provided opportunities, they can come forward. In National and International games held in our country, there is swimming also. If you go to villages, you will find small boys of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who can swim across not only the tanks but the fast currents of the Ganges also, even if you tie their hands and legs. But they are not getting opportunities. This Commission is not there to sit idle but it seems to me that it is fast asleep. Its programmes and activities are not visible anywhere. Yes, at times just one or two lines appear in the newspapers. I would like that the resolution moved by our colleague on

which we have got an opportunity for discussion, should direct the Commission, to do some constructive work and the Government should also direct it for this purpose.

The issue of reservation, the implementation of the Mandal Commission on which there was much hue and cry is nothing and it should be implemented in toto. Nothing has been said against anyone in the Mandal Commission. If the Yadavs of Uttar Pradesh have been covered, then the Yadavas of Haryana do not find place in it, if the Thakurs of Uttar Pradesh do not fall in this category, the Thakurs of Gujarat are covered under it. The Mandal Commission has conducted an indepth study and its findings are based on facts keeping in view the economic and social circumstances of the State, the categories of castes have been determined impartially. Therefore, I urge upon the Government the implementation of the report of the Mandal Commission, which has not been implemented fully should be implemented in toto. Education has been given priority in the Mandal Commission. If education is not imparted on the lines of the recommendations of the Mandal Commission, the people of the Backward Classes will not get education even upto primary level. They will not be able to study properly. If primary schools, junior schools or intermediate schools are not there then they will face difficulties in getting education. The Government does not have enough funds to help them all. They will not be able to get scholarships. Therefore my suggestion is that at each Panchayat level a primary school, at Nyay Panchayat a junior school, at Block level an Intermediate College and at Tehsil level a Degree College should be set up. If such a structure of education is created the backward people of the rural areas will be able to avail of opportunity to

read and write.

Madam Chairman, we are aware that there are talents in the country, which are to be searched out. These talents can be found in the Backward Classes also. It is possible only if they are encouraged to come forward.

In this context, the Government must see whether the powers given to the Commission constituted in this regard are adequate or not and whether these are being utilised or not. The Government should encourage it; then I think this Backward Classes Commission will function properly and the 52 per cent Backward people of the country will get all the opportunities.

With these words, I support the resolution moved by the hon. Member Shri Anbarasu and hope that the Government will take some action in this regard.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA (Jhabua): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this resolution. I am thankful to the hon. Member Shri Anbarasu for moving this resolution here.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is an opportune occasion for setting up a Commission for the upliftment of the people of the Backward Classes of the country. At the time of our freedom struggle everyone belonging to any religion, caste or language fought for attaining such a social set up in which we could get social justice and everyone could get the opportunity of making progress. But even after 47 years of independence, we find that the poor has become poorer and the rich has become more rich. Taking all

these things into consideration Mandal Commission was set up and then the problems in regard to the identification of the Backwards, the tribals and the Harijans surged up.

17. 00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, under the leadership of Gandhiji, people of all religions castes, languages and the poorest of the poor were brought together but some lacunae in our social structure have remained till date. This is the result of those lacunae only that in this democratic set up, only a few people are taking advantage in every field like education, housing and even in the field of sports, as is evident from the data given by an hon. Member just now regarding services. Now, when they came to know about it they had to stand against it and fight for their rights and today conflicts in the name of castes, religion, separation and terrorism is the outcome of that only. The people's resentment is the root cause of all these conflicts. Had we done justice to the people in the society, the condition of our country would not have been such as it is today.

The motive behind this resolution moved in this House is bonafide. I would like to submit that at the time our Constitution was framed, the makers of our Constitution had deeply pondered over and discussed all the things and the Constitution was prepared after having involved the representatives of all the segments of society in the process. Today everyone thinks about Constitutional amendments and we apprehend that in future we will have to review our Constitution. The question before us is that which society is to be uplifted. No society can be uplifted by enacting the laws, it merely requires a change in ideology.

During our freedom struggle, under

leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, it was never tried to find out as to what caste or class one belongs to but the whole society was asked to stand against the foreign rule. But today we see that an another type of social set up evolved which is not in conformity with the type of society preached by Mahatma Gandhi and it is because some have made progress and others are still lagging behind. It means that our set up is defective somewhere. Let us ponder over seriously on the fact whether we can do justice to all through law. We often talk about the Tribals and we find that merely 15-18 per cent of them are educated. Even 80 per cent of their allotted quota in services has not been filled. If only 4-5 per cent tribal women are educated, how then can a tribal child or a child belonging to the backward class or a child living in a hill area who does not have the basic facilities, not even playground in the schools, be compared with a child studying in a convent school. It is not possible at all. He can compete only if there is uniformity in education in the cities and villages. If a child having got education under a tree is asked to compete for IAS or IPS, how can he succeed? Can there be any competition between a horse and donkey? It can never be possible.

