

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

**Eleventh Session
(Tenth Lok Sabha)**



PARLIAMENT LIBRARY

No. 2.....3.....

Date. 11.9.....

(Vol. XXXIII contains Nos. 1 to 10)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

Price : Rs. 50.00

[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.]

Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates

(English Version)

....

Friday, July 29, 1994/Sravana 7, 1916 (Saka).

....

Col./Line

For

Read

18/14-15

SHRI HARISH NRAYAN
PRABHU ZANTYE

SHRI HARISH NARAYAN
PRABHU ZANTYE

98/11-12

SHRI V.SOBHANADREE-
SWARA RAO

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA
RAO VADDE

191/30-31

SHRIMATI VAUNDHARA
RAJE

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA
RAJE

213/23-24

M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA
MURTHY

(M.V.)
SHRI CHANDRASHE KHARA
MURTHY

278/5 (from below)

SHR

SHRI

CONTENTS

[Tenth Series, Vol. XXXIII, Eleventh Session, 1994/1916 (Saka)]

No. 5, Friday, July 29, 1994/Sravana 7, 1916 (Saka)

COLUMNS

Re: Action Taken Report on the Recommendations of Joint Parliamentary Committee on Irregularities in Securities and Banking Transactions	1-2, 316-318
--	-----------------

Written Answers to Questions:

*Starred Questions Nos.: 81 to 100	2-57
------------------------------------	------

Unstarred Questions Nos.: 841 to 1043 and 1045 to 1066	57-316
---	--------

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

*Friday July, 29, 1994/
Sravana 7, 1916 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR SPEAKER in the Chair]

(Interruptions)

**RE: Action Taken Report on the
Recommendations of Joint Parliamentary
Committee on Irregularities In
Securities and Banking Transactions**

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTER-
JEE (Dumdum) Have they communicated
that they have withdrawn the report?
(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN
(Roseria), Sir, let them withdraw the report
or you adjourn the House *(Interruptions)*

11.04 hrs.

*At this stage, Shrimati Saroj Dubey and
some other hon Members came and
stood on the floor near the Table*

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER The House stands
adjourned to meet again at 12 00 Noon

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve
of the Clock*

12.01 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha met at one minute past
Twelve of the Clock*

[MR SPEAKER in the Chair]

(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Export of Rice to Japan

*81 SHRI R SURENDER REDDY
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be
pleased to state

(a) whether the rice exporters have
shown keen interest in exploring more
foreign markets for Indian rice particularly
in Japan and sought assistance from the
Government in that regard,

(b) whether a delegation of rice ex-
porters recently visited Japan to have dis-
cussions with the officials of the Japan
Food Agency and likely importers

(c) if so, the details and the out-
come thereof,

(d) the quantity of rice (basmati and non-basmati) estimated to be exported to Japan in the near future; and

(e) the steps taken to grow varieties of rice which are popular in foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) to (d).

Yes Sir. The rice exporters have shown keen interest in exploring markets for Indian rice including Japan. All India Rice Exporter's Association (AIREA) also sponsored a delegation to Japan in April, 1994. The delegation was exploratory in nature. The objective was to get to know Japanese market and to explore the possibility of entering that market. The delegates had discussions with the authorities of the Food Agency of the Government of Japan (JFA). Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and their Quarantine Department. They also had meetings with various trading houses, supermarket chains, food processors and whole-salers of rice and officials of the Japanese Rice Wholesalers Association.

The assessment of the delegation was that on account of the Japanese preference for the short-grain Japonica variety of rice, there is no immediate prospect for the export of bulk quantities of long grain rice to Japan. However, basmati rice can be introduced in Japan only in small quantities as a special cuisine. Further, production of Japonica rice in India is negligible and it would only be

feasible to develop such varieties for export if there is an assured Japanese market.

(e) The Ministry of Agriculture has an on-going centrally sponsored programme for propagating high yielding varieties of rice and propagation of adoption of improved rice production technology with increased and efficient use of inputs.

[Translation]

Tax Evasion

*82. SMT. DIPIKA H.
TOPIWALA;
SHRI ARJUN SINGH
YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) the number of cases of tax evasion detected during the last one year.

(b) whether the Government propose to simplify the laws to curb the tendency of tax evasion; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

The MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The number of cases of tax evasion detected during 1993-94 under different laws are:

(i) Under Central Excise law :	5,266 cases
(ii) Under the Customs Act :	(i) 689 cases of commercial frauds (Provisional)
	(ii) 47,356 cases of smuggling

(iii) Under the Income-tax Act evasion is detected in the course of surveys, searches, enquiries into as-

essment proceedings and other enquiries. Composite data is not maintained in regard to such

detections. During 1993-94, 5,026 searches were conducted as a result of which assets worth Rs. 396.46 crores were seized and un-disclosed income of Rs. 44.83 crores was admitted.

The Government has been taking various measures from time to time to curb tax evasion. These include:

- (1) Under Customs and Central Excise Laws rationalisation/ lowering of customs and central excise duties, broad banding of duty rates, reducing the number of exemption notifications, extension of modvat to a large number of items, simplification of modvat procedure, rationalisation of small scale industries exemption scheme.
- (2) Under Income-tax laws: Legislative measures include progressive reduction of tax rates, rationalisation of slabs of income and provisions regarding presumptive tax for smaller assessee provisions regarding compulsory maintenance and audit of accounts in appropriate cases, restriction on cash transactions, pre-emptive purchase of property, penalties and prosecutions as well as enforcement provisions of search and survey are amongst the steps being taken to curb generation of black money.

[English]

Buddhist Travel Circuits

*83. SHRI ATAL BIHARI
VAJPAYEE:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN
PANDEYA:

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

(a) whether the Government had entered into loan agreements with the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan in December, 1988 for development of infra-structural facilities along the Buddhist Travel Circuits in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and in January, 1992 for conservation and development of Ajanta and Ellora in Maharashtra.

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of these agreements;

(c) the amount of loan utilised by each of these States so far; and

(d) the progress of these projects so far, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d). The Government have entered into a loan agreement with the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan in December, 1988 for development of infrastructural facilities along the identified Buddhist Travel Circuits in UP and Bihar, The Government have also entered into a loan agreement with the OECF in January, 1992 for conservation and development of Ajanta and Ellora in Maharashtra.

For the UP and Bihar project, the project period which was originally upto January, 1994, has recently been extended by the OECF upto January, 1997. the OECF would extend financial assistance to the tune of 9.244 billion Japanese Yen. The major components of

the project are strengthening of National and State Highways, landscaping, augmentation of water and electricity supply and setting up of wayside amenities. The loan is repayable over 20 years with a grace of 10 years at a rate of interest of 2.5% per annum.

The OECF assistance for the Ajanta and Ellora project is to the tune of 3745 million Japanese Yen. The project is expected to be completed by December, 1996. The loan is repayable over 20 years with a grace period of 10 years at an interest rate of 2.6% per annum. The major components of the project are afforestation, upgradation of aerodrome facilities at Aurangabad, strengthening and improvement of roads, augmentation of water-supply and sewerage, improvement of electricity supply, conservation of monuments and visitor management facilities.

Out of the total amount reimbursed by the OECF under UP and Bihar project, Rs. 11.7 crores pertains to UP and Rs. 16.5 crores to Bihar.

The Ajanta and Ellora project is in progress. An amount of Rs. 72.61 lakhs has been spent so far.

[Translation]

Development of Tourism

*84. DR. AMRITLAL KALIDAS
PATEL:
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:

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

(a) whether the State Governments have sought financial assistance from the Union Government for the development of tourist places in their States during 1994-95.

(b) if so, the projects/schemes for which assistance has been sought; and

(c) the amount of financial assistance provided to the State Governments therefor, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). The Central Department of Tourism in consultation with State Governments/ Union Territories has prioritised 250 schemes/projects amounting to Rs. 51.15 crores for the year 1994-95 and an amount of Rs. 19.96 crores has been earmarked for this purpose. The details are given in the attached *Statement*.

STATEMENT

Projects/Schemes prioritised for Central Financial Assistance during 1994-95

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	No. of projects/schemes	Estimated amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9	303.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	77.00
3.	Assam	6	130.00

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	No. of projects/schemes	Estimated amount (Rs. in lakhs)
4.	Bihar	10	230.00
5.	Goa	6	155.00
6.	Gujarat	8	170.00
7.	Haryana	9	195.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	12	313.60
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	12	281.00
10.	Karnataka	12	400.00
11.	Kerala	11	240.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	8	195.00
13.	Maharashtra	10	251.00
14.	Manipur	7	110.00
15.	Meghalaya	5	100.00
16.	Mizoram	9	150.00
17.	Nagaland	5	55.00
18.	Orissa	8	170.00
19.	Punjab	9	185.00
20.	Rajasthan	11	231.00
21.	Sikkim	5	130.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	7	160.00
23.	Tripura	9	101.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	12	266.00
25.	West Bengal	8	79.50
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5	83.00
27.	Chandigarh	5	47.50
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2	31.00
29.	Daman & Diu	8	40.00
30.	Delhi	7	105.00
31.	Lakshadweep	1	25.00
32.	Pondicherry	6	105.00
Total		250	5115.10

*[English]***Air accident in Himachal Pradesh**

*85. SHRI PHOOL CHAND
VERMA:
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:

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

(a) whether an aircraft occurred on July 9, 1994 in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the extent of loss of life and property as a result thereof;

(c) whether the black box of the crashed aircraft has been found;

(d) if so, the faults in the aircraft indicated by the black box;

(e) whether the Government have conducted an inquiry into the accident; and

(f) if so, the findings thereof ?

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

(b) The accident resulted in the death of 13 persons and total destruction of the aircraft.

(c) and (d). Since the all-up weight of the aircraft was less than 5700 Kgs. it was not fitted with flight recorders.

(e) and (f). The accident is under investigation by an Inspector of Accidents appointed by the Director General of Civil Aviation under Rule 71 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937. The Government also propose to appoint a Court of Inquiry headed by a sitting Judge of the Himachal Pradesh High Court to investigate the cause of the accident under Rule 75 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

Tourism Promotion

*86. SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI:
SHRI RAM VILAS
PASWAN:

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

(a) the number of times he and the officials of the Ministry visited foreign countries during the last two years to promote tourism in the country.

(b) the estimated expenditure incurred on these foreign trips, yearwise;

(c) the targets set for foreign exchange earnings by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the percentage by which the target is expected to be achieved as a result of such visits ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad has undertaken six tours during the last two years to promote tourism as well as air services to India. Further, eleven officers level tours have been made for promoting tourism to India during the same period.

(b) the estimated expenditure incurred on these foreign visits year-wise is as follows:

(Rs. in lakhs)

	Minister	Officers (including those who accompanied Minister)
1992-93	0.80 [@]	9.51
1993-94	4.42 [@]	18.84

[@] Expenditure on air fare and other allowances.

(c) and (d). The annual foreign exchange earnings from tourism by the end of the 8th Plan is likely to be Rs. 7,000 crores. The increase in earnings is expected due to several factors including overseas promotion and publicity and as such it is difficult to estimate the impact of any single factor separately.

[Translation]

Inflation Rate

*87. SHRI PANKAJ
CHOWDHARY:
PROF. RASA SINGH
RAWAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inflation rate has already exceeded the double digit, despite the Government's measures to contain it;

(b) if so; the particulars of wholesale and consumer price indices of essential commodities during the last six months;

(c) the reasons for continuous rise in the price index;

(d) the weekly rate of inflation on point to point basis during the above period;

(e) the impact of increased inflation rate on the wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities; and

(f) the further steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the price rise and to contain the inflation rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The inflation rate based on wholesale price index had reached

10.35% in the week ended 9th July, 1994 for which the latest data is available. The particulars of the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) for essential commodities during the last six months are listed below:

Essential Commodities

1994	WPI	CPI
	Base=1981-82	Base=1982
January	256.8	255.3
February	259.6	261.7
March	260.3	262.7
April	262.1	N.A.
May	268.0	N.A.
June	270.7	N.A.

(c) Factors that may have fuelled inflationary expectations since January, are (i) high fiscal deficit; (ii) high growth of money supply; (iii) production shortfalls in sugar, cotton, jute and groundnut; and (iv) large increases in minimum support prices continuously for the last three years and, the consequent rise in the issue prices for PDS.

(d) The annual inflation rate on point to point basis for each week during the last six months is listed below:-

Week ending	Inflation (%)	Week ending	Inflation (%)
Jan. 1, 1994	8.86	Mar. 5	10.25
8	9.18	12	10.38
15	9.47	19	10.73
22	9.14	26	10.81
29	8.96	April 2	11.29
Feb. 5	9.52	9	11.65
12	9.42	16	11.51
19	9.25	23	12.09
26	9.52	30	11.82

Week ending	Inflation(%)	Week ending	Inflation(%)
May 7	12.01	June 4	10.30 (P)
14	11.94	11	10.28 (P)
21	11.09 (P)	18	10.42 (P)
28	10.62 (P)	25	10.22 (P)
		July 2	10.73 (P)
		9	10.35 (P)

(e) Wholesale price of essential commodities rose by 6.8% during the current financial year upto 9th July, 1994. Data for corresponding period in respect of consumer price index is not yet available.

(f) The anti-inflationary measures taken by the Government in recent months are:

- (i) Decision to limit the fiscal deficit for 1994-95 to 6% of GDP as against 7.3% last year.
- (ii) Limiting the budget deficit and net borrowings from the RBI in the form of ad hoc Treasury Bills to Rs. 6000 crores during 1994-95 and instituting a mechanism to ensure that this limit is not exceeded by more than Rs. 3,000 crores for more than 10 continuous working days.
- (iii) Raising Cash Reserve Ratio for banks to 15% from 14% with a view to reducing the growth of money supply to a range of 14-15% in 1994-95.
- (iv) Allowing import of sugar and cotton under OGL with zero duty.
- (v) Placing import of refined palmolein on OGL and allowing imports for PDS at concessional duty of 20%.

(vi) Allowing import of Viscose Staple Fibre at 7% duty to supplement Cotton/Yarn supply.

(vii) Acting intervention in the food-grain market by open market sale of rice and wheat through FCI from large public holding of food stocks.

(viii) Selective credit control measures for agro raw materials, viz. cotton, vegetable oil, oilseeds and pulses.

[English]

Foreign Airlines

*88. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR
YADAV:
SHRI TARA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the foreign airlines operating from India are resorting to tariff violations and other discounting policies without prior approval of the DGCA;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the impact of such concessions on our airlines; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d). In June, 1994, the Board of Airline Representatives (BAR) reported to DGCA that some foreign airlines operating from India particularly the European Carriers were resorting to tariff violations in

contravention of the provisions of the Aircraft Rules, 1937. Such under cutting of fares adversely affects the business of our national carriers. A meeting of all foreign operators was convened by the Director General of Civil Aviation on 08.07.1994 to discuss this issue and the operators were advised to follow the provisions of Aircraft Rules, 1937 in regard to levy of fares.