Therefore, in these circumstances, how can we make them believe that we want to give them equal opportunities, this is their Parliament, it is their country and it for one and all, everyone has got equal rights in the field of education and services? So long it is not done, this disparity in the society will continue. Today everyone aspires to come to power and one knows that unless one comes to power one is not likely to get anything. Today everyone is involved in this competition. Therefore, all these political things are involved in it.

Madam Chairman, it is time to ponder over all these things and over the fact that in

these days of competition, the deserving persons, whether they belong to Tribal, Schedule Caste or Backward Class society, are not able to attain what they should have attained. Therefore, there is a need to bring them to the centre of power and to give them their due.

Madam Chairman, today the issues of Bodoland, of tribal areas under the 6th schedule of the Constitution, the liquor mafia, the land mafia and the forest mafia are coming up but the poor and the tribals have not progressed to the desired extent and the funds allocated for them are going into others pocket. Therefore, this problem has come up before us.

Madam Chairman, today we want to give houses and employment to the poor, the tribal and the Harijans to make them self reliant but even after 47 years of our independence, their condition is miserable. They have not become self reliant. We should do research on it and the Commission, set up for the Adivasis should be strengthened. This is the reason that today the issue of setting up a Parliamentary Committee for the upliftment of the poor has been raised which can comprehensively think for their development.

Madam Chairman, initially reservation was provided for 10 years only and it was envisaged that they will make enough progress within those 10 years but our hopes could not be fulfilled and the period of reservation was further extended. Today if we go and see the villages of the country and compare these with Delhi, there is a huge difference between the two. How much more time will we take to bring the villages at par with Delhi and to ameliorate the lot of the tribals? How much more time this process of bringing equality will take? We do not want reservation. We want equality only. In

case of general fever, only common medicines are administered but if one has high fever, a heavy dose of quinine is administered. Likewise, the Adivasi society needs a heavy dose. As long as we do not do so, the secessionist activities will go on.

Madam Chairman, the hon. Members of all the parties take pity on the plight of the poor and the tribals living in huts. We have not been able to make arrangements for their bathrooms even. Even the basic amenities of life, like the lavatories could not be provided to them. Likewise, the employment and health facilities could not be arranged for them. We have not solved these problems till date. Had all these problems been solved, these things could have been finished and there could have been no question of casteism.

Madam Chairman, my submission is that for their upliftment, we will have to rise above politics and think about the nation. The population of the country is increasing. If we keep our-selves above the politics and think as to how they can be uplifted in the wake of the growing population and how they can be brought in the fold of development, this problem of our country can be solved ; other-wise poverty and backwardness will increase. Today the trade and industry are going into private hands and they do not accept reservation. We are to see as to how the poor, the adirasis and the Harijans can be uplighted and to brought in the fold of development, so that we can have their contribution in the development of our country and they may also feel that this country belongs to them as well. There should be the feeling among the Harijans, the Adivasis or the Muslim of the country that this is their own country. Only then this country will make progress with full vigour

Madam Chairman, we had conceived a vision of the country under the leadership

of Mahatama Gandhi. If we follow that, only then we can progress. Madam Chairman, with these words I conclude and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR (Khargone): Madam Chairman, I support the Resolution brought forward by Shri R. Anbarasu.

The Backward Classes Commission was first set up in 1953. It submitted its report in 1955. 2233 castes were included in the list of Backward Classes. Prior to that several other Backward Classes Commissions were also set up but their reports were never implemented. The Janata Party Government formed in 1977 set up the Mandal Commission in 1978, the report of which was submitted in 1980. The report could not be implemented till 1990.

7. 11 hrs.

[SHRI P.C.CHACKO - in the Chair]

My hon. friend desired to know as to the regime under which the report was not implemented. Everybody knows the reasons why did the Government make an announcement in 1993 to implement the recommendations of the Mandal Commission. The Backward Classes now have awakened politically and they cannot be suppressed for long. Certain political parties while in power are very shrewd and opportunist. They reap the political harvest sown by other parties.

The reason of backwardness of the backward class people is that they suffer from a number of handicaps. Most of the persons belonging to backward classes live in villages. Their children are not provided the latest advanced educational facilities which are provided in public schools of the cities. These poor children have mat and

slate as their only study equipment which they take with themselves to their schools. They sit on the floor and remain backward throughout their life. They do not have any scope to rise. On the other hand, children studying in modern schools in cities make good progress and therefore, son of a collector becomes a collector and son of a Secretary is capable of becoming a collector, a secretary and so on.

The Government should review the education and evaluation system. It should be examined whether people holding high offices evaluate the test papers and do favour to their children. Today knowledge, education and talent cannot be the monopoly of a particular caste, class or society. Even then why some people claim monopoly over them? It should be probed as to why the children of collectors alone should become collectors. Now the setting up of a separate commission has been necessitated to see as to why the backward classes have not been given their due rights for 46 years since independence.