[Translation]

Labour Disputes

*89. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:
SHRI RAMESWAR
PATIDAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute more Courts/Tribunals for industrial disputes/labour cases pending for more than five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other remedial steps taken for the speedy disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Government do not, as of now, propose to constitute more Courts/Tribunals for industrial disputes/cases pending for more than five years.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The steps in hand for speedy disposal of pending disputes, *inter-alia*,

are as follows:-

- (i) More intensive conciliation work so that a larger number of cases are settled at the conciliation stage;
- (ii) Expeditious filling up of vacancies of Presiding Officers of the Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals;
- (iii) Holding of Lok Adalats, wherever possible.

[English]

Dumping of Steel

*90. SHRI HARISH NRAYAN
PRABHU ZANTYE:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE
TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India has submitted a representation to the Government regarding huge dumping of steel in the country and the need for initiating anti-dumping measures;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir, the Steel Authority of India (SAIL) had filed a request for initiating anti-dumping investigation, in February, 1994, alleging dumping of steel plates into India.

The petition was examined in accordance with the Customs Tariff (Identification, Assessment and Collection of Duty or Additional Duty on dumped articles and for determination of Injury) Rules, 1985 and it was found that there was no *prima-facie* evidence of dumping/injury. The above fact was intimated to the petitioner in March, 1994.

Bank Credit and Recovery

*91. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH
HOODA:
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL
BHARGAVA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the loan recovery position of agricultural sector *vis-a-vis* industrial sector as on March 31, 1994;

(b) whether the rate of the bank credit for the industrial sector has been showing an increasing trend *vis-a-vis* the agricultural sector; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The amount of outstanding advances and overdues in respect of public sector banks under agriculture and industrial sector as at the end of March 1993 (latest available) is indicated below:-

(Rs. in crores)

	Outstanding advances	Overdues	%age of overdues to outstanding
Agriculture	17872	4210	23.5
Industry	62105	10702	17.2

(b) and (c). The amount of outstanding advances of all scheduled commercial banks to the industrial sector

and agricultural sector as at the end of June '90, June '91, June '92 and June '93 (latest available) are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

As at the end of	Industry		Agriculture	
	Outstanding Advances	Variation	Outstanding Advances	Variation
June '90	54424	—	16939	—
June '91	62452	8028 (14.8)	17221	282 (1.7)

(Rs. in crores)

As at the end of	Industry		Agriculture	
	Outstanding Advances	Variation	Outstanding Advances	Variation
June'92	70284	7832 (12.5)	18767	1546 (8.9)
June'93	78714	8430 (11.9)	20075	1308 (7.0)

Figures in brackets shown the rate of growth over the previous year.

From the above table it may be observed that growth rate of bank credit for the industrial sector is declining continuously whereas it is not so in the case of agricultural sector.

National Wage Policy

*92. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a National Wage Policy for the benefit and welfare of the labourers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). The issue relating to formulation of a National Wage Policy has been considered in various form in the past. A Group of State Labour Ministers in September, 1985 decided that it might not be feasible to frame a National Wage Policy at the present stage. This subject was also considered by the Indian Labour Conference (ILC) held in November,

1985. The ILC expressed the view that "till such time a National wage is feasible it would be desirable to have regional minimum wage in regard to which the Central Government may lay down the guidelines. The minimum wages should be revised at regular periodicity and should be linked with rise in cost of living". Accordingly, the Government have issued guidelines on Regional Minimum Wages in July, 1987 to all the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The State Governments/U.T. Administrations were also requested to provide for variable Dearness Allowance linked to consumer price index, as a part of minimum wages, to be revised every 6 months.

New Airports

*93. SHRI SHANTARAM
POTDUKHE:
SHRI K. PRADHANI:

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

(a) whether some new airports are proposed to be developed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount earmarked for the development of each of these airports; and

(d) the time by which the development work is expected to be completed at each of these airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A new airport is proposed to be developed at Tura in Meghalaya.

(c) An amount of Rs. 2.43 crores has been earmarked by National Airports Authority to be spent during the VIIIth Five Year Plan period.

(d) Present cost estimates of the project is Rs. 6.17 crores. Due to financial constraints; it is difficult for National Airports Authority to finance the project on its own. The project will be taken up only after the financial resources are identified.

Trade with Russia

*94. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Indo-Russian joint trade commission was held recently in New Delhi;

(b) whether emphasis was laid by the Government on the possibilities of increasing the Indo-Russian trade upto Rs.5000 crores during the next two years;

(c) whether suggestions were also put to remove the hurdles coming in the way of trade between the two countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the efforts being made by the Government to achieve the fixed target?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Co-Chairman of the Indo-Russian inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic Scientific and Technological cooperation, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Commerce Minister of India and Mr. Yuri F. Yarov, Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, held meetings during the official visit of the latter to India from 3-7 June, 1994. The first formal session of the Joint Commission is scheduled to be held in Moscow around the middle of September, 1994.

(b) During Mr. Yarov's visit to India, both sides agreed that the Joint Commission would set itself the target of raising the level of bilateral trade to Rs. 5000 crores within two years.

(c) to (e). In the meetings held during Mr. Yarov's visit, discussions were held on raising the level of bilateral trade and on identifying and removing the hurdles in the way of trade. Some of the problems identified included those relating to the absence of proper infrastructure for trade in terms of shipping, banking and warehousing facilities; slow utilisation by Russia of debt repayment funds and slow progress in developing contacts between Indian and Russian businessmen. Both sides agreed to make vigorous efforts to promote economic cooperation. Measures identified to boost trade included encouraging a joint venture bank; cooperating in the development of Novorossisk port on the Black sea; improving warehousing and consignment trade facilities; and improving utilisation of debt repayment funds by measures sponsored by the Russian side like advancing Rouble credits to Russian

importers and reducing duties on goods imported from India. A Working Group of Trade and Economic Cooperation met in Moscow (20-21 July 1994) to further concretise decisions on boosting trade and economic cooperation.

Credit to NABARD

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has increased the limit of credit to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the guidelines issued to rural banks for giving loans to farmers; and

(d) the extent to which this new credit policy is likely to boost the rural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). To enable National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to provide adequate refinance support, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its credit policy announced in May 1994 has enhanced the General Line of Credit (GLC)-I for seasonal agricultural operation by Rs. 400 crores from the present level of Rs. 3700 crores to Rs. 4100 crores. Furthermore, to meet the enhanced need of the non-farm sector, the GLC-II has also been increased by Rs. 100 crores from Rs. 650 crores to Rs. 750 crores. It is expected that the

additional support provided by RBI to NABARD will improve credit flow to the small borrowers in the agricultural sector.

(c) and (d). In terms of RBI's guidelines, all Indian Banks are required to provide at least 18% of their net credit to agricultural sector. It has been stipulated that loan applications upto Rs. 25,000 should be disposed off within a fortnight. For small borrowers, no margin money is required for agricultural loans upto Rs. 10,000 and no security or third party guarantee is insisted upon in respect of agricultural loans upto Rs. 15,000.

Besides the standing guidelines mentioned above, in the credit policy of RBI of May, 1994, the following measures have been announced for boosting investment in the agricultural sector:-

1. The relaxation regarding minimum recovery percentage for availment of credit limits by State Cooperative Banks and RRBs from NABARD has been further extended upto 30.6.1995.
2. Public Sector Banks have been advised to prepare specific action plans for the current financial year to enhance agricultural lending.
3. There should be at least one specialised branch of a commercial bank in each State to adequately deal with high-tech agricultural loans.
4. The net funds provided by sponsor banks to RRBs will be treated as priority sector lending of the sponsor banks.
5. Advances upto Rs. 5 lakhs granted for financing distribution of

inputs for the allied activities such as cattle feed, poultry feed etc. would be reckoned as indirect agricultural advances under the priority sector.

[Translation]

Investment by Foreign Banks

*96. SHRI RAN PUJAN PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the capital invested by foreign banks in India during the last two years

and the sectors in which this investment has been made;

(b) whether the above banks are also permitted to enter agricultural sector;

(c) if so, whether the terms and conditions in this regard are the same as applicable to Indian banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Details of sector-wise advances made by foreign banks during the last two years are given below:-

	Balance outstanding in Crores of Rupees as on	
	March 1993	March 1994
Net Bank Credit	10398	10153
Advances to Priority Sector of which	916	3172
(i) Advances to Agriculture	38	45
(ii) Advances to Small Scale Industries	555	940
Advances to Other Sectors	9482	6981

(b) Foreign Banks operating in India are free to lend to the agricultural sector.

(c) and (d). Unlike Indian Banks which are required to lend at least 18 per cent of their net credit to agriculture, no target in respect of agricultural lending has been fixed for foreign banks in view of

the fact that they do not have any rural branch network.

However, the margin and security norms, rates of interest, scale of advances and other terms and conditions relating to agricultural lending are the same for domestic as well as foreign banks.

*[English]***Banking System**

*97. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR
PATEL:
SHRI RABI RAY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state.

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of
India sponsored a study on banking sys-
tem under the guidance of a noted bank-
ing expert;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the report has been re-
ceived by the Reserve Bank of India;

(d) if so, the salient features of the
recommendations; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be
taken by the Reserve Bank of India to im-
plement them?

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

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

Bird hits at Delhi Airport

*98. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN
CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister

of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be
pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Govern-
ment has been drawn to the incidents of
bird hits at the Delhi Airport appearing in
the Indian Express dated April 13 and 16,
1994;

(b) the number of incidents of bird
hits at the Delhi Airport during the last
three years and losses suffered as a re-
sult thereof, year-wise;

(c) whether such incidents have in-
creased due to slaughter houses in the
vicinity;

(d) whether there are any rules
regarding the minimum distance of
slaughter houses from the airports;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether these rules are being
followed; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor and
action taken or proposed to be taken by
the Government in this regard?

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

(b) The requisite information is fur-
nished below:-

	1991	1992	1993	1994 (Upto 25.7.94)
No. of bird hits at I. G. I. Airport, Delhi	16	17	22	9

Information regarding the exact amount of losses suffered by the airlines on account of the above incidents is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) There is no slaughter house within a radius of 10 Kms. from IGI Airport, Delhi.

(d) and (e). Rule 81-B of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 prohibits slaughter of animals within a radius of 10 Kms from the aerodrome.

(f) and (g). Violation of Rule 81-B is a cognisable offence and offenders are liable to be prosecuted. Certain instances of violation of Rule 81-B were noticed during a joint survey conducted in April/May, 1994. The offenders have been apprehended by the police and cases registered against them.

D.A. to Government Employees

*99. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:
DR. LAL BAHADUR
RAWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the wholesale and consumer price indices as on July 1, 1994;

(b) the extent of increase in consumer price index during January 1 to June 30, 1994;

(c) whether another instalment of D.A. has become due to the Central Government employees;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken to release this instalment of D.A. to enable the Central Government employees to cope with the rise in prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The wholesale price index for the week ending 2nd July, 1994 was 267.3 (base 1981 - 82 = 100). The figures in respect of All Indian Consumer Price Index (AICPI) as on July 1, 1994 are likely to be available by mid-August, 1994.

(c) to (e). In accordance with the recommendations of the IVth Central Pay Commission, as accepted by the Govt., the instalment of DA due, as on 1st January and 1st July each year, normally becomes payable with the salary for the month of March and September, respectively. Whether another instalment of DA is due with effect from 1st July, 1994, will be known after the AICPI as on 1st July, 1994, is available.

Import of Rubber

*100. SHRI V.S. VIJAYA
RAGHAVAN:
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAM-
CHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have studied the domestic demand of raw rubber in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to import rubber under Open General Licence Scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the rubber growers have opposed this move;

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (f). The demand for natural rubber in the domestic market in the country is estimated to be 4,85,000 tonnes during the current year 1994-95. Since the estimated production almost meets the current demand in the domestic market the Government does not propose to import natural rubber under open general licence scheme. The rubber growers have been consistently opposing any such move to import natural rubber. However, import of rubber has been allowed in the past only on those occasions when there is a perceptible short-fall in production to meet the demand of the domestic market.

Foreign Trade

841. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEER-APPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the details of those countries which have not signed the GATT Treaty and with whom India is having trade ties?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): There are 123 members of GATT and 17 countries' requests for accession are at different stages of consideration. There are 69 countries with which we trade but which are not members of GATT. These are Canary Islands, Cape Verde Islands, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Liberia, Reunion, Sao Thomo and Principe, Seychelles, Somalia, St. Helena of Ascension, Libya,

Sudan, Greenland, St. Pierre and Miquelon, Bahamas, Montserrat, American Samoa, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Panama Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, Turks and Caicos Islands, Virgin Islands of US, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Christmas Island, Cook Islands, Iran, Kiribati Republic, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Republic of Nauru, Nepal, Papua and New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vietnam, Western Samoa, Iraq, Lebanon, Oman, Syria, Yemen Arab Republic, Yemen People's Democratic Republic, Cocos Islands, French Guiana, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, New Hebrides, Niue Island, Norfolk Island, Pacific Islands, Pitcairn Islands, Portuguese Timor, Tokelau Islands, Wallis and Futuna Islands, Republic of Vanuata, Faeroe Islands, Andorra, Channel Islands and Gibraltar.

Bonded Child Labour

842. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has criticised India for failing to check bonded labour, particularly virtual slave labour by children;

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

(c) the number of bonded child labour released during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to eliminate bonded labour in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) The convention No. 29 concerning forced labour was discussed by the Committee on Application of Standards at the 31st Session of International Labour Conference held at Geneva in June, 1994. The Committee urged the Government to spare no efforts to institute the necessary measures for elimination of debt bondage including child bonded labour.

(b) to (d). The Government have accorded the highest priority to total eradication of Bonded Labour System throughout the country and towards this end have been undertaking an all out campaign in concert with the State Governments. The State Governments have been advised to conduct periodic surveys for identification of bonded labourers. The identified bonded labourers are rehabilitated in a time bound manner through fixation of annual targets and close monitoring by the Government. Out of 2,51,424 bounded labourers identified and released as on 31.3.1993, only about 6000 bonded labourers are still to be rehabilitated.

Under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, no distinction has been made between adult and child bonded labour. However, some instance of children working in conditions of bondage have come to the notice of the Government. According to information received from the State Governments, the number of child bonded labour released so far is as under:-

Andhra Pradesh	—	43
Bihar	—	388

Karnataka	—	75
Madhya Pradesh	—	545
Maharashtra	—	1
Uttar Pradesh	—	341

[Translation]

Central assistance to States

843. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI
ASHRAF FATMI:
SHRI LALL BABU RAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Central assistance allocated to each State during the current financial year and the amount already released to each State;

(b) whether the Government propose to pay the remaining amount early to the States facing economic crisis or natural calamities; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a). A *Statement* indicating State wise allocation of Central Assistance (comprising of Normal Central Assistance, Additional Central Assistance for externally aided projects and Central assistance for Centrally Sponsored Schemes transferred to States) as approved by the Planning Commission and including in the schemes of financing the States' Annual Plans 1994-95 and the amounts released there-

against so far (upto 26.7.1994) is enclosed.

(b) and (c). All the State Governments (except in case of 4 States) have been allowed to raise the entire amounts of market borrowings allocated to them for the current financial year 1994-95 in the single tranche in the month of April itself.

In addition, this Ministry has released the quarterly instalments of Centre's contribution to States' Calamity Relief Funds in advance to some of the States hit by natural Calamity on the recommendation made by the Ministry of Agriculture. At present there is no proposal to release the balance Central assistance in lump-sum by preponing future instalments.

STATEMENT

Central Assistance allocated to States during 1994-95 and the amounts released there against so far (upto 26.7.1994)

(Rs. in crores)

Sl No.	States	Central Assistance Allocated	Central Assistance Released so far (Upto 26.7.1994)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1374.19	312.60
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	309.35	106.00
3.	Assam	953.56	300.06
4.	Bihar	1175.31	335.87
5.	Goa	53.14	16.30
6.	Gujarat	494.82	116.62
7.	Haryana	365.14	82.22
8.	Himachal Pradesh	363.34	102.91
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	852.26	273.62
10.	Karnataka	882.86	204.17
11.	Kerala	586.05	151.83
12.	Madhya Pradesh	752.99	204.17
13.	Maharashtra	997.21	213.05
14.	Manipur	223.79	70.20
15.	Meghalaya	249.65	64.82
16.	Mizoram	207.03	62.60
17.	Nagaland	207.34	64.60
18.	Orissa	646.99	152.77
19.	Punjab	972.03	279.58
20.	Rajasthan	703.77	156.77

(Rs. in crores)

Sl No.	States	Central Assistance Allocated	Central Assistance Released so far (Upto 26.7.1994)
21.	Sikkim	135.62	48.63
22.	Tamil Nadu	1425.15	309.24
23.	Tripura	283.61	89.61
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2387.37	820.33
25.	West Bengal	848.83	187.73
Grand Total		17451.40 *	4726.27 *

* These figures do not include assistance for Hill Areas Development Programme & Border Areas Development Programme.

[English]

World Bank Aid

844. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA
GAVIT:
SHRI PARAS RAM
BHARDWAJ:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has recently changed its aid strategy towards India;

(b) if so, the details alongwith 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) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Development of Handicrafts in Gujarat

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

(a) whether Gujarat Handicrafts Development Corporation has submitted any proposal to provide financial assistance for the works like woodcraft, bronze craft, hand printing, carpet weaving, clay sculpture, bomboo craft etc., and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The action taken on the proposals received from Gujarat Handicrafts Development Corporation during the year 1993-94 is indicated in the table below:-

	Name of the scheme	No. of proposals sanctioned	Amount sanctioned/ released (Rs.in lakh)
1.	Exhibitions	14	7.60
2.	Design and Technical Development	8	8.0

**Modernisation of Note Printing Press,
Nashik**

846. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time bound scheme has been formulated by the Government regarding the modernisation of the Note Printing Press at Nashik;

(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). Due to resource constraints with the Government, it has not been possible to formulate any time bound scheme regarding modernisation of the note printing press at Nashik. However, the Reserve Bank of India has been requested to procure the machines required for modernisation of the note printing press at Nashik. The RBI is expected to finalise the action regarding procurement of above machines shortly.

[English]

Raja Chelliah Committee Report

847. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI:
DR. D. VENKATESWARA
RAO:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI
RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments have agreed to implement the recom-

mendations of the Raja Chelliah Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some States have not agreed to implement these recommendations and formed any committee or panel to study the interim report before implementation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to implement the report in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (e). Tax Reform Committee headed by Dr. Raja Chelliah gave recommendations about Central Taxes and not about taxes levied by the State Governments. However, the whole aspect of tax reform in States including introduction of Value Added Tax was discussed in a Conference of State Finance Ministers held on 27th May, 1994 in Delhi. The Conference resolved to constitute a Committee of State Finance Ministers to examine all aspects of Tax Reforms including Value Added Tax. In pursuance of the resolution, the Government has constituted a Committee of Finance Ministers of 11 States.

Licences to Spinning Mills

848. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government for issuing fresh industrial licences in spinning sector to cooperative spinning mills;

(b) whether any proposals for granting such licences to cooperative

spinning mills of Maharashtra are pending with the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) As per the Liberalised Industrial Policy announced in July 1991, Textiles industry is exempted from compulsory licensing.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Do not arise.

World Bank Aid

849. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has hinted at a reduction in the considering aid to India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the precautionary measures the Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The India Development Forum meeting was held in Paris on June 30 & July 1, 1994 to discuss the aid requirements of the country. The Forum noted the remarkable increase in India's reserves to over \$ 16 billion and that India was no longer seeking fast disbursing assistance. In line with India's redefined borrowing strategy and the World Bank recommendations for commitment need of high quality long term development assistance,

the members of the forum including the World Bank pledged a long term assistance package of \$ 6 billion. This amount is somewhat higher than the commitment level actually realised in the recent years and is in line with the Govt. decision to draw primarily a highly concessional assistance in its external resource mobilisation strategy.

Foreign Airlines Collaboration with Air Taxi Operators

850. SHRIMATI BIBHU KUMARI DEVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the foreign airlines are entering into collaboration with the Indian air taxi operators to secure Indian air routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the likely impact thereof on revenue of the Indian Airlines; and

(d) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). Government have approved ownership of Jet Air by Tailwind Ltd., a company incorporated in the Isle of Man in which two foreign airlines namely M/s. Gulf Air and M/s. Kuwait Air would hold equity share of 20% each.

(c) and (d). There will be no specific impact on revenue because of foreign collaboration.

[Translation]

[English]

Export of Leather Products

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

(a) the quantity of the leather and leather products exported during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94; and

(b) the quantity of these products exported during the first quarter of 1994-95 as compared to first quarter of each of the above years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Quantitative figures of exports are not maintained. However, the value of exports of leather and leather products during three years from 1991-92 to 1993-94 are as follows:-

(Value in Rs. Crores)

Year	Exports
1991-92	3076.24
1992-93	3699.94
1993-94	4139.33

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta

(b) Export of leather and leather products during the period April-June 1994-95 (First Quarter) as provisionally estimated, was Rs. 1086.91 crores as compared to Rs. 955.42 crores in 1993-94, Rs. 800.91 crores in 1992-93, and Rs. 557.94 crores in 1991-92.

Credit Card System

852. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the nationalised banks which have introduced 'Credit Card System' and bank-wise number of credit card holders;

(b) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding fraudulent use of the credit cards during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the action taken against the fraudulent users of the credit cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The names of nationalised banks which have introduced their own Credit Cards and the number of the card holders (bankwise) are given below:-

Name of the Bank	No. of Credit Card holders	As on
Andhra Bank	73,007	31.3.93
Bank of Baroda	1,60,637	31.3.94
Bank of India	26,514	30.9.93
Vijaya Bank	38,462	31.3.93
Canara Bank	2,04,342	31.3.94
Central Bank of India	81,429	31.3.94

(b) According to Reserve Bank of India, Canara Bank had reported a fraudulent transaction under International VISA Credit Card.

(c) A criminal complaint was lodged by the Canara Bank and FIR has been

registered by the Police. The bank has further reported that six persons were arrested in this connection by the Crime Branch of Delhi Police.

Loan Accounts of Public Sector Banks

853. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) the total number of loan accounts of the public sector banks as on March 31, 1994 and the total payable balance outstanding therein in the country as a whole, with State-wise and bank-wise break up;

(b) the corresponding data for the loan accounts in respect of the priority sectors; and

(c) the corresponding data for loan accounts held by members of minority communities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKAHRA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The total number of loan accounts of the public sector banks as on March 31, 1993 (latest available) and the total payable balance outstanding therein in the country as a whole was 164.8 lakhs and Rs. 22988.55 crores respectively. Out of the above, the number of accounts and the amount involved in priority sector was 146.5 lakhs and Rs. 11661.5 crores respectively. The State-wise details of the above information are not generated the data reporting system of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). However, bank-wise break up for the same is given in the *Statement* enclosed.

(c) The data reporting system of Reserve Bank of India does not generate the information in the manner asked for. However, the total number of accounts and the balance outstanding under priority sector credit to minorities for all the Districts in the country was 56.96 lakhs and Rs. 5674.67 crores respectively.

STATEMENT

Bank-wise information in respect of Public Sector Banks regarding number of loan accounts and the amount of overdue advances outstanding against the same as at the end of March, 1993

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	Total amount of overdues in all categories of Accounts		Total Amount of overdues in Priority Sector	
		No. of Accounts	Amount	No. of Accounts	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	State Bank of India	4451367	6333.13	3785995	2823.97
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	227775	249.69	221250	151.93
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	173729	273.20	153093	170.81
4.	State Bank of Indore	130106	164.16	117971	87.73
5.	State Bank of Maharashtra	369864	240.12	283319	135.83

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	State Bank of Patiala	86886	204.00	79572	91.63
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	63124	96.24	61079	50.88
8.	State Bank of Travancore	252277	235.79	202066	148.63
9.	Allahabad Bank	677920	629.00	634955	269.00
10.	Andhra Bank	556538	435.20	486228	251.54
11.	Bank of Baroda	673161	1314.25	626083	659.98
12.	Bank of India	801615	1411.00	740086	710.00
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	417581	744.72	388145	375.59
14.	Canara Bank	1211571	2079.63	1172902	1043.46
15.	Central Bank of India	1313541	1938.85	1239821	1129.24
16.	Corporation Bank	215717	165.52	191794	122.15
17.	Dena Bank	344877	517.31	321115	271.16
18.	Indian Overseas Bank	916644	890.71	827006	522.82
19.	Indian Bank	636535	847.15	609042	439.65
20.	New Bank of India	188364	493.33	177354	222.31
21.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	195479	199.69	180369	104.29
22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	209027	626.02	193269	274.36
23.	Punjab National Bank	—	—	—	—
24.	Syndicate Bank	1074851	1190.01	878831	649.10
25.	UCO Bank	—	—	—	—
26.	Union Bank of India	618480	766.02	586779	461.05
27.	United Bank of India	403279	390.13	375445	277.38
28.	Vijaya Bank	273807	553.99	124123	219.04
Total of all Public Sector Banks		16484112	22988.85	14657692	11661.55

Note :- Total may not add up due to rounding of the figures.

Receipts through Euro Issues

(b) the average rate of interest attached to such issues;

854. SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total receipts (in rupees as well as dollars) by Indian parties from participation in Euro issues and GDR flotations so far;

(c) whether the realisation from Euro issues and GDRs are being increasingly used to retire domestic borrowings which bear a substantially higher rate of interest; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). As per the information made available by the Reserve Bank of India, upto 8.7.1994 Indian Companies have raised by way of Euro-issues (including GDRs) approximately an amount of US \$ 3116 Million (equivalent to Rs.9775 crores assuming one USD=Rs.31.37). The interest rate offered on Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds (FCCBs) ranged between 1% to 5.5%.

(c) and (d). As per the guidelines for Euro issues 1994-95 (including GDRs) issued by the Government on 11.5.94 companies can utilise only upto 15% of the Euro issue proceeds for general corporate restructuring uses which include retirement of high cost domestic borrowings.

Guidelines for Securities Dealings

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

(a) whether there is a manual of instructions for the guidance of personnel connected with securities dealings in the State Bank of India;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether these guidelines are also applicable to other nationalised banks; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has intimated that a manual of instructions for transactions in securities has been drafted by State Bank of India and the same has been referred for vetting by a reputed firm of auditors experienced in this field.

(d) The manual of instructions of the State Bank of India is intended to facilitate its own internal control over treasury functions.

(e) Every bank has to frame and implement suitable investment policy to ensure that operations in securities are conducted in accordance with sound and acceptable business practices and RBI's guidelines.

Accident of Sahara Airlines Aircraft

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

(a) whether the Sahara Airlines aircraft crash in mid air and its fall out on an Aeroflot plane has caused damage to the Delhi Airport;

(b) if so, the total loss/damage suffered by the International Airports Authority of India (IAAI) as a result thereof; and

(c) the mode of recovery of the loss from the Sahara Airlines?

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

(b) The total loss to International Airports Authority of India is estimated at Rs.5.67 crores.

(c) The claim for the loss has been lodged by IAAI with M/s. Sahara India Airlines alongwith relevant documents. The response from M/s. Sahara India Airlines is awaited.

Implementation of IRDP

857. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the report of the Committee appointed by the Reserve Bank of India to review all aspects of the implementation of Integrated Rural Development Programme including the role and performance of banks;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the Committee appointed to review all aspects of implementation of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) is yet to submit its Report.

(c) The Committee had addressed a questionnaire to various persons/organisations seeking their views. The response received has been from a very small number of persons/organisations. In order to get feed back and suggestions from the District Collectors and District Rural Development Agencies, who are the major players in the implementation of IRDP questionnaire has been forwarded to them with a request to furnish their responses. How-

ever, response to the questionnaire has been received so far from a very few persons/organisations.

[Translation]

Indo-Myanmar Border Trade Agreement

858. SHRI MANJAY LAL:
SHRI RAM PRASAD
SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-Myanmar Border Trade Agreement have been implemented; and

(b) if so, the progress achieved so far 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) and (b). The Border Trade Agreement with Myanmar was signed in January 1994 and it was decided in consultation with the Government of Myanmar that the border trade would commence from the second half of October 1994. In the meantime, both the Government are taking steps necessary for operationalising the Border Trade Agreement, such as finalising of arrangements relating to immigration procedures, banking facilities, customs formalities, etc.

*[English]***Special Cell for NRIs**

859. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNI-
HOTRI:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN
SHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government pro-
pose to set up a cell for solving the prob-
lems of NRIs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said cell is
likely to be established?

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

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

Production of Jute

860. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM:
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased
to state:

(a) the target fixed for the produc-
tion of jute for the year 1993-94; and

(b) the steps taken by the Govern-
ment to achieve this target and to make
the Indian jute competitive in the interna-
tional market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF
THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G.
VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The production
target of raw jute (jute + mesta) for the

year 1993-94 has been fixed by Ministry
of Agriculture at 93 lakh bales of 180 kgs.
each comprising 78.50 lakh bales of jute
and 14.50 lakh bales of mesta.

(b) In order to increase production,
productivity, and improve the quality of
jute fibre, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme
on Special Jute Development Pro-
gramme, initiated in 1987-88, is being im-
plemented in 8 major jute/mesta growing
States on 100 per cent Central assis-
tance during 1994-95. Under the scheme,
financial assistance is being provided on
inputs such as seeds, implements, es-
sential nutrient minikits, foliar spray of
urea, excavation of kutcha/pucca retting
tanks and fungal culture packets etc. Un-
der the UNDP assisted programme for
Jute diversification programme for im-
provement in jute retting have been taken
up. Bio-technological research is also
being initiated to improve quality of jute.

Government have also taken a
number of measures to increase exports
of jute and jute goods including, *inter-alia*
participating in international fairs, organi-
sing buyers-sellers meets, liaising with
importers and end users, funding R&D
activities to develop a new range of diver-
sified jute productions to suit consumer
preferences, External Market Assistance
Scheme etc.

Child Labour in Carpet Industry

861. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased
to state:

(a) whether the Government have
constituted a Committee to collect infor-
mation about the children below the age
of fourteen working in carpet weaving
industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

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

Compensation to Workers

862. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Labour Ministers recommended increase in compensation to workers in case of closure of industries from 15 days' wages to 45 days' wages;

(b) if so, whether Government have accepted the recommendations of State Labour Ministers; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

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

(b) and (c). The suggestion was taken into account when proposals to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 were considered.