Let us discuss the situation prevailing in the villages. There is no dispensary in rural areas. Even if there is one, it lacks many facilities like buildings, doctors, mid-wives and medicines. The same is the position in regard to schools. The schools also lack buildings, teachers and blackboard. The Government had launched operation Blackboard at the national level two years back. If teachers are there, students have no buildings to sit in. It seems that benefits of developmental programmes have not reached the deserving cases in last 40 or 50 years. Where are the funds allocated in the Budget spent? Who is responsible for the plight of the backward classe people who have continued to remain backward for last 47 years? Why have they not been given even their basic rights, moral rights, social

rights, educational rights and financial rights. The people responsible for their present plight should come forward and accept their guilt. They should remove the shortcomings and help the backward classes come forward. Then only the backward classes could be benefited.

The Supreme Court has delivered different judgements on different occasions. In the year 1971, the Supreme Court had issued orders that promotions to candidates belonging to SC and ST as per their reservation quota is justified. But the recent judgement of the Supreme Court has not provided reservation to SC and ST candidates in promotion. Various complaints are made to Supreme Court in this regard and sometimes it is criticised for its judgement. Here I would like to point out that the criticism of the Supreme Court and the High Courts can be avoided by amending the Constitution or the concerned laws, so that the courts may pronounce their judgement accordingly. It all depends on the political awareness and the political understanding of the Government.

The Supreme Court laid down the principle of creamy layer for the backward classes. The backward classes are already backward and if the principle of creamy layer is added to it, they will be deprived of the benefits of reservation. In this connection, I would like to suggest that the term creamy Layer should not be made applicable in case of women. Only socially and educationally backward persons should be included in backward classes and economic condition should not be a criterion. The income from agriculture should not be taken into account for creamy layer. People earning upto 20 lakh per annum should be allowed to avail the reservation facility. Then only the backward classes can be benefited. Otherwise, the hard earned political benefit

after 46 years of independence will be denied to them.

Sir, now another question arises here. Different States will define creamy layer differently. Recently the State of Bihar defined creamy layer and prescribed the norms in its own way. The Union Government should intervene and after reaching a consensus in consultation with the States, norms should be fixed centrally so that further dispute over its definition is avoided.

In Madhya Pradesh the backward classes have been given 14 per cent reservation whereas they constitute 52 per cent of the population. I, therefore, request the Government to provide 27 per cent reservation for the backward classes in Madhya Pradesh, as prescribed by the Central Government.

So far as the list of the backward classes is concerned, the Mandal Commission had also prepared such a list. Every State has prepared its own list of backward classes and set up individual Backward Classes Commissions. I suggest that the Central Government should accept the castes prepared by different States as backward castes. My hon. friends have made a suggestion to prepare the list of backward classes afresh so that those castes which are missing in this list could be included now. Therefore, I suggest that it should be reviewed and some new castes should be included. In this connection, I would like to give an illustration in respect of Madhya Pradesh. There is a caste called Kunbi in Madhya Pradesh which has been included in the list. But the people belonging to the same caste in my home district Khargone call themselves as "Mathas". The people belonging to the same caste in Khandwa district and who are also the relatives of

Mathas in Khargone have been provided reservation whereas the same caste in Khargone does not enjoy the reservation facility only because they call themselves as "Mathas". Thus, surnames and names that have been changed due to distance and language, should also be included so that they may enjoy this facility in time. It is easier said than done. Charity begins at home. Therefore, the Central Government should take the lead to include such surnames and names in its OBC list. In the Municipality and Panchayat elections, the OBCs have been provided 27 per cent reservation in place of 14 per cent. I would like to know whether the political parties would similarly like to provide 52 per cent reservation to backward classes in Assembly and Parliamentary elections? The political parties must come forward and take an initiative to bring the backward class people to the forefront. They cannot be given social recognition or social pride unless they enjoy political rights. Therefore, they must avail reservation in distribution of tickets for the Assembly and Parliamentary elections. I would like to point out one more thing that the women constitute half of the population in the society. Therefore, political parties should provide 50 per cent reservation to women in Assembly and Parliamentary elections, because women are resenting the existing arrangement.

Sir, today we talk of backward classes. We politicians consider this issue from a pragmatic angle. I would like to suggest that casteism should not be allowed to spread in the name of backward classes. All political parties will have to work wholeheartedly and with an honest intention. Then only the country can be saved from the malady of casteism. Once this malady spreads, it will create a lot of trouble. Therefore, political wisdom demands that the country should be protected from the malady of casteism and this will be possible if backward classes

are provided reservation commensurate with their population in the society. If any conflict starts for getting this political rights forcibly, it will create an explosive situation. Therefore, this conflict can be averted by providing reservation according to population of the backward classes.

Sir, I would like to point out that in order to expand the powers and jurisdiction of the backward classes commission, reservation should not be confined to Government jobs alone. It should be provided in Public sector and Private Sectors as well.

Sir, the department of Petroleum and Chemicals has given the right of import of petroleum, LPG Gas and Kerosene to the Private Sector under parallel Marketing system. Its total benefit is being enjoyed by multi-millionaires and billionaires. The distribution of dealership is awarded to those who invest huge funds. We have committed a blunder by entrusting such a vast economic undertaking to some multi-millionaires. The backward classes should be provided reservation in it, otherwise they cannot avail the benefit.