Retirement Age

863. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has raised the retirement age to 60 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether financial institutions under the Government sector are also requesting for higher age of retirement; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). RBI has reported that they have not raised the age of retirement of their officers to 60 years, except that the officers who had joined bank prior to 19.7.69, are considered for selective extension upto 60 years of age, in line with the practice obtaining in public sector banks, subject to certain prescribed criteria.

(c) and (d). The Government is of the view that the age of retirement of the bank officers/employees should not exceed 58 years. In fact, Government has advised Indian Banks' Association to take up with the representatives of award staff (clerical and subordinate staff) to agree for reduction in age of retirement of award staff from 60 years to 58 years. In view of the above, Government has not accepted the proposal received from some financial institutions to raise the age of retirement from 58 years to 60 years.

Slowing down of Economic Reforms

864. SHRI DATTATRAYA
BANDARU:
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India Development Forum has recently cautioned India against slowing down economic reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(d) 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). The India Development Forum Meeting was held in Paris on June 30 and 1st July 1994 to discuss the aid requirement of the country. The meeting concluded with a strong expression of support for India's economic policy. The delegates observed that in a short span of three years, the Government has been remarkably successful in overcoming a serious macroeconomic crisis, and in implementing a comprehensive programme of structural reforms while maintaining a healthy overall growth of GDP at about four per cent per annum with good prospects for higher growth in the future. It was noted that the agenda ahead is extremely demanding and will require:

- (i) continued efforts to improve the pace of fiscal consolidation;
- (ii) establishing sector-level policy and institutional frameworks

conducive to private investment in such sectors as agriculture, power, telecommunications and hydrocarbons;

(iii) accelerating the restructuring of public enterprises; and

(iv) extending the fiscal and structural reform efforts to the States.

(c) and (d). In response to the views expressed, the Indian delegation indicated that the Government is fully committed to continue making progress in fiscal adjustment and reform programmes and assured that the reform measures undertaken by the Government would be deepened and extended in the years ahead.

[Translation]

Revenue Collection

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

(a) the total revenue earned by the Central Government through income tax, excise duty, customs duty and small savings during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the amount given back to each State out of the total revenue collected; and

(c) the number of income tax assessees at present 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.

*[English]***Import of Urea**

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

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding irregularities violation of the guidelines and procedures laid down for import of urea by MMTC;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent such lapses in future?

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

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

*[Translation]***Production of Silk**

867. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS:
SHRI PROBIN DEKA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the area covered under sericulture in Assam has declined considerably and as a result thereof the production of specialised raw silk like

Muga and Endi has come down to a minimum extent; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government/the Central Silk Board to increase the production of specialised raw silk in Assam and to give employment to the rural silk growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The production of eri and muga varieties of silk in Assam have increased from 389 metric tonnes and 60 metric tonnes respectively in 1992-93 to 411 metric tonnes and 75 metric tonnes respectively during 1993-94.

However, in order to supplement the efforts of the State Government, the Central Silk Board has established a number of units in Assam for providing the necessary research, extension, training and infrastructural support to develop sericulture and to provide employment to the rural growers in the State. Besides, the following schemes are also being implemented for increasing the production of eri and muga silk in the State:-

- (i) Scheme for augmentation of eri food plants.
- (ii) Scheme for product development and domestic marketing of eri.
- (iii) Scheme for survey of muga growing areas.
- (iv) Scheme for augmentation of muga food plants.
- (v) Scheme for product development and domestic marketing for muga.

*[English]***Increase in Air Fares**

868. SHRI SHANTARAM POT-DUKHE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the air fares in the selected sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Airlines has interline arrangements with scheduled airlines and the air taxi operators;

(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) and (b). Indian Airlines has increased its domestic rupee fares in all sectors, ranging between 10% to 20% w.e.f. 25th July, 1994.

(c) to (e). Indian Airlines has interline arrangements with Air India and Vayudoot, by which transportation documents of Indian Airlines are accepted by the other two partners. Indian Airlines do not have any interline agreement with Air Taxi Operators as Indian Airlines does not see any benefits from it.

Powerloom Workers

869. SHRI R. DHANUSKODI ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the condition of powerloom workers in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for the upliftment and welfare of those workers?

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

(b) The Government of India have introduced schemes for the upliftment and welfare of the powerloom workers. Powerloom Service Centres have been opened in areas of powerloom concentration to impart training to weavers, provide technical consultancy, develop designs, provide testing facilities etc. The Government has also introduced a Group Insurance Scheme for the Powerloom Weavers in association with the Life Insurance Corporation of India. The Scheme has been implemented in some States. Four Computer Aided Design Centres have been sanctioned by Government which will help to upgrade the existing quality and design of cloth produced by the decentralised Powerloom Sector.

Placement Cells at National/Regional Vocational Training Institutes

870. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4457 dated April 22, 1994 and state.

(a) whether the Government have since set up the placement cells at the National Vocational Training Institute/Regional Vocational Training Institutes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which these are likely to be set-up?

project for the development of sericulture in the State:-

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). The matter is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

**National Sericulture Project in
Madhya Pradesh**

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

(a) whether the Government have started National Sericulture Project in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of work being undertaken under this project; and

(c) the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. This pilot project is being implemented by the Central Silk Board in Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh with an outlay of Rs. 369.66 lakhs. The project envisages expansion of area under mulberry plantation and creation of infrastructure to provide R&D and Extension and Training support for the development of sericulture in the State.

As against the project target of 2,000 acres, an area of about 2,038 acres has already been brought under mulberry plantation upto March, 1994.

Besides, the following infrastructures have been established under the

(i) Basic Seed Farm	1
(ii) Grainage	1
(iii) Technical Service Centres	4
(iv) Demonstration-cum-Training Centre	1
(v) Cocoon Market	1
(vi) Cocoon Testing & Grading Unit	1
(vii) Cocoon Drying Chamber	1
(viii) Farmer's Training School	1

[English]

Sales Tax Laws

872. SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference was held in Delhi to discuss sales tax related issues and explore the possibility of adopting the uniform sales tax laws in all States;

(b) If so, the States which have participated in that Conference; and

(c) the decision taken at the Conference in this regard?

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

(b) A Statement indicating the names of States is enclosed.

(c) The Conference unanimously resolved to constitute a Committee of Finance Ministers to examine all aspects of tax reforms. In pursuance of the resolu-

tion, the Government has constituted a Committee of Finance Ministers of 11 States.

STATEMENT

Name of the States/Union Territories attended the Conference held on 27th May, 1994 in the Vigyan Bhavan Annexe, New Delhi

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Represented by
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Finance Minister
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Commissioner (Finance)
3.	Assam	Finance Minister
4.	Bihar	Cabinet Minister For Parliamentary Affairs, Commercial Taxes & National Savings
5.	Daman & Diu	Administrator
6.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	Administrator
7.	Delhi	Finance Minister
8.	Goa	Chief Minister
9.	Gujarat	Finance Minister
10.	Haryana	Finance Minister
11.	Himachal Pradesh	Chief Minister
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	Advisor to Governor
13.	Kerala	Finance Minister
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Finance Minister
15.	Maharashtra	Finance Minister
16.	Meghalaya	Finance Minister
17.	Nagaland	Resident Commissioner
18.	Orissa	Finance Minister
19.	Pondicherry	Chief Minister
20.	Punjab	Finance Minister
21.	Rajasthan	Chief Minister
22.	Tamil Nadu	Finance Minister
23.	Tripura	Minister of Revenue
24.	Karnataka	Chief Minister
25.	Uttar Pradesh	Minister
26.	West Bengal	Finance Minister
27.	Chandigarh (U.T.)	Administrator/Governor

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Represented by
---------	--------------------	----------------

Name of the States/Union Territories did not attend the meeting

1. Sikkim
2. Andaman & Nicobar Islands (UT)
3. Manipur
4. Mizoram
5. Lakshadweep Administration

Sick Public Sector Units

873. SHRIMATI GEETA
MUKHERJEE:
SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued guidelines to public sector banks and financial institutions for grant of loan/concessions to sick public sector units referred to BIFR;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above guidelines are being compiled with by the public sector banks and financial institutions;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the complaints received in this regard during 1993; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (e). Presumably, the Hon'ble Members' Question refers to the parameters laid

down by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for provision of reliefs/concessions by banks under rehabilitation packages evolved for non-SSI sick/weak industrial units considered as potentially viable. The question of prescribing parameters for sick public sector units is under consideration of Government/RBI.

[Translation]

Pending Cases of Excise Duty

874. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
DR. RAMESH CHAND
TOMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute any settlement commission for early disposal of the pending cases of excise duty; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said Commission is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Gratuity (Amendment) Act, 1994

875. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Act, 1994 has been notified by the Government?

(b) if so, the date on which it has been notified; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

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

(b) 24.5.1994.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Farm Exports

876. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give the highest priority to agriculture and farm exports to sustain the country's export growth;

(b) whether the Government have identified cash crops to sustain the export drive;

(c) if so, whether any target has also been fixed for agro-based items for exports during the remaining period of the Eighth Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the target fixed?

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

(b) to (d). Export projections for agro-exports, including tea, coffee, cotton, cashew, rice, marine products, etc. at the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992—97) are Rs. 12,064 crores at 1991-92 prices.

(e) in the EXIM Policy, 1992—97, special attention is being paid to growth of export in the agricultural sector. The establishment of Export Oriented Units (EOUs) in this sector is being encouraged. Units engaged in agriculture, floriculture, horticulture, etc., can now avail of the benefit of duty free imports even if they export only 50% of their production. They can sell the remaining 50% in the domestic market as against the normal 25% for the non-agricultural sector. Certain inputs and materials required by the agriculture sector, such as edible wax for waxing fresh fruits and vegetables, grape guard paper, etc., have been removed from the negative list of imports so that these can be freely imported without a licence. Apart from this, Government encourages exporters to participate in exhibitions abroad, and also in buyer-seller meets and includes exporters in delegations sponsored to other countries.

Security Printing Press, Mysore

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

(a) the amount so far spent on the proposed Note-Printing Press at Mysore;

(b) whether printing equipments have been purchased for the above Press; and

(c) if so, the details of the machineries purchased alongwith the sources and the cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Capital expenditure approximately to the extent of Rs.45 crores has been incurred upto 30th June 1994 for the proposed New Note Printing Press, Mysore.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Production and Clearance of the Excisable Goods

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

(a) whether the production and clearance of excisable goods came to a standstill all over the country for about one and half months between March 1, and April 15, 1994;

(b) if so, the extent of fall in the production, clearance and revenue earning during this period;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

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

and (b). Excise duty collection for the period February, March and April, 1994 is given below:-

February, 1994	Rs. 2675.75 crores
March, 1994	Rs. 3827.60 crores
April, 1994	Rs. 2559.75 crores

The revênu collection in the month of April every year remains low as noticed from revenue collection trend in the past years. However, during April, 1994, the revenue collection has been higher by 20% when compared to revenue collection in the corresponding month of last year i.e. April, 1993 when the revenue collection was Rs. 2137.89 crores. The figures of revenue collection, therefore, indicate a significant upward trend during the period March 1 to April 15, 1994 as compared to revenue collection in February, 1994.

It would be evident from the increase in revenue collections that production and clearance had not been adversely affected during this period.

(c) to (e). Does not arise in view of reply to parts (a) and (b) above.

[Translation]

Passenger Aircraft

879. SHRIMATI KRISHENDRA KAUR (DEEPA):
SHRI AMARPAL SINGH :
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

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

(a) the total number of passenger aircraft available in the country;

(b) the number of private aircraft out of the above aircraft;

(c) the total number of aircraft available with the Indian Airlines, the Air India and the Vayudoot separately;

(d) whether the existing number of passenger aircraft is adequate in the

country to meet the requirement; and

(e) if not, the action taken to increase the number of passenger aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). Information regarding aircraft carrying commercial passenger is as under:-

Total number of passenger aircraft in the country	Owned by private aircraft operators	Aircraft available with		
		AI	IA	VD
145	49	26	54	16

(d) and (e). The requirement of passenger aircraft is decided by the respective operators depending upon the traffic potential and commercial viability.

Air Services

880. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had recently conducted a survey in some States to assess the potentiality of the movement of international flights there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to start some international flights in the near future;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the places identified therefor; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e). Air India recently conducted traffic surveys in Punjab and Gujarat. Hub and Spoke services connecting Ahmedabad and Amritsar to Bombay and Delhi respectively to Air India's international services have been started based on the results of these surveys. Subject to availability of sufficient traffic, Indian Airlines is proposing to operate international services from Bangalore.

[English]

Investment for strengthening Infrastructure for Exporting Alphonso Mangoes/Cashew

881. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.1294 dated December 10, 1993 and state:

(a) the investment planned for strengthening the infrastructure for ex-

porting alphonso mangoes and cashew during the Eighth Plan;

(b) the details of the infrastructure planned to be developed;

(c) the total expenditure incurred during each of the last three years therefor;

(d) whether there is any proposal to train mango and cashew growers in the commercial aspects of their exports; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). There is no separate plan allocation for strengthening infrastructure for exporting alphonso mangoes and cashew specifically during the Eighth Plan Period. Infrastructure upgradation in the form of containerisation, development of refrigerated transport, air cargo capacities and port facilities is a continuous process to which Government attaches the highest priority. Privatisation of port facilities and open skies policy for air cargo are also policy measures to stimulate the growth in this sector.

(d) and (e). Various agencies of the Government like Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, National Agriculture Co-operative Marketing Federation, National Horticulture Board, etc. have various schemes to train growers and exports in different aspects of commercial production and post-harvest handling of exports of horticulture produce.

[Translation]

Illegal trading in foreign Exchange

882. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of illegal trading in foreign exchange in Delhi has come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected and the value of foreign exchange seized during the last 6 months; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check illegal trading in foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). During the last 6 months Enforcement Directorate detected 15 cases of illegal trading in foreign exchange and seized foreign exchange equivalent to Rs. 146 lakhs (approx.) in Delhi. The Directorate keeps a watch over the activities of foreign exchange racketeers and action as provided under law is taken whenever a case is detected.

NTC Mills Workers

883. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
DR. D. VENKATESWARA
RAO:
SHRI GUMAN LAL LODHA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Idle wages for 60,000 Textiles workers" appearing in the Indian Express dated July 2, 1994;

(b) if so, the number of such workers in National Textile Corporation mills who are not being engaged in production work but are being paid monthly wages, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to engage those employees in productivity works;

(d) whether the amount allocated for the renovation and improvement of the mills has been spent on other heads by the National Textile Corporation during the recent years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor?

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

(b) A *Statement* giving State-wise details of such workers is enclosed.

(c) The Textile Research Association had prepared plans for modernisation of the NTC Mills involving an investment of Rs.2005.72 crores. The Labour Ministry's Special Tripartite Committee on NTC recommended that the NTC mills as well as its takeover mills can be made viable by modernisation as proposed by the Textile Research Associations. Action is underway to formalise the Govt. stand for acceptance by the BIFR so that the turn around plans can be implemented.