An endeavour should be made to establish proper co-ordination and harmony in society. Our political and leadership dexterity lies in the fact that the downtrodden get their right and no bitterness or feeling of secession is created in society, people should live in peace and harmony. From this point of view, the jurisdiction of the Commission will have to be expanded and only then it will yield better results.

I express my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

17. 26 hrs.

[English]

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI M. KRISHNASWAMY (Vandavasi): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Resolution moved by my friend Shri Anbarasu. I thank him for bringing forward such an important Resolution on the floor of the House. The Resolution is very simple. The House is of the opinion that the National Commission for Backward Classes be empowered to suggest ways and means for the overall development and to monitor various welfare schemes of the Central Government for the backward classes. A Parliamentary Committee be constituted to consider the reports of the Commission. The Resolution gives more powers to the National Commission for Backward Classes.

The Commission for Backward Classes has been constituted. It has not yet picked up the momentum because of various teething problems. The required staff strength has not been adequately provided. The Commission should be empowered to look into all the cases of atrocities, complaints and grievances of the backward class people in the matter of reservations, admission in education institutions, appointments, promotions etc.

This Resolution deals with the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation and the need to revamp it, make it function more effectively. While I welcome the Government's decision to establish the National Minority Finance and Development Corporation (NMFDC) with a capital of Rs.500 crore, as announced by the hon'ble Prime Minister

from the ramparts of Red Fort on this year/Es Independence Day, I urge upon the Government to increase the outlay for the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation, since what has been given during the last two years is a fringe, as compared to the gigantic task lying before us.

Sir, the SC/ST Commission has got Rs.125 crore. The Backward Classes Corporation has got Rs.100 crore. The Minority Commission has got Rs.500 crore. So comparing with the population of the Backward Classes, it should at least be increased to Rs.2000 crore. An amount of Rs.125 crore has been reserved for the SC/ST Corporation. It should also be increased because the SC/ST population is about 22.5 per cent. The Minority people form 7 per cent of the population. Of course, Rs.500 crore has been reserved for the Minority Commission. There are 52 per cent backward class people. So, the amount reserved should be increased to Rs.2,000 crore. There are crores and crores of backward class people who are languishing in poverty, starvation, ill-health, shelterless, who require immediate help and attention.

Sir, one of the objectives of the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation is to promote technical and entrepreneurial skills of the backward class people who are mostly working as agricultural labourers, handloom weavers, masons, construction workers, artisans, handicraftsmen and craftsmen. I do not know what has been done by the Corporation in this direction. There are crores and crores of handloom weavers who are not getting yarn at a reasonable price with the result, they are thrown out of employment. In the age of liberalisation, the handloom weavers should be given innovative training to produce various

handloom cloth items which cannot be artistically produced by the mills. In that way, value addition can be made to their handloom products. The Corporation can help to establish cooperatives at the district and State levels to supply yarn at a reasonable price by eliminating middlemen. Similarly, there are other such professions where the Corporation could do some work. The amount which has been allotted to the Corporation is not reaching the right people. Middlemen are taking a major share of the money allotted.

There must be some power to the Backward Classes Commission. Otherwise, whatever we spend will go waste.

Now I come to Statewise distribution of loans sanctioned by the Corporation in 1992-93. Tamil Nadu is one of the pioneering States where backward classes are already identified and well organised and the reservation system has been in practice even before the Mandal Commission Report came. Reservation started effectively during the Congress regime. The State has also got its own Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation. But, unfortunately, the loan sanctioned for Tamil Nadu is Rs.154 lakh as against the total amount of Rs.3440 lakh. Whereas, Karnataka has been given Rs.458 lakh and Maharashtra has been given Rs.415 lakh, Tamil Nadu has been given only Rs.154 lakh. Similarly, when we come to the number of units helped by the Corporation, 1449 units in Tamil Nadu were helped as against the total of 25,821 units. I know, our hon. Minister Shri K.V.Thankga Balu is impartial, but at the same time he should take care of his own State.

Educational facilities should be given top priority to the backward class people. Only when they are educated, the question

of job reservation comes. In this Commission, educational facilities should be given more importance. I would also urge upon the Government to see that age relaxations as demanded by all the political parties are given to backward classes people in the matter of appearing recruitment tests in UPSC and Staff Selection Commission. Reservation should be made available to promotional quota at all levels. Special schools on the line of Navodaya Schools should be opened with free board and lodging to the children of backward class people.

The NBCFDC should enlarge the scope of its activities in disbursing loans and financial assistance to the backward class and self-employed people, small entrepreneurs in fostering business enterprises. For the purpose of giving house-site to build their own houses and to set up some cottage or village industry, a part of the surplus land available due to land ceiling laws should be given to the backward class people.