(d) and (e). The NTC was recently given a special release of financial assistance for payment of wages from out of an amount of Rs.30 crores lying frozen with it. The NTC have utilised this release for payment of wages for April, May and for June, 1994.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	States	No. of Idle workers
1.	Andhra Pradesh	748
2.	Assam	533
3.	Bihar	955
4.	Delhi	600

Sl. No.	States	No. of Idle workers
5.	Gujarat	9141
6.	Karnataka	1002
7.	Madhya Pradesh	5359
8.	Maharashtra	9923
9.	Orissa	751
10.	Uttar Pradesh	10279
11.	West Bengal	6081
		45372

Wages to the Agricultural Labour

884. DR. P.R. GANGWAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agricultural labourers, State and Union territory-wise;

(b) the minimum wages fixed for these labourers, State and Union territory-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the proper implementation of the minimum wages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) *Statement-1* indicating number of agricultural labourers, State and Union-Territory wise is enclosed.

(b) and (c). According to the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both the Central and State Governments are the appropriate Governments for fixation/revision of minimum wages for scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction. In so far as the agricultural sector is concerned, the

Central Government is the appropriate Government for fixation/revision of minimum wages to a limited extent, only in respect of agricultural farms under different Central Ministries. The State Governments are the appropriate Governments for fixation/revision of minimum wages for most of the agricultural workers, other than those covered under the Central Sphere. *Statement-II*

indicating available information on minimum rates of wages as fixed by various State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and Central Government for the lowest paid unskilled category of Agricultural workers is enclosed. The appropriate Governments have constituted Enforcement Machinery which conducts regular inspections for ensuring payment of minimum wages.

STATEMENT-I

Sl. No.	Name of the States/ Union Territories	No. of Agricultural Workers (in thousands)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11625
2.	Assam	845
3.	Bihar	9513
4.	Goa	35
5.	Gujarat	3231
6.	Haryana	897
7.	Himachal Pradesh	59
8.	Arunachal Pradesh	20
9.	Jammu and Kashsmir	—
10.	Karnataka	5000
11.	Kerala	2120
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5863
13.	Maharashtra	8313
14.	Manipur	47
15.	Meghalaya	89
16.	Mizoram	10
17.	Nagaland	7
18.	Orissa	2977
19.	Punjab	1453
20.	Rajasthan	1392
21.	Sikkim	13
22.	Tamil Nadu	7899

Sl. No.	Name of the States/ Union Territories	No. of Agricultural workers (in thousands)
23.	Tripura	188
24.	Uttar Pradesh	7833
25.	West Bengal	5055
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	5
27.	Chandigarh	2
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6
29.	Daman & Diu	1
30.	Delhi	25
31.	Lakshadweep	—
32.	Pondicherry	77

Source:- Population Census 1991

STATEMENT-II

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Minimum Wages for Agricultural workers
A.	State Government	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Rs. 16.80 to 23.40 per day (According to Zones) (8.4.91)
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Rs. 18.00 to Rs. 21.00 per day (According to Areas) (1.11.90)
3.	Assam	Rs. 1134.00 p.m. or Rs. 984.00 p.m. plus food, shelter and clothing (1.2.92)
4.	Bihar	Rs. 21.00 per day (16.10.90)
5.	Goa	Rs. 27.50 per day (5.2.92)
6.	Gujarat	Rs. 15.00 per day (1.8.90)
7.	Haryana	Rs 37.23 with meals or Rs. 41.23 without meals (1.1.93)
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Rs. 24.00 per day (26.1.90)
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Rs. 15.00 per day (24.3.89)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Minimum Wages for Agricultural workers
10.	Karnataka	Rs. 12.00 to Rs. 17.65 per day (12.7.88)
11.	Kerala	Rs. 30.00 to Rs. 40.20 per day (31.3.92)
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Rs. 28.17 per day (1.10.91)
13.	Maharashtra	Rs. 12.00 to 20.00 per day (According to Zones) (1.5.88)
14.	Manipur	Rs. 26.70 per day for Hill areas & Rs. 23.70 per day for other than Hill areas (1.12.88)
15.	Meghalaya	Rs. 35.00 per day (16.3.94)
16.	Mizoram	Rss. 28.00 per day (1.11.87)
17.	Nagaland	Rs. 25.00 per day (6.7.92)
18.	Orissa	Rs. 25.00 per day (1.7.90)
19.	Punjab	Rs. 42.12 without meal or Rs. 38.12 with meals per day. (1.3.92)
20.	Rajasthan	Rs. 22.00 per day (2.7.90)
21.	Sikkim	The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is yet to be extended.
22.	Tamil Nadu	Rs. 20.00 per day (6.4.93)
23.	Tripura	Rs 23.65 per day (20.12.93)
24.	Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 23.00 per day to Rs. 25.00 per day (7.1.92)
25.	West Bengal	Rs. 32.72 per day Rs. 29.52 per day plus two principle meals (1.7.93).
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Rs. 27.00 per day (Andaman) Rs. 28.00 per day (Nicobar) (13.8.92)
27.	Chandigarh	Rs. 36.43 per day with meal or Rs. 40.23 per day without meal (1.3.92)
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Rs. 20.00 per day (15.12.92)
29.	Delhi	Rs. 53.15 per day (1.2.94)
30.	Daman & Diu	Rs. 22.00 per day (19.3.93)
31.	Lakshadweep	Rs. 30.00 per day (1.1.93)
32.	Pondicherry	
(i)	Pondicherry Region	14.00 per day (15.12.89)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Minimum Wages for Agricultural workers
(ii)	Mahe Region	Rs. 12.00 per day for light work (18.2.87) Rs. 15.00 per day hard work. (18.2.87)
(iii)	Yanam Region	Rs. 11.00 per day (15.3.88)
(iv)	Karikal	Rs. 14.00 per day or 7 Litre paddy plus Rs. 4.90 per day. (31.1.90)
B.	Central Sphere	Rs. 38.47 (1.4.94)

*[English]***Sick Public Sector Units****Unemployed Graduates**

885. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed graduates registered with the various Employment Exchanges in Punjab as on date; and

(b) the number of persons provided employment through the Employment Exchanges during each of the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) The number of graduates (including post-graduates), all of whom were not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of employment exchanges in Punjab as on 31.12.92 (latest available) was 101.1 thousand.

(b) Total number of persons placed in employment through employment exchanges in Punjab during 1992 and 1993 was 5.1 thousand and 3.9 thousand respectively.

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

(a) whether the administrative Ministry and/or department of the sick public sector units referred to BIFR have been taking a stand of refusing to act as a promoter thereby blocking the possibility of revival of the concerned sick units and pushing them towards liquidation;

(b) if so, the number of public sector unit referred to BIFR so far and the number of cases in which the revival of these units has come through; and

(c) if no case of revival has come through, the reasons therefor?

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 it has registered 117 cases of sick public sector companies (52 Central and 65

State) as on June 30, 1994. The break-up of these cases is as under:

	Central	State	Total
References registered	52	65	117
Dismissed as non-maintainable	2	20	22
Under inquiry	35	27	62
Rehabilitation schemes approved/ sanctioned by BIFR	1	4	5
Winding up recommended to the concerned High Courts	1	4	5
Winding up notice issued	9*	8	17
Draft schemes circulated	4	2	6

* Of these four cases have been stayed by the High Courts.

Insofar as the Central Public Sector Undertakings are concerned, Government have constituted a Group of Ministers to periodically review the performance of public sector enterprises particularly sick enterprises. The functions of the Group of Ministers include, *inter-alia*, to consider in respect of each case of a sick public sector enterprise referred to BIFR, the proposed packages of relief to be presented to the BIFR and give directions and guidelines to the Ministries/Departments for taking a stand or making commitment on behalf of Government of India before the BIFR.

Reopening of Closed NTC Mills

887. SHRI V. DHANANJYA
KUMAR:
SHRIMATI SUMITRA
MAHAJAN:
SHRI SATYNARAYAN
JATIYA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of NTC mills closed during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of employees rendered Jobless due to their closure;

(c) whether the Government have prepared plan to reopen those closed mills in a phased manner;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the employees of aforesaid closed mills were fully compensated;

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

(g) the steps taken by the Government for their rehabilitation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKANT SWAMY): (a) As in April 1994, there were 122 mills under the NTC, 18 with no activity and 56 mills with partial activity. No NTC mills has been 'closed' during the last 3 years.

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

Second Labour Commission

888. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA
RAO:
SHRI LAETA UMBREY:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUD-
DIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trade unions have demanded for the setting up of a second labour commission;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up a high powered committee to suggest changes in labour laws;

(c) whether the views of various trade unions have been taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (e). A suggestion has been made to the Central Government to set up a second National Commission on Labour. The matter is under examination of the Government.

Private Airlines

889. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of the private airlines operating in the country as on July 15, 1994;

(b) the fleet strength of each of these airlines;

(c) their seating capacity;

(d) whether the Government propose to encourage new private airlines or to increase the fleet strength of present private airlines, and

(e) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). The names & addresses of the Air Taxi Operators as on 15th July 1994, and their fleet strength including seating capacity are given in the *Statement* enclosed.

(d) and (e). Request for grant of permission to operate as scheduled airlines and for increasing fleet strength are disposed off in accordance with the provision of the Aircrafts Act/Rule and order issued thereunder.

STATEMENT

List of Air-taxi Operators alongwith details of Aircraft being operated by them as on 21.07.1994

1. M/s. EAST WEST AIRLINES & TRADE LINKS
Sophia, 18, Katwadi Road,
Off Perry Road,

BOEING-737 (7 Nos.)
VT-EWB/VT-EWC/VT-EWD/
VT-EWF/VT-EWI/VT-EWT/VT-
EWJ 125 Seater,

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Bandra, Bombay-400050. | F-27 MK-500 (3 Nos.)
VT-EWEN/VT-EWG/VT-EWK
47 Seater |
| 2. M/s. JET AIRWAYS (INDIA) PVT. LTD.
41/42, Maker Chambers-III,
Nariman Point, Bombay-400021. | B-737-300 (4 Nos.)
VT-JAA/VT-JAB/VT-JAC/VT-JAD
125 Seater
B-737-400 (2 Nos.)
VT-JAE, VT-JAF 134 Seater |
| 3. M/s. DAMANIA AIRWAYS LTD.,
103, Keshava,
Bandra Kurla Complex,
Bandra (East),
Bombay-400051. | B-737-200 (4 Nos.)
VT-PDA/VT-PDB/VT-PDC/
VT-PDD 125 Seater |
| 4. M/s. M. G. EXPRESS,
Corporate office, Mazzanine Floor,
Hemkunt Tower, 92 Nehru Place,
New Delhi-110019. | B-737-200 (3 Nos.)
VT-MGA/VT-MGB/VT-MGC,
107 Seater |
| 5. M/s. SAHARA INDIA AIRLINES LTD.,
7th Floor Amba Deep,
14, Kasturba Gandhi Marg,
New Delhi-110001. | B-737-200(1 No.)
VT-SIB |
| 6. M/s. RAJ AVIATION (PVT.) LTD.
C/o Avion Hotel, Bombay Airport,
Nehru Road,
Bombay-400057. | F-27 MK-50 (1 No.)
VT-RAB
50 Seater |
| 7. M/s. TRANS BHARAT AVIATION PVT. LTD.,
201, Laxmi Bhavan,
72, Nehru Place,
New Delhi-110019. | Beechcraft-99 (2 Nos.)
VT-ERP/VT-ESU,
15 Seater |
| 8. M/s. ARCHANA AIRWAYS LTD..
41-A, Friends Colony (E),
Mathura Road,
New Delhi. | L-410 UVP E 90 (3 Nos.)*
VT-ETA/VT-ETB
17 Seater
*One L-410 aircraft has been
permitted on wet lease for 90
days w.e.f. 1-6-94 |
| 9. M/s. JAGSON AIRLINES,
12-E, Vandana Building,
11, Tolstoy Marg,
New Delhi-110001. | Dornier-228 (2 Nos.)
VT-ESS, 19 Seater |

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 10. | M/s. MEGAPODE AIRLINES,
Juhu Airport, Juhu
Bombay-400054. | HS-125-700B (1 No)
VT MAP
11 Seater |
| 11. | M/s. AERIAL SERVICE PVT. LTD.,
Juhu Airport,
Bombay-400054. | Beech Jet Model-400 (2 Nos.)
VT-TEL/VT-OAM, 8 Seater |
| 12. | M/s. INDIA INTERNATIONAL AIRWAYS
PVT. LTD.,
710, Arunachal Building,
7th Floor, 19 Barakhamba Road,
New Delhi. | (i) HS-125 REGN. VT-EQZ
(1 No.), 7 Seater
(ii) BELL JET RANGER 206B-III
(2 Nos.), VT-ETH/VT-ETM,
5 seater each |
| 13. | M/s. DELHI GULF AIRWAYS SERVICES
PVT. LTD.
Safdarjung Airport,
New Delhi-110003. | (i) ECRUEIL AS-350B VT-EHP,
(1 No.), 4 Seater
(ii) ALLOUETTE-ILI VT-EHM,
4 Seater |
| 14. | M/s. SARAYA AVIATION PVT. LTD.,
11, Panchsheel shopping Centre,
New Delhi-110017. | Beechcraft Baron B-58 VT-SSM
5 Seater |
| 15. | M/s. U. B. AIR PVT. LTD.,
F-44A, South Ext Part-1,
New Delhi-110049. | (i) BELL 47G VT-EAA
2 Seater |
| 16. | M/s. UDAN RESEARCH & FLYING INST.,
14-A, Ratlam Kothi,
Indore (MP). | (i) Cessna-172 (2 Nos.)
VT-ESX/VT-ESW,
4 Seater
(ii) Cessna-152 VT-ESV, (1 No.)
2 Seater |
| 17. | M/s. NEPC AIRLINES,
36, Wallajah Road,
Madras-600002. | F-27-500 (4 Nos.) 50 Seater each
VT-NEA
VT-NEB
VT-NEC
VT-NED |

[Translation]**Acquisition of Aircraft by Air India**

890. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM:
SHRI LALJAN S.M. BASHA,
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA
RAJE:

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

(a) whether the Air India proposes
to acquire new aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the funds for this pur-
pose have been arranged;

(d) if so, the details thereof;and

(e) the likely impact of such expenditure on profitability of the Air India ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). Air India is proposing to acquire two 400 seater aircraft in 1996 and 1997.

(c) and (d). Financing arrangements will be finalised after the aircraft acquisition proposal is approved.

(e) This investment will have a positive effect on the profitability of Air India.

[English]

Writing off of bad debts of Banks

891. SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total loss of assets to the commercial banks in case the recent directive of the Reserve Bank of India allowing them to write off individual bad debt upto Rs. 25 lakhs is fully implemented;

(b) the proportion advanced to the corporate sector of aggregate debts permitted to be written off; and

(c) whether the banks are likely to be allowed to make a public disclosure of the names of the parties whose debts are written off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported

that no directive allowing commercial banks to write off individual bad debts upto Rs. 25 lakh has been issued.

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

(c) RBI has intimated that at present there is no proposal to publish the names of the parties whose debts are written off.

Credit requirements of Agricultural Sector

892. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have estimated the total financial requirement of agricultural sector to realise the full potential thereof;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also estimated the credit requirements of farmers to enable them to use optimum inputs to achieve maximum per hectare yields; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make available funds for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The credit estimates for agriculture sector for the remaining period of VIII Five Year Plan based on the Potential Linked Plans (PLPs) prepared by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in respect of all the districts in the country are given below:

Year	Investment Credit	Production Credit	Total
1994-95	8743	9254	17997
1995-96	9714	10155	19869
1996-97	10801	11052	21853

The estimated disbursements of institutional credit during 1993-94 stood at Rs. 15,000 crores and loans for 1994-95 have been estimated at Rs. 16,700 crores.