The previous speakers have also spoken about the Mandal Commission Report. The Supreme Court has delivered a judgement that reservation should not exceed 50 per cent. I do not know who were all the judges who delivered this judgement. I cannot now say anything about it. But we do not know how many backward class judges were there on the Bench. Anyway, the Supreme Court has given its verdict. But the Parliament is supreme and we can take up this matter and amend it accordingly. Sometimes there are legislations for social justice. But, again this legislation, some people are going to High Courts and the Supreme Court challenging it. There must be some legislation preventing people from going to High Courts or the Supreme Court against such social justice legislations. If you bring a legislation for social justice, that

should not be challenged in the court. There should be a law on this point.

In order to obviate the lacunae as pointed out by the Supreme Court, I would urge upon the Government that all the legislations relating to the reservations for backward classes in educational institutions and Government Departments, public undertakings and nationalised banks should be brought under the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution to make those laws non-judiciable.

There are backward classes in Tamil Nadu also. There is one community among the backward classes in the State called Gypsy who are just like the Banjara people called æNavikuravasÆ. They eat whatever is left over and thrown on the streets. They come and collect it and eat it. Those people are not given any opportunity anywhere. They are called backward class people. They can be called anything. They are not even equivalent to ST people, they are even lower than that. Such peopleÆs interest should be protected. They have no script for their language. They speak mixed Hindi. Nobody takes care about those people. This is the state of affairs in Tamil Nadu. I request the hon. Minister, who is here to take up this matter also, to include these people also in some of these categories so that they can be safeguarded. This has been pending for a long time. They go here and there, from one village to another. There is no shelter for them. The Commission should be given the power to classify these people also and protect them.

The Supreme Court judgement has stated that if the caste of a person in one State is called SC or ST or backward class, it cannot be called so in another State. It is a very peculiar thing. This should also be considered.

Sir, of course, for the development of the backward class people, we are allotting so much of money. It does not reach those people. There should be some monitoring system. The reservation should be according to population among the backward class people.

This is an important piece of legislation for the development and upliftment of the backward classes. Therefore, this should be treated on a par with the Ceiling Laws. I would request the Government to bring forward a Constitutional Amendment in this Session itself so that this could be passed unanimously by all sections of the House.

Therefore, Sir, I extend my whole-hearted support to the Resolution moved.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR (Motihari): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I myself and on behalf of my party thank the hon. Member who has moved this Resolution.

We fought for the freedom of our country but the downtrodden, backwards and the exploited lot have remained neglected for thousands of years. The pandits and priests of our country divided the people in the name of religion and language and deprived dalits from exercising their rights. These people constitute 80 per cent of the population of the country. However, today the time has changed. Now, they will not remain a neglected lot because they have woken up. They have become conscious of their rights and now they are on a war path to achieve them. When Mandal Commission Report was submitted, my party did not hesitate from accepting it. We had openly declared that we totally agree with the recommendations of the Mandal Commission. However, we do not accept

the view that more reservation would serve the purpose. We have already stated that economic, social and cultural aspects should also be considered in toto.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, my party has been fighting for the establishment of a society free from exploitation, not only in India but in the whole world. There may be up and downs but our philosophy of life is that the rights of the exploited and the oppressed lot should be protected. That is why the Government has set up the Commission this year and has also allocated some funds for it. It has been our experience over the last fifty years that many commissions were set up and many schemes like Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Indira Awas Yojana were launched but what is their fate now? I have seen in my constituency in what manner Indira Awas Yojana is being implemented. The recommendations of the Commissions and other schemes remain only on paper and are not implemented at all. In fact, the Government does not want to implement the schemes. The manner in which foreign companies are being invited to our country under the garb of new economic policy, is not acceptable to our party. We are of the view that whenever the need be, foreign technology should be invited but simultaneously, indigenous technology should also be developed.

What is happening today? We may continue to fight for providing reservation in private companies also yet the Government is not going to implement. Recently, an agreement in regard to setting up of power plants was signed with American companies. In this agreement, the Government has accepted the provision of double guarantee system. It means, the Government of India will have to provide crores of rupees to these companies from its exchequer. Further, it

will have to guarantee profit and follow their rules. In this way, how could reservation be implemented there? How will the people belonging to backward classes be benefited? We are apprehensive about these companies. Shri Ram Vilas ji has rightly said that the Government should remove our apprehensions by sticking to its stand and by giving more teeth to the laws.

It has been demanded in the Resolution that this Commission should be in a position to take some effective steps and should also be financially sound. It should see if the laws, the provisions for extending the facilities to the backward classes in educational institutions, the provisions of economic criteria and land reform laws are being implemented properly. Perhaps, the hon. Prime Minister has also stated that no changes will be made in the land reform laws. But, what will be its repercussions? In Bihar, crop sharers and agricultural labourers are fighting against the landlords. The landlords have occupied thousands of acres of land. I also took cudgels against them. If this aspect is not looked into, the landless, the illiterates and the down-trodden who are looked down upon cannot be brought in the mainstream of the society. One hon. Member has rightly said that if a physically handicapped person and a wrestler are asked to run together, the handicapped person will not be able to run. Therefore, I agreed with the views of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan that now the time has come when the Government should recognise the voice of the people.

The Government of Tamilnadu has sent a proposal regarding reservation to the Union Government for inclusion in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. However, I do not know the reasons for the delay. What is the harm in accepting it? Further, what are the reasons for the delay in accepting the

suggestion received from the Government of Karnataka? Shri Laloo Prasad has also stated that he would provide 80 per cent reservation in Bihar. What is the harm in it? Why is the Government feeling uneasy? Why do they nurture hatred in their mind? If it is a political slogan, then what is this Parliament for and why have we come here? If we have not come here for politics, then what for?

We have come here to do politics. Here, two kinds of politics is going on. One is politics of power and the other is the politics of the oppressed and the exploited lot. I support the second kind of politics. We should make efforts to check the assault on their rights. We should fight for their rights. The Janata Dal, the Leftists and other parties are unanimous on this issue. We are fighting for their cause and are trying to improve over the works done by the Government. Everybody knows about the recent scam. It has been stated in the Resolution that the Backward Classes Commission should be made more effective. Further, its various aspects should also be considered and wherever necessary, steps should be taken to improve them. Hence, I strongly support this Bill.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I request the Government that a monitoring should be done to make this Commission more effective. I disagree with the way the Mandal Commission Report was implemented and further, the way Supreme Court gave a verdict that the reservation should not exceed the limit of 50 per cent. The verdict of the Supreme Court is not the last word. The Parliament is supreme. An amendment should be carried out in the Constitution which could provide full benefit of reservation to these people in proportion to the increase in their population.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, today about 80 to 90 per cent people of the country are exploited and oppressed. They have been neglected for centuries. There are only two options left to fulfil their aspirations. I fully agree with the views of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan that these people are being compelled to indulge in terrorist activities to fight for their rights. We as well as the CPM understand very well that there is no such need. The society, particularly the exploited class is so conscious that we can carry out changes in it through law. I, therefore, urge the Government that it should make its stand clear as we too are in favour of this Resolution. For this purpose, necessary steps should be taken.

With these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak and while strongly supporting the Bill, I urge the Government to take effective steps for its implementation.

[English]

SHRI P.C.CHACKO (Trichur): Sir, I had already extended my support to this Resolution when I was the last speaker on Friday last when this was discussed. I am extremely sorry that I was not present here when you called my name. I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity again.

I have already extended my full support to this Resolution. This Resolution is a very innocent one, a very non-controversial and an all-acceptable Resolution.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Chacko is on his legs. When his name was called, he was not present. As a special case, he has been given the opportunity to speak now. He happens to be one of the Presiding Officers.

SHRI P.C.CHACKO: This Resolution

has been moved from the ruling party's side. [Interruptions] In fact, I participated in the last debate. [Interruptions] I am not a very experienced parliamentarian. Still according to my information, normally, the Government persuades the Member to withdraw the Resolution. [Interruptions] The hon. Minister, Shri K.V.Thangka Balu, is also here. I have a special request to make to Shri Thangka Balu that the Government may not persuade the Member to withdraw the Resolution.

SHRI R. ANBARASU (Madras Central): Sir, I want to intervene. I am not going to withdraw on the last day. [Interruptions] Now I am cautioning the Minister that I am not going to withdraw it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have got your own say.

SHRI P.C.CHACKO: I did not mean that.

Shri Anbarasu has to accept whatever the hon. Minister says. Still, I plead with the Minister to accept the Resolution. Very rarely do we see this kind of unanimity in this House. That is why, most of us congratulated Shri Anbarasu for bringing such a Resolution before this House. I think it is in only in the fitness of things that the Government accepts this Resolution.

We have formed a Commission for Backward Classes. But that Commission is without any power. By saying 'without any power', I mean without sufficient powers. Now we have got two other Commissions viz. the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the Minorities Commission. But constituting Commissions is no answer for the problems faced by these communities and it is especially true in the case of the backward classes.

At the same time, the intention of the Government should be appreciated. I appreciate this Government for coming forward to take such a decision. But to reach its logical conclusion, I think it is necessary to accept this Resolution which is moved by Shri Anbarasu because the OBCs in this country have many grievance. But here, I am not going into the question of reservation. Many hon. Members have raised the question of reservations for the OBCs and the reservation policy as such of the Government. Many hon. Members have used the opportunity to raise this issue of reservations. I do not say that it is very much out of context. But still, that is not the subject matter of this Resolution. The intent of this Resolution is limited to expanding or enhancing the powers and functions of the Commission for Backward Classes. Whether it is necessary to do so or not is the pertinent issue before us. For that, we have to analyse the Resolution, go into the details and see what are the powers already given. I still remember, on the day when this Resolution was moved, the mover of this Resolution, Shri Anbarasu had made it very clear that according to the Act, the power given to this Commission is only to exclude from or to include certain communities in the lists of OBCs. Hon. Member, Shri Chitta Basu has aptly named it as æEntry- Exit CommissionÆ. Just for that limited purpose, constituting a Commission is not necessary. The Government has got sufficient experience to carry on such work. Just now, Shri Krishna Swamy has mentioned the name of a community which he wants to be included. For the last three years, when I became a Member of this House, I have been requesting repeatedly for the inclusion of one backward class called æKudumbiÆ in my State of Kerala in the OBC Lists. Considering all the parameters, the backwardness of this particular community is being accepted. But still the fact is that it

is not taken into consideration. But my point here is that the Government itself can take this kind of decisions. Constitution of a Commission with very eminent persons as its chairman and members is not necessary to decide this limited aspect.