As per crop loan system adopted by the banks, the farmers are required to be lent for cultivation of crops, as per scale of finance fixed every year by the District Level Technical Committees consisting of Experts and Bankers. The scale of finance consists of 'A' (Cash component) and 'B' (Kind Component-viz. fertilizer, seeds etc.).

Textile Mills in West Bengal

893. SHRI PRAMOTHES
MUKHERJEE:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware of the conditions of workers of textile mills in West Bengal due to non-payment of salary for three consecutive months;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for making the regular payments of workers of textile mills specially Mamindra and B.T. Mills;

(c) whether the Government have directed the NTC Chairman, eastern zone

to pay- off the retirement benefits of the workers after acceptance of S.I.T.R.A. norms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). Salaries and wages in all the mills under NTC (WBABO) Ltd. have been paid upto the first fortnight of June, 1994. The payments of wages and salaries for the fortnight is in process.

(c) and (d). As far as NTC is concerned, the benefits are paid under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. As per the Scheme, the following benefits are admissible:-

- (i) Balance of his provident fund Account payable as per employees Provident Fund Act and Rules made thereunder;
- (ii) Cash equivalent of accumulated earned leave/prestige leave as per the rules of the mills/office concerned.
- (iii) Gratuity as per payment of Gratuity Scheme, if any; and
- (iv) Ex-gratia payment equivalent to one and a half month (1 1/2 months) emoluments (pay +

DAVD and IR wherever admissible) for each completed year of service or the months emoluments at the time of voluntary retirement multiplied by the remaining months of service before normal date of retirement, whichever is lower.

Agricultural Labour

894. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE:
SHRI ANAND RATNA
MAURYA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to introduce a legislation for safeguarding the interests of agricultural workers in regard to employment security, payment of wages, regulation of hours of work, settlement of disputes and social security; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The details of the proposal are still to be finalised.

[Translation]

Finance to Agriculture

895. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India to all Indian banks to extend finance to agriculture (including

allied activities) to the extent of 18 per cent of their total credit are strictly being complied with;

(b) if so, the percentage of loans provided by banks to agriculture sector out of their total credit during the last three years;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V.
CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to
(d). In terms of Reserve Bank of India's
(RBI) guidelines, all Indian Banks includ-
ing public sector banks, are required to
provide atleast 18% of their net credit to
agriculture sector. The Agricultural loans
provided by public sector banks as a per-
centage to net bank credit during the last
3 years is as under:-

March 1992	March 1993	March ¹ 1994 (Provisional)
16.28	15.08	15.05

RBI has advised the public sector banks to prepare specific Action Plans for the current year to enhance agricultural lending and to ensure to make up the shortfall through concerted efforts. The banks have also been advised to establish specialised branches (atleast one in each State) exclusively to deal with high-tech agricultural advances. Government, RBI and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have been regularly monitoring the flow of credit to agricultural sector so that the banking system meets the requirements of the agriculturists.

*[English]***Financial Assistance to Gujarat**

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

(a) the total amount of extra financial assistance sought by the Government of Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) the amount actually allocated by the Union Government, year-wise and project-wise;

(c) the reasons for not granting the full assistance asked for in each case;

(d) whether the extra assistance sought during the current financial year has been provided;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (f). Information is being collected and will be furnished.

Balance of Payments

897. SHRI DHARMANNA MOND-AYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared a contingency plan to avoid any adverse setback on the balance of payments position due to spurt in global crude oil prices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The balance of payments position

of the country is exceptionally sound with the build-up of foreign currency assets to a level of \$ 17.4 billion by July 25, 1994. In that context, the recent increase in international oil prices is not expected to cause any serious threat to our balance of payments. Moreover, domestic crude oil production has recorded an increase of about 8 per cent in the first quarter of 1994-95 over the same period of 1993-94. If the tempo of this increase continues, that will reduce the need for POL imports to a certain extent and mitigate the impact of higher international oil prices on India's balance of payments.

Stagflation

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

(a) whether the economy is heading fast towards stagflation; and

(b) if so, the special measures being taken by the Government to avert this situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). There has been modest increase of 3 per cent in the General Index of Industrial Production (IIP) in 1993-94 and an increase of 2.3 per cent in 1992-93. However, the economy does not face any critical supply bottlenecks of major infrastructural constraints. The basic infrastructural industries with a weight of 30.3 per cent in the IIP recorded a growth rate of 4.2 per cent in 1993-94 and 5.3 per cent in April-May 1994.

The overall growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in real terms is estimated to be 4 per cent in 1992-93 and 3.8 per cent in 1993-94. The annual rate of inflation as measured by the Wholesale

Price Index as on 09.7.94 was 10.4 per cent compared with 7.1 per cent a year ago and a peak rate of inflation of 16.3 per cent in September, 1991.

Government has been taking all appropriate measures to induce further growth of the industrial sector and to control the rate of inflation.

Export of Silk Waste

899. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVI SINGH PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have urged the Union Government to ban export of silk waste to save the spun silk industries and carpet industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c). A suggestion has been received from the Government of Karnataka in July 1994 that export of silk waste be banned to check the increase in its prices and to improve its availability in the local markets.

The Government has asked the Central Silk Board to identify the reasons for increase in the prices of silk waste and suggest measures to overcome the problem. In this context, the suggestion of the Government of Karnataka has also been taken note of.

Improvement Plan for Red Fort

900. SHRI LAETA UMBREY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared an improvement plan for the Red Fort;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount allocated for the purpose; and

(c) the time by which the plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). Central Department of Tourism along with Archaeological Survey of India have jointly taken up a plan for refurbishment of Red Fort at an estimated cost of Rs. 147.42 lakhs. Out of which the share of Department of Tourism will be Rs. 98.37 lakhs and that of Archaeological Survey of India Rs. 49.05 lakhs.

The likely dates of the completion of the plan so far as Department of Tourism is concerned is July 1994 and Archaeological Survey of India March, 1995.

Closure of NTC Mills

901. SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some NTC mills in Tamil Nadu are likely to be closed down due to repeated losses incurred by the mills;

(b) if so, the names of such mills; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for revival of these mills and to make them profitable ?

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

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

India's Trade with U.S.

902. SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether US is proposing to load the GSP system with social and environmental conditionalities on India;

(b) if so, whether the India's Trade with US is likely to be affected;

(c) whether GSP benefits for Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals were withdrawn during last September; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to get these benefits restored ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE). (a) and (b). The matter of giving extension to the US GSP Scheme, which is due to expire on 30th September, 1994 is currently under consideration of the US Congress. The criteria for beneficiary countries for availing of the scheme have not been finalised. It is, therefore, premature at this stage to speculate on what these terms will be.

(c) GSP benefits for Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals were withdrawn in May, 1992 on the alleged ground that India did not provide adequate protection to US intellectual rights.

(d) Government, through its Embassy in Washington O.C., has taken up the matter of restoration of GSP benefits for Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals with the US Government at various levels.

Concessions on Bank Advances

903. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has allowed some concessions on bank advances against stocks of sugar imported on cash basis for some period; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria to avail of these concessions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that considering the price output situation and with a view to facilitating sizeable imports of sugar, the minimum margin on bank advances against stocks of sugar imported on cash basis has been fixed at 25 per cent with effect from 27th May, 1994 for a period not exceeding eight weeks after the survival of sugar stocks in India. This concessional minimum margin on bank advances against imported sugar stocks would be applicable only at the first stage at the importer's level and this would not be available at the level of stockists and other traders of imported sugar. In this context banks were advised by RBI to ensure that the importers have not availed of supplier's credit. The above concession will be available only upto end-November, 1994.

Development of Handloom Sector in Maharashtra

904. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATH-RAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Government of Maharashtra for the development of Handloom sector in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c). On the basis of proposals received from Government of

Maharashtra for the development of handloom sector in the State, the Central Government has released funds to the tune of Rs. 15.70 Lakhs under Plan Schemes and Rs. 1162.18 Lakhs under Non-Plan Schemes during 1993-94. The Scheme-wise bifurcation are as follows:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Amount Released during 1993-94 (Provisional)
---------	--------------------	--

PLAN

1.	Scheme for Grant of Margin Money to Destitute Weavers	1.00
2.	Integrated Handloom Village Development	8.70
3.	Handloom Development Centre	6.00
Total Plan		15.70

NON- PLAN

1.	Special Rebate/Market Development Assistance on sale of handloom cloth	341.49
2.	Subsidy on Janata Cloth Scheme	820.69
Total Non-Plan		1162.18

Income Tax Returns

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

(a) whether every person whose income though taxable but not paying tax due to deductions available under the rules is required to submit a written statement of income-tax;

(b) if so, the number of such persons;

(c) the amount spent on one income-tax return form that is required to be submitted;

(d) the reasons for calling such returns;

(e) the steps taken to do away with the calling of such returns forthwith; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

and (b). Under the provisions of section 139 (1) of the Income-tax Act, it is necessary to furnish a return of income only if the total income computed in accordance with the provisions of Income-tax Act exceeds the basic exemption limit. However, as on 31.3.93, there were 12.55 lakhs of assesseees (including those claiming carry forward of losses under section 139 (3) of the Income-tax Act) who were below the taxable limit;

(c) As it is not necessary that the prescribed returns should be furnished only in the forms printed and supplied by the Government, it is not possible to assign any cost to the returns submitted.

(d) Under the provisions of section 142(1) of the Income-tax Act returns can be called for, for the purpose of making assessment under the Income-tax Act. If ultimately there is no assessable income, due to eligible deductions or other-wise, no further action is taken;

(e) and (f). As returns have to be called for even for verifying the correctness of the exemptions or the deductions claimed, there is no proposal to do away with the existing procedure.

Expansion of Airports In Gujarat

906. SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the Rajkot, Surat, Bhuj and Jamnagar airports in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made so far for the proposed expansion;

(d) the time by which the said work is likely to be started/completed; and

(e) if reply to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e). Expansion of airports and other infrastructure facilities is a continuing process and is taken up in a phased manner, depending upon projected requirements and availability of resources.

National Airports Authority has plans to construct a new terminal building and to provide navigational aids like Very High Frequency Omni Range (VOR) and Distance Measuring Equipment (DME) at Bhuj airport. They have also plans to install Instruments Landing System (ILS) at Rajkot and VOR and DME at Jamnagar airport. The work of terminal building at Bhuj airport is held in abeyance due to non availability of land. ILS at Rajkot and VOR/DME at Jamnagar and Bhuj will be installed by February, 1995. The airport at Surat belongs to the State Government of Gujarat. Due to financial constraints, NAA has no plans to develop this airport.

Export of Rubber-Wood

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

(a) whether the export of rubber-wood and its value added products are giving more appreciation;

(b) if so, the details of total exports made and foreign exchange earned during each of the last three years, country-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to boost its exports ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE

(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The estimated export performance based on available data in the last three years is given below:-

Year	Export in Rs. lacs	Countries where exported
(1) Treated Rubber Wood Components for Furniture and Flooring		
1991-92	Nil	
1992-93	1.5	Kuwait.
1993-94	8.7	Belgium, UAE and USA,
April to June'94.	4.2	Belgium, Nietherlands, Italy and Sweden.
(2) Treated Rubber Wood		
1991-92	Nil	-
1992-93	Nil	-
1993-94	4.0	Japan
April to June' 94.	1.6	Japan
(3) Rubber Wood Bursh Backs		
1991-92	Nil	
1992-93		
1993-94		
April to June' 94.	1.6	Sri Lanka

(c) All normal incentives available to exporters of wood are also allowed for the export of rubber-wood products.

Phone Service Tax and Tax on Shares Brokers

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

(a) whether the Government have introduced phone service tax and tax on shares brokers recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount likely to be collected through newly introduced taxes during the current financial year; and

(d) the percentage of this earning to be refunded to the States ?

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

(b) This tax has come into force from 1st July, 1994. The tax is to be charged @5% on the amount of telephone bills and on the brokerage or commission charged by the stock brokers in relation to their services provided to the investors.

(c) Revenue from levy of the service tax in relation to telephones, non-life insurance and stock brokers, is estimated at Rs. 600 crores in a full year.

(d) *The revenue collected from service tax is not shareable with the States.*

BIC Mills, Kanpur

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

(a) whether the production in BIC Mills, Kanpur has been declined;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to revitalise them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c). The decline in production in the mills under the British India Corporation Ltd., Kanpur is due to a number of factors including shortage of working capital, obsolete machinery, low capacity utilisation, non-adherence to industrial work norms, inferior product-mix, high interest burden, etc. The BIC and its subsidiaries have been referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). Government are considering the rehabilitation package approved by the Operating Agency appointed by the BIFR for the rehabilitation of the BIC and its subsidiaries.

Nehru Memorial Pavillion

910. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2471 on December 17, 1993 and state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted the revised proposal

regarding the Nehru Memorial Pavillion in Alleppey;

(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) No, Sir.

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

Raids of Firms Misusing VABAL Scheme

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

(a) whether the Income-tax Department has raided certain places in Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta during June-July, 1994 for search of firms which have misused Value Based Advance Licences and avoided payment of tax to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the firms raided and the extent of concealed assets and black money so far unearthed from these firms; and

(d) the action taken against the owners of these firms ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The Income-tax Department searched 42 premises of the following

concerns at Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta during April to June, 1994:-

- (i) M/s. M.S. Shoes (East) Limited.
- (ii) M/s. Tosha Picture Tubes Limited.
- (iii) M/s. Dimple Overseas Limited.
- (iv) M/s. Padmini Polymers Limited.

The searches resulted in the seizure of unaccounted assets as under:-

Cash	Rs. 1,56,15,600/-
Jewellery	Rs. 31,43,745/-
Other Assets	Rs. 26,27,210/-
Total Rs.	2.13,86,555/-

Tax evaded income totalling Rs. 5.31 crores were disclosed by these assesseees in course of the searches.

Necessary follow-up actions under the various provisions of the Direct Taxes Acts have been taken up on the basis of materials seized in course of the searches. The Director General of Foreign Trade has been intimated regarding the search by the Income-tax Department for taking necessary action under relevant provisions.

[Translation]

Loan to Farmers

912. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan provided by the public sector banks to the farmers

during each of the last three years and the current year so far, State-wise;

(b) the number of farmers benefited, State-wise; and

(c) the position of these loans in each State during the said period, bank-wise?

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

[English]

Irrigation Bonds by Karnataka Government

913. SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have permitted the Government of Karnataka to float irrigation bonds to mobilize resources to complete the Upper Krishna Project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Closed Textile Mills

914. SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile mills closed during the last three years till June, 1994, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for the closure of each of these mills and the number of workers which were rendered jobless following their closure; and

(c) the measures taken for the rehabilitation of the each of the mills ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). 48

Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mills were closed during the last three years till June, 1994 (*i. e.* from 1.7.91 to 30.6.94). State-wise details alongwith reasons of closure and workers affected is given in the *Statement* attached.

(c) Government has set up a Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to evolve and manage rehabilitation package in respect of closed/sick viable mills.