Therefore, this Commission should be given more powers. The powers as also the functions of this Commission should be enhanced in such a way that it really works as a helping hand to the backward classes in this country. This Commission is constituted by an Act of this Parliament. And that Act mentions only one function which I have explained just now. I sincerely believe that that is not the intention of the Government. I am sure, the hon. Minister, while intervening in the debate, will definitely explain the intention of the Government.

In this country, for the last 47 years since Independence, reservation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and backward classes has been and is the declared policy of the Congress Party. There are many other Messiahs who are now claiming that they alone are the protectors of the backward classes and the minorities. That is simply not true. If we go into the historical facts, it will be clearly proved that in this country, right from the beginning of the Freedom Struggle over one hundred years ago, right from the days when Congress was spearheading the National Movement for Independence, the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs and minority communities was uppermost in the minds of our leaders. What was the type of consideration given to these communities?

What weightage was given in the policy and the decision making of the national movement, before and after freedom by the Congress Government in this country is

known to everybody. So, there is no denying this fact. So, the fact that the Commission is constituted for this, is laudable and the Government has done the right thing.

Sir, according to me, this Commission should have more responsibilities, and more powers. Without clearly providing for that, this will be only for namesake. I understand that one very senior and outstanding Judge is the Chairman of this Commission. One Member of this Commission is also from my State. He has got his own contributions in public life. He is also a very outstanding personality. What all these persons, as Chairman and Members of this Commission, can do with such limited powers? So, apart from deciding and advising the Government on a limited question, they should be given more powers to decide what are the new schemes which should be taken up by the Central Government and the State Governments for the benefit of the OBCs. This is mentioned in the Resolution also.

Sir, if the Commission is empowered, the recommendations or decisions should, in the normal course be, agreed to by the Government. Otherwise, there is no point. We have seen voluminous reports made by many Commissions, and those are all gathering dust. It is not doing any useful work. So, the Commission's recommendations should be binding. Whatever the legal term, the Minister can explain it. In ordinary course, it should be binding on the Government. Otherwise, there is no point in the Commission going into the issues and all these things.

Sir, a large number of issues are cropping up everyday about who is an OBC and who is not an OBC. This is definitely an issue before this Commission, and to this issue, I am sure, this Commission will be an answer. But, at the same time, more than

that, it should be empowered to see what are the areas where new schemes can be introduced, how the Central Government, the State Governments, the Union Territory Administrations and other Government Organisations should be advised regarding the policy to be pursued as far as the OBCs are concerned in this country. This should be the foremost function of this Backward Classes Commission. Otherwise, this cannot serve the purpose.

Sir, I shall finish my speech in a few minutes. The Members have shared the view that the existing programmes which are there for the OBCs, are quite inadequate. Shri Krishnaswamy was speaking about the Backward Classes Corporation. Corporation is different from Commission. The Commission's functions and the Corporation's functions are entirely different. The Corporation can raise capital and give more functions and more areas of operation etc. All these can, of course, be done by the Government. But this Commission is constituted by an Act of Parliament and Parliament has to decide on this. By accepting this Resolution, it will be helpful for the Government to give more powers to the Commission.

Sir, at least the Chairman of this Commission should have the rank of a Cabinet Minister. This is one of my suggestions. I place it before the Minister and the Government. Otherwise, these kind of Commissions will always become a very big disappointment. Now, the senior Judge, who is the Chairman of this Commission should be given the power of a Cabinet Minister and the Members of this Commission should be given the powers of the Ministers of State. Considering the large number of backward classes in this country and also the problems that they are facing, this Commission can do justice only if they

have powers.

I would also like to say about their budget provisions. It should be a part of the Budget, otherwise, this Commission will not have the kind of individuality that the Government wants to give it or the Government wants it to have. There should be a budget provision for this Commission which Parliament is voting for. If there is a budget provision for this Commission, it will become more effective. I say this because, this Government headed by Shri Narasimha Rao Ji, wants to give such powers to the OBCs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: How much time do you need further?

SHRI P.C.CHACKO: Sir, I want to make two or three points more.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: So, the time is extended.

18. 00 hrs.

SHRI P.C.CHACKO: Sir, after I presented this point, if I do not elaborate, I may be misunderstood. I am from the Treasury Benches and the thing is that I am supporting and asking for more powers and saying that the Resolution should not be withdrawn. The Minister may get angry with me if I do not substantiate my point. So, I may please be allowed to

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, No. He is always smiling. He never gets angry.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V.THANGKA BALU): This is very unfair, Sir.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, he

is pressing for voting.

SHRI P.C.CHACKO: No, Sir, voting may not be necessary. This will be passed unanimously.

Sir, for enhancement of the welfare of the OBCs on the whole in the country there has to be a body, there has to be a mechanism to advise the Central Government, the State Governments and the Administration of the Union Territories. Lack of this is being felt in the country today. Ad hoc decisions are being taken. Here, it should be pointed out that what has happened in some States is just different from other States. Sir, there is no uniform policy. Numerically or percentage-wise it cannot be uniform. But, at the same time, there should be a uniform policy as far as the advancement and welfare of the Other Backward Classes and communities is concerned. This is the read lacunae which we are facing for the time being.

Sir, different State Governments are working in various States, in various circumstances, and under various political compulsions. Sir, you know the present reservation policy, the present percentage of reservation and subsequent controversies in various States. Things are dragged to the courts and even up to the apex court of the country. Therefore, this Commission should have the powers to advise the Government on matters regarding welfare, enhancement of reservations and other matters related to the OBCs and such advice should be binding on the Central Government also.

Sir, most of the problems which are cropping up every day and are being brought before this House on which we enter into arguments, can be avoided by this. Nobody has got any objection to give them what is due to them. It should be given also. If it is

not given, the situation will explode one day. No sensible party will say that it cannot be given, and it should be reduced. This kind of argument will not stand to reason. If anybody wants to pose as the messiah of the minorities or the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes merely for electoral purposes, that will be a temporary phenomenon. Being a Member of the Ruling party I know this is the basic faith for us. Sir, this is not a temporary issue; not something coming up temporarily for today or for tomorrow. I honestly feel, Sir, that this Backward Class Commission should be the advisory mechanism for the policy regarding the OBCs to be pursued in this country, to be implemented in this country at national level, at the State level and at the Union Territory level, by the respective Government agencies. If the Commission is given those powers, then only the purpose of this Commission will be justified. That is the most important thing I want to place before you. Also, Sir, as I have said earlier, if the Commission recommends something, if it is only on the paper and not accepted by the Government, there is no point in that. So, the recommendations of the Commission should be binding on the Government; the Government shall be ordinarily accepting all the recommendations of this Commission.

Also, Sir, the Commission, at present, do not have any powers to create any posts to discharge the duties. Considering the large area of their activities and the volume of this problem, they do not have the infrastructure to work properly. So, to build up the infrastructure of this Commission, they should have the powers to create sufficient infrastructure for implementing the heavy responsibilities entrusted to them. The Government has to take a deliberate decision to give them powers to set up that kind of infrastructure. Otherwise, the very intention of forming this Backward Class

Commission will not be appreciated. In this background, for the enhancement of the duties, for the enhancement of the powers, and for the enhancement of the responsibilities of this Commission, if the Government takes a conscious decision, there should not be any disagreement with the hon. Minister and the Government and Shri R. Anbarasu. The entire House unanimously expressed its view that this Commission should have sufficient powers.

Sir, I have cited some of the points. Because you wanted me to conclude I am not going into some of the other aspects. I am sure the other Members will raise them during the discussion subsequently.

So, the Backward Classes Commission should be made a powerful instrument for the purpose of social transformation, especially, for the emancipation of the backward classes. The intention of the Government should be for making this Commission a reality. So, this Commission should be given more powers, including financial, more responsibilities and so on. There should not be any financial constraints.

As far as grants are concerned, these grants should be voted by the Parliament. If these financial powers and other powers are given to this Commission will be able to discharge its functions more effectively.

I would also like to underline one important aspect and that is regarding the status of its Chairman and Members. I have already made a suggestion in this regard for the consideration of the Government. I have made this suggestion only to strengthen this Commission. I am sure, the Government will consider my suggestions and also the suggestions given by the hon. Members while speaking on the Resolution. If the

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function of National 556
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Government wants this Commission to be more effective, then it should accept this Resolution.

CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal): Sir, not today.

With these few words, I once again support this Resolution.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right. For the time being, we shall extend it by one hour, then we will see. There are many hon. Members who want to speak on this Resolution.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The time allotted for this discussion is already over. There are many hon. Members who want to speak on this Resolution. Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time for this Resolution by one hour?

Now, the House stands adjourned to re-assemble on Monday, 22nd August, 1994 at 11 a.m.

18. 08 hrs.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Let us extend it by two hours.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven
of the Clock on Monday, August 22, 1994/
Shravana 31, 1916 (Saka).*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN

PLS. 40. XXXIV.19.94

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PUBLISHED UNDER RULES 379 AND 382 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN LOK SABHA (SEVENTH EDITION) AND PRINTED BY S. NARAYANAN & SONS, B-88, OKHLA INDUSTRIAL AREA, PHASE-II, NEW DELHI- 110 020.