STATEMENT

List of closed Cotton/made fibre Textile Mills during the last three years

Sl. No.	Name of the mill	Date of closure	Workers on roll	Reasons Reported
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh				
1.	The Andhra Co-op. Spg. Mill Ltd.	30.7.91	1237	Financial
2.	Karimnagar Co-op. Spg. Mills Ltd.	1.12.91	339	Not Available.
3.	Annavaram Spg. Mills Ltd.	10.7.93	116	Power-cut.
4.	Gowthami Spinning Pvt. Ltd.	1.11.93	84	Not Available
Assam				
5.	Assam State Textile Corp. Ltd.	1.3.94	538	Not Available
Bihar				
6.	Pandaul Co-op Spg. Mills Ltd.	19.11.91	500	Not Available
Ahmedabad				
7.	Aruna Mills Ltd.	28.11.91	3210	Financial
8.	Continental Textiles Mills	2.2.92	2019	Power-cut
9.	New Raipur Mills Co. Ltd.	4.3.94	1106	Financial
10.	Nutan Mills Ltd.	20.1.92	2161	Financial
11.	Rustom Mills & Industries Ltd.	26.6.93	1397	Financial

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Shree Ambica Mills Ltd. Gujarat	20.9.91	4875	Financial
13.	Shree Mahuva Spinning Mills Co. (P) Ltd.	31.3.92	260	Financial
14.	Rajprakash Spg. Mills Ltd. Karnataka	17.12.93	390	Not Available
15.	Bagalkot Co-op. Spg. Mills Ltd.	15.3.93	356	Strike
16.	Nandi Hasbi Textile Mills Ltd. Kerala	30.10.93	562	Power-cut
17.	Madura Coats Ltd.	14.2.93	2178	Lock out
18.	Trivandrum Spg. Mills Ltd.	5.1.94	422	Others
19.	Kerala Spinners Ltd. Madhya Pradesh	24.9.93	388	Lock out
20.	Binod Mills Co. Ltd.	18.9.91	3249	Financial
21.	Bimal Mills	18.9.91	1244	Financial
22.	Jiyajeerao Cotton Mills Ltd.	28.4.92	6746	Financial
23.	The Hukumchand Mills Ltd. Maharashtra	9.12.91	5659	Financial
24.	The Nanded Utpadak Sah. Soot Girmi	1.6.92	459	Financial
25.	Jalgaon Kapas Utpadak Sah. Soot Girmi Ltd.	21.7.92	391	Financial
26.	Kiran Spg. Mills	23.12.91	1197	Lock out
27.	The Raja Bahadur Motilal Poona Mills Ltd. Orissa	1.3.94	1113	Financial
28.	Lingaraj Textiles Pvt. Ltd. Rajasthan	1.10.93	N.A.	Not Available
29.	Saraf Synthetics (RAJ) Ltd. Tamil Nadu	4.3.92	1196	Financial
30.	Sivananda Mills Ltd.	18.12.93	510	Go slow work by workers

1	2	3	4	5
31.	Tirupur Cotton Spg. & Wvg. Mills Ltd.	18.2.94	378	Not Available
32.	Raveendra Mills Ltd.	7.6.94	300	Strike
33.	Palani Andavar Cotton Synthetic Spinners Ltd.	4.6.94	516	Strike
34.	Shri Geeta Laxmi Textiles	1.9.93	75	Others
35.	Subbiah Textiles	8.10.93	42	Strike
36.	Umayal Spinners (P) Ltd.	19.1.94	103	Labour trouble
37.	Kaleshwarar Mills Unit No. 1	2.9.92	1028	Strike
38.	Palani Sri Murugan Textiles	1.7.92	135	Financial
39.	Shri Basaveswar Mills	1.7.93	74	Not Available
40.	Sri Balakrishna Spinners (P) Ltd.	15.10.91	34	Bonus Disputes
41.	Annamalaiar Textiles (P) Ltd.	8.8.93	235	Financial
42.	Mudaleyandan Spg. Mills (P) Ltd.	15.11.93	130	Financial
43.	Mettur Textile Industries Ltd.	2.7.92	2852	Financial
Uttar Pradesh				
44.	Shri Vikram Cotton Mills	17.5.92	1029	Workers Dispute
45.	U.P. Sahakari Katar Mills	3.10.91	1322	Financial
46.	Lord Krishna Textile Mills	3.9.91	2417	Lock out
47.	Raza Textiles Ltd.	21.9.91	2323	Workers Dispute
West Bengal				
48.	Shine UP Fibres Ltd.	24.7.93	715	Lock out

Smuggling of Sandalwood

915. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the smuggling of Sandalwood is increasing in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken to stop such smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Available reports do not indicate increase in the smuggling of sandalwood.

(b) Customs and Central Excise formations concerned with anti-smuggling remain alert to act against all smuggling activities including smuggling of sandal-

wood. Close coordination is being maintained amongst all Central and State Government agencies concerned with prevention and detection of smuggling activities.

[English]

World Bank meet in Paris

916. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any meeting of donor countries under the auspices of World Bank was held in Paris;

(b) if so, the details of the donor countries;

(c) whether India has sent any delegation to attend the meeting;

(d) if so, the details of the delegation;

(e) the details of loans which the World Bank has cancelled during the last two years alongwith the amount of loans involved; and

(f) the reasons for their cancellation?

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

CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The representatives from Government of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, U.K. and USA attended the India Development Forum Meeting. Besides representative from ADB, European Union (EU), European Investment Bank (EIB), International Finance Corporation (IFC), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), International Monetary Fund (IMF), Nordic Investment Bank (NIB), United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) and Word Bank also attended the Meeting.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Indian delegation was led by Finance Secretary and included Secretary (Environment and Forests), Chief Economic Adviser, Additional Secretary (EF), Joint Secretary (FB), Minister (Economic) Tokyo, Minister (Economic) Washington, Minister (Economic) London, Counsellor Bonn, Ambassador Paris, Deputy Chief of Mission Paris, Minister (Economic) Paris, First Secretary (Commercial) Paris, Consultant and Advisor to Executive Director (Bank).

(e) and (f). Information is given in the *Statement* enclosed.

STATEMENT

Details of Loans Cancellation/Portfolio Review during last two years

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Amount Cancelled (US \$ Million)	Reason
1.	Gujarat Medium Irrigation II Project	6.9	Savings/slow disbursements

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Amount Cancelled (US \$ Million)	Reason
2.	West Bengal Minor Irrigation Project	33.9	Saving/slow implementation
3.	Maharashtra Composite Irrigation-III Project	41.6	Restructuring/savings
4.	A.P. Composite-II Irrigation Project	41.0	Expenditure trend
5.	Upper Krishna Phase-II Project	40.0	Savings/Expenditure trends
6.	Sardar Sarover Dam & Power Project	181.5	Government of India request
7.	Rainfed Watershed Development	4.2	Saving/slow implementation due to inadequate budget provision & staff deployment by participating State Govts.
8.	National Agriculture Extension-II	9.9	-do-
9.	National Agriculture Extension-III	4.2	-do-
10.	National Agricultural Research-II	2.5	-do-
11.	Export Development Project	98.700	Due to the high interest rate under ERAS the loan was not attractive to customers
12.	National Highway Project-I	30.000	Due to poor contract performance
13.	Petroleum Transport	290.00	Non-performance of the project due to delay in awarding contracts, high tender value etc. Cancelled to reduce the overhang of committed aid and to make headroom for new projects
14.	Electronics Industry	115.665	Due to the high interest rate under ERAS the loan was not attractive to customers
15.	State Road Project	55.000	Due to very high tender value over estimated cost and resources problem

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Amount Cancelled (US \$ Million)	Reason
16.	Kerala Power Project	30.00	Due to savings
17.	Farakha-II	22.00	Due to savings
18.	Karnataka Power-I	250.52	Due to non-compliance of loan covenants established by WB.
19.	Karnataka Power-II	218.31	Due to non-compliance of loan covenants established by WB.
20.	National Capital	35.00	Due to savings
21.	Talcher Thermal	8.00	Due to savings

Tourists to Ladakh

917. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

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

(a) whether there has been a large scale reduction in the inflow of tourists to Ladakh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the tourism in Ladakh?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). There has been a slight decrease in tourist traffic to Ladakh during 1993-94 due to rain fall during the tourist season and the consequent disruption of air and road communication.

(c) Improvement of tourism infrastructure in specific centres districts is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Government. However, financial assistance was provided by the Central Government for the years to promote tourism in Ladakh district.

(Rs. Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Scheme	Amount Sanctioned
1.	Hemis Festival	6.22
2.	Water Sports Equipment	5.93
3.	Tourist Bunglow at Pangong	22.06
4.	Tourist Bunglow at Tsomoriri	20.65
5.	Tourist Bunglow at Leh	19.73

Bonds for NRIs

918. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are permitting Government of Gujarat to issue Bonds for Non-Resident Indians for SSP; 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. Under the current policy, State Governments are not allowed to contract external borrowings in their name. State level PSUs may, however, access the domestic capital market with debt issues in accordance with the guidelines of the Securities & Exchange Board of India, and make reservations under such issues in favour of non-resident Indians subject to the approval of the Reserve Bank of India.

**Central Excise and Customs Duty
Evasion**

919. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the companies being proceeded against departmentally and or in courts where alleged Central Excise and or Customs duty evasion is over hundred crores;

(b) the names of the companies against which cases of this nature have been pending for over five years, either before CEGAT, High Courts or Supreme Court; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for quick recovery of the amount?

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) Recovery can be enforced only after the duty liability has been confirmed in accordance with the law. Therefore, pendency of departmental proceedings is reviewed and monitored at various supervisory levels and the adjudicating authorities are advised from time to time to conclude them expeditiously. As regards the proceedings pending before the Courts and the Tribunal, steps taken to have these proceedings concluded at the earliest include the steps for having the stay vacated where recovery proceedings have been stayed, measures to have the cases listed early through issue - wise bunching of cases, reusts for earmarking of benches, especially to hear customs and central excise cases, and citing before the High Courts and the Tribunal, Supreme Court decisions on specific issues to have similar matters pending before them, decided expeditiously.

[Translation]

Comprehensive Agriculture Development Scheme In Maharashtra

920. SHRI DATA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for the implementation of the comprehensive Agriculture Development Scheme in the State with the help of OPEC ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) No such proposal for seeking assistance from OPEC Fund has been received in the Ministry of Finance recently.

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

Cooperative Banks

921. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

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

(b) the total amount of loan disbursed by cooperative banks in various States specially in Rajasthan during the last three years; and

(c) the percentage of recovery of loans by these banks in Rajasthan during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The total number of cooperative banks functioning in the country as at the end of June 1993 (latest available) is given below:

State Cooperative Banks (SCBs)	28
District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs)	352
State Land Development Banks (SLDBs)	20 *

*As on December, 1993

State-wise details regarding their number and the amount of loans disbursed by them during the years 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 are given in the attached *Statement I, II and III (A & B)*.

(c) The percentage of recovery to demand in respect of these cooperative banks in Rajasthan for the years 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 (latest available) is given in the *Statement IV* attached.

STATEMENT-I

State-wise details of total loans disbursed by State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) during 1990-91 to 1992-93

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the State	1990-91*	1991-92*	1992-93*
1.	Andhra Pradesh	31007	52744	103136
2.	Assam	10824	14270	5196
3.	Bihar	4609	7425	13103
4.	Goa	3578	4094	6513
5.	Gujarat	32020	48327	36377
6.	Haryana	37330	48431	119154

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the State	1990-91*	1991-92*	1992-93*
7.	Himachal Pradesh	26747	19482	19482
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	1651	2076	2076
9.	Karnataka	25837	34942	40187
10.	Kerala	37060	28564	49549
11.	Madhya Pradesh	126356	143077	260804
12.	Maharashtra	424139	497077	673156
13.	Manipur	510	668	594
14.	Meghalaya	880	985	1751
15.	Nagaland	255	84	84
16.	Orissa	10779	6898	6528
17.	Punjab	58349	55878	115590
18.	Rajasthan	21579	10444	37094
19.	Tamil Nadu	156966	111799	180901
20.	Tripura	941	3231	3231
21.	Uttar Pradesh	121292	204666	204666
22.	West Bengal	15690	14432	14432
23.	Andaman & Nicobar	NA	151	433
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	326	455	455
25.	Chandigarh	50	30	46
26.	Delhi	107	44	222
27.	Mizoram	NA	92	152
28.	Pondicherry	1689	5360	1239
Total		1157261	1315726	1896429

SOURCE : *National Federation of State Cooperative Banks (NAFCOB)

NB: Date for the year 1993-94 is not available.

STATEMENT-II

State-wise details of total loans disbursed by District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) during 1990-91 to 1992-93

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the State	No. of CCBs	1990-91*	1991-92*	1992-93*
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22	64434	48481	88511
2.	Assam	1	126	126	126
3.	Bihar	34	5262	9492	12445
4.	Gujarat	18	273924	240153	401461
5.	Haryana	14	36017	48080	97472
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2	9907	10994	21466
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	707016	6708	9054
8.	Karnataka	19	49722	46184	75253
9.	Kerala	14	54809	55033	66189
10.	Madhya Pradesh	45	77853	87062	166436
11.	Maharashtra	30	741184	625892	689671
12.	Orissa	177	8764	11695	16902
13.	Punjab	153	88005	83322	135449
14.	Rajasthan	26	25624	24568	39948
15.	Tamil Nadu	18	300868	257826	389468
16.	Uttar Pradesh	57	120193	133471	184644
17.	West Bengal	17	13383	15597	22325
Total		352	1877101	1704604	2416822

SOURCE: *National Federation of State Cooperative Banks (NAFSCOB)

NB: Date for the year 1993-94 is not available.

STATEMENT-III (A)*Organisational Network of Long-Term Co-operative Credit Structure (Number)**(Position as on 31.12.93)*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Structure	No. of Branches of SLDs	No. of Primary LDBs	No. of branches of PLDBs	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Integrated	-	22	502	524
2.	Assam	Federal	17	21	-	38
3.	Bihar	Unitary	187	-	-	187
4.	Gujarat	Unitary	181	-	-	181
5.	Haryana	Federal	-	78	-	78
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Mixed	17	1	5	23
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	Unitary	32	-	-	32
8.	Karnataka	Federal	19	177	-	196
9.	Kerala	Federal	12	14	-	36
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Federal	9	45	450	504
11.	Maharashtra	Unitary	303	-	-	303
12.	Manipur	Unitary	1	-	-	1
13.	Orissa	Federal	3	57	-	60
14.	Pondicherry*	Unitary	1	-	-	1
15.	Punjab	Federal	-	-	-	-
16.	Rajasthan	Federal	-	33	116	149
17.	Tamil Nadu	Federal	19	181	-	207
18.	Tripura	Unitary	3	-	-	3
19.	Uttar Pradesh	Unitary	287	-	-	287
20.	West Bengal	Mixed	2	14	32	58
Total			1093	751	1105	2949

DCCBs and branches of DCCBs pervaying long-term investment credit for Agriculture in Andhra Pradesh where the long-term structures are integrated at ground level.

*HO of SLDs only

STATEMENT-III (B)*Loans issued by LDBs at primary level**(Rs. in Lakhs)*

	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Andhra Pradesh	10304	13590	21645
Assam	76	213	63
Bihar		134	770
Gujarat	5214	7022	6044
Haryana	4649	5642	7399
Himachal Pradesh	214	386	306
Jammu & Kashmir	261	394	367
Karnataka	11254	11216	12912
Kerala	8064	6402	7838
Madhya Pradesh	4192	5817	5817
Maharashtra	11254	13216	12912
Orissa	128	626	1586
Pondicherry	93	74	62
Punjab	5809	6000	7839
Rajasthan	3362	4749	6203
Tamil Nadu	3005	4132	6410
Tripura	29	72	85
Uttar Pradesh	15229	16095	19895
West Bengal	1413	3152	1711
Manipur			53
Total	80444	100553	121855

STATEMENT-IV*Percentage of Recovery to Demand of SCBs, DCCBs, SLDs and PLDBs in Rajasthan*

Institution	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
SCBs	94.8	92.7	93.8
DCCBs	71.1	65.1	68.7

Institution	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
SLDBs Level	N.A.	52.1	52.6
PLDBs Level	N.A.	52.05	54.0

N.A. = Not available.

[English]

Income Tax Written off

922. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have written off a huge amount of Income tax during the last two years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The amount of income-tax written off during the years 1991-92 and 1992-93 is as follows:-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount written off
1991-92	13.31
1992-93	11.73

It would be appreciated that the amounts written off are quite insignificant in comparison to the total collection of income-tax which exceeded Rs. 14,000 crores (Rupees Fourteen thousand crores) in both the aforesaid years.

Production of Jute

923. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total jute production in Orissa during each of the last three years; and

(b) the details of the assistance extended by the Union Government for increasing the production of jute during the above period to Orissa and other jute growing State, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Production of raw jute (Jute+mesta) in respect of Orissa State from 1991-92 to 1993-94:

(Production in lakh bales of 180 Kg. each)

Year	Jute	Mesta	Total (Raw jute)
1991-92	3.81	2.46	6.27
1992-93	2.73	1.91	4.64
1993-94	1.85	2.39	4.24

(b) State-wise amount released by Government of India under Special Jute Development Programme (SJDP)/UNDP

assisted Project on the improvement of retting technology 1991-92 to 1993-94:

(A) *Special Jute Development Programme (Central share 100%*

(Rs. in lakhas)

Sl. No.	State	Amount released		
		1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
1.	Andhra Pradesh	47.63	27.806	19.118
2.	Assam	92.90	84. 76	24. 80
3.	Bihar	92.90	Not released	Not released
4.	Meghalaya	6.98	4.172	3.732
5.	Orissa	32.15	19.871	18. 34
6.	Tripura	7.85	0.819	18.004
7.	Uttar-Pradesh	24.00	Not released	17.996
8.	West Bengal	208.70	Not released	79.303
Total		513.11	137.428	181.293

(B) *UNDP assisted project on the improvement of retting technology (50% Central Share)*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Amount released during 1992-93
1.	Assam	5.00
2.	Bihar	5.00
3.	Orissa	5.00
4.	West Bengal	20.00
Total		35.00

Modernisation of Tea Auction Centre of Guwahati

(a) whether there is any proposal to modernise the Tea Auction Centre at Guwahati to attract more business; and

924. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Guwahati Tea Auction Centre has been equipped with modern amenities having facilities to handle additional volumes. Tea sale through Guwahati Auction Centre has been increasing steadily for the last three years.

Development of Handicraft in Orissa

925. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa Handicrafts Development Corporation forwarded any proposals for providing financial assis-

tance for promoting activities such as wood, carving, bellmetal, handprinting, carpet weaving, terracotta, bamboo work in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The action taken on the proposals received from Orissa State Co-operative Handicrafts Development Corporation during the year 1993-94 is indicated in the table below:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	No. of proposals sanctioned	Amount sanctioned/ released (in Rs. lakhs)
1.	Exhibitions	8	4.50
2.	Opening/renovation of emporia.	4	30.36
3.	Carpet weaving Training centres	3	6.63

Housing loan to Beedi-Workers

926. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are providing housing loans to the beedi workers under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps being taken, if any, to resolve the housing problems of beedi workers?

(b) and (c). Under the 'Build Your Own House' scheme, an interest free loan amount of Rs. 6,000/- is payable to beedi workers which is repayable in 9 years. Similar facility is extended to the beedi workers who form a Co-operative society of atleast 50 members under the 'Group Housing Scheme'. Apart from loan, a subsidy of Rs. 1000/- is paid under the scheme.

Under the 'Housing Scheme for Economically Weaker Sections', the State Government are constructing houses for beedi workers for which subsidy is paid by the Central Government out of the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund. The amount of loan and subsidy per unit is under revision.

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

IFAD loans for Tribal Development Project

927. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has agreed to provide loan on concessional terms for Tribal Development Project in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the amount of the loan proposed to be provided;

(c) the main aims and objectives of the project; and

(d) the total tribal population likely to be covered under this project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. IFAD has agreed to provide a loan on concessional terms amounting to US \$ 26.71 million.

(c) and (d). The objectives of the project are to raise income levels, ensure food security, improving the quality of life, promoting greater self-reliance amongst communities on a sustainable basis and to reduce and reverse environmental degradation. The project area comprises of five Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs) viz. Utnoor, Eturunagaram, Bhadrachalam, K.R. Puram and Sundipenta and provides direct benefit to 76,810 house-holds in 1,016 villages. Around 230,000 tribal house-holds throughout the State will also benefit from credit, inputs and marketing services.

Foreign Exchange remittance by Foreign Airlines

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

(a) the amount of foreign exchange remitted by each international airlines operating in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether RBI has certain rules and regulations to monitor such remittances;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken or are being taken to plug the loophole if any, and make the whole exchange control monitoring by RBI foolproof?

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

[Translation]

Long term loan for Cooperative Mills

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

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested the central financial institutions to sanction long term loan for setting up of proposed cooperative mills in the State;

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

(c) if no action has been taken, the reasons for the delay in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (b). Presumably, the Hon'ble Member's question refers to the sanction of term loans by financial institution for setting up cooperative spinning mills in the State of Gujarat. The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that the financial institutions have not received any request from Government of Gujarat for sanctioning term loans to cooperative spinning mills.

[English]

Currency Notes

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

(a) Whether inconvenience is being caused to the public due to awkward and primitive stappling of currency notes by banks/Reserve Bank of India;

(b) whether due to poor quality and bad condition of the currency notes a number of notes gets torn up while un-stapling the currency bundles;

(c) whether the Government propose to devise a better and more convenient method of stappling the currency notes; 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. Reserve Bank of India have since issued instructions to the banks to discontinue the practice of resorting to multiple stapling of note packets.

(c) and (d). The system of stapling has been in vogue for over six to seven decades. Over this period of time, the staple in note packets has become a fundamental security aspect of the public to accept it for its accuracy. Any move to change the present system at short notice may shatter public confidence. Moreover, there is also a fear of extraction of notes by unscrupulous elements in the banks and agency banks, if the note packets are not stapled. Efforts are, however, on to introduce a new system of security sealing of notes, at the presses. This would be possible when the two new Note Presses at Salboni and Mysore, with newer technologies are set up and the trials are successful.

[Translation]

Registered Unemployment

931. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is sharp decline in the number of registrations in employment exchanges in the country despite increasing unemployment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore ?

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

(b). Does not arise.

[English]

Welfare Schemes for Workers

932. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI
RAMAIAH :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers engaged in organised sector in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Union Government have agreed to provide funds for the welfare measures undertaken by the State Government for those workers during 1994-95;

(c) if so, the details of those schemes which have been implemented alongwith the assistance provided therefor; and

(d) the schemes which are awaiting Central assistance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) As per 1991 Census the total work force, including the organised sector, in the State of Andhra Pradesh is 2.98 crores. Separate data in respect of workers in the organised sector is not maintained.

(b) to (d). For the welfare of workers Union Government provides assistance to the State Governments under different plan schemes. On receipt of proposals funds are released for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour (50% Central Share) on reimbursement basis; and towards subsidy for constructing houses for beedi workers belonging to weaker sections. No specific Statewise allocations have been made in the budget for 1994-95.

Review of State Financial Corporations Act, 1951

933. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee set up to review the State Financial Corporations

Act, 1951 has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the observations/recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

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

(b) The major recommendations made by the Committee include the following:

- (i) The existing upper limit of Rs. 50 crores in respect of authorised capital which may be increased upto Rs. 100 crores with the permission of the Central Government be raised to Rs. 500 crores which may be increased up to Rs. 1000 crores with the permission of the State Government based on the recommendations of the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI).
- (ii) The share-holding pattern of State Financial Corporations (SFCs) should be on the basis of 51:49. While 51% of the issued share capital should be held by the State Government and Institutions owned/controlled by the State/Central Government, the remaining 49% should be issued to the public.
- (iii) The State Government guarantee in respect of repayment of

- principal and payment of annual dividend at minimum rate be dispensed with and SFCs be allowed to declare dividend at a rate determined by them based on performance.
- (iv) A provision may be incorporated in the SFCs Act to provide for a limit on the voting rights to be exercised by individual shareholders other than State Government and institutions owned/controlled by the State/Central Government, without restrictions on individual holdings.
- (v) SFCs may be allowed to borrow money from any financial institution, scheduled bank, insurance company or any other person approved by IDBI and also from multilateral organisations with the approval of both IDBI and the State Government.
- (vi) SFCs should be allowed to accept deposits on terms generally or specially, approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The requirement of approval of the State Government and IDBI in this regard be dispensed with.
- (vii) The composition of Board of Directors of SFCs should be changed to provide for adequate representation to private share holders by correspondingly reducing the number of State Government IDBI nominees. The Board should also be empowered to appoint the Managing Director.
- (viii) SFCs may be allowed to undertake new activities such as merchant banking, leasing, issue of letter of credit, mutual fund activity and factoring.
- (ix) The existing limit of accommodation of Rupees 60 Lakhs to industrial concerns should be increased to Rs. 150 Lakhs generally and for industrial concerns with good track record of Rs. 200 lakhs. In other cases the present limit of Rs. 30 lakhs be increased to Rs. 90 lakhs.
- (x) SFCs should be allowed to finance industrial concerns in respect of which the aggregate paid up share capital and free reserves does not exceed Rs. 10 crore. On the recommendation of the IDBI, the State Government may increase this limit upto Rs. 30 crores.
- (xi) SFCs may be allowed to invest funds in such securities as the Board may decide.
- (xii) The State Government may continue to have powers to give instructions to SFC on questions of policy so long as it hold not less than 51% of the issued capital and in cases where State Government's holding is less than this percentage, the Board of SFC should be competent to decide policy matters on its own.
- (xiii) SFCs may be notified as public financial institutions under the Companies Act.
- (c) No decision has been taken on the recommendations of the Committee.

The report of the Committee has been received by the Government in July, 1994.

NTC Mills in Rajasthan

934. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers retired under Voluntary Retirement Scheme in NTC mills of Rajasthan during the last two years;

(b) whether lay-offs is being given arbitraly in NTC and Cooperative mills particularly at Byavar;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the terms and conditions under which BIFR has granted approval for re-opening of Krishna Mill at Byavar and the present position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) In the four NTC mills in Rajasthan, a total of 1001 workers have availed of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme during the last two years.

(b) and (d): No lay-off is being done arbitrarily in the NTC. However, due to reasons beyond the control of the management such as power shortage, workers of some departments are laid off for some time.

There is no cotton/manmade fibre textile mill in Byavar in the cooperative sector.

(d) The case of M/s. Krishna Mills, Byavar was registered with the BIFR in 1987. The BIFR examined the case and

recommended the winding up of Krishna Mills to the High Court of Rajasthan.

[Translation]

Import of Sport Goods

935. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to import sport-goods;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). In terms of the provisions contained in Part-II of Chapter XV of the Export and Import Policy, 1992—97, import of sports goods and equipment may be allowed against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf. Accordingly, Public Notice No. 115 (PN)/92-97 dated the 31st March, 1993 laying down the guidelines for import of sports goods and equipment by the specified categories, has been issued. Copy of the aforesaid Public Notice is available in Parliament library.

[English]

Syndicated deal between SBI and ONGC

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

(a) whether a syndicated deal between the State Bank of India and the Oil and Natural Gas Commission was signed during the last week of October, 1993;

(b) if so, the main features thereof indicating details about the purpose, particulars of the participating banks/financial institutions, conditionalities, total credit/loan involved, period of guarantee; and

(c) the main advantages for the lender and borrower by this deal ?

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

(b) and (c). The details relating to the individual constituents cannot be divulged in terms of the provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of Public Financial Institutions (Obligations as to Fidelity & Secrecy) Act, 1983.

Import of Coal

937. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have permitted some State Governments to import coal;

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

(c) the quantity of coal that has since been imported by them as on June 30, 1994?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). Under the liberalised Export and Import Policy, 1992-97, import of Coal is permitted freely by all persons without any restrictions. In view of its free importability, data relating to State-wise

imports is not being maintained separately.

[Translation]

Private Capital Flow

938. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA:
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India Development Forum recently asked India to ease curbs on private capital flow;

(b) if so, the details of the observations of the Forum; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The India Development Forum Meeting was held in Paris on June 30 and July 1, 1994 to discuss the aid requirement of the country. The meeting concluded with a strong expression of support for India's Economic Policy. The delegates observed that in short span of three years, the Government has been remarkably successful in overcoming a serious macroeconomic crisis,, and in implementing a comprehensive programme of structural reforms while maintaining a healthy overall growth of GDP at about four per cent per annum with good prospects for higher growth in the future. It was noted that the agenda ahead is extremely demanding and will require (i) continued efforts to improve the pace of fiscal consolidation, (ii) establishing sector-level policy and

institutional frameworks conducive to private investment in such sectors as agriculture, power, telecommunications and hydrocarbons, (iii) accelerating the restructuring of public enterprises; and (iv) extending the fiscal and structural reform efforts to the States.

(c) In response to the views expressed, the Indian delegation indicated that the Government is fully committed to continue making progress in fiscal adjustment and reform programmes and assured that the reform measures undertaken by the Government would be deepened and extended in the years ahead.

Pre-shipment Inspections

939. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI
PAWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of pre-shipment inspections conducted by the Export Inspection Council during 1992-93 and 1993-94;

(b) whether any irregularities were found during the inspections; and

(c) if so, the number of exporters found guilty and the action taken or initiated by the Council during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Export Inspection Council does not carry out any inspection of export consignments. Five Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs) under the administrative & technical control of EIC carry out inspection of export consignments. The total number of

pre-shipment inspections conducted during 1992-93 and 1993-94 are given below:

Year	No. of inspections
1992-93	30,020
1993-94	16,857

(b) No irregularity on the part of the exporters was found during the inspection. However, some of the consignments had to be rejected as they did not conform to the relevant standard specifications. The rejection figures were as follows:-

Year	No. of consignments rejected
1992-93	819
1993-94	533

(c) In the light of (b) above, the question of action against the erring exporters does not arise.

Foreign Tourists

940. SHRI ATAL BIHARI
VAJPAYEE:
SHRI PANKAJ
CHOWDHARY:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN
SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI B. L. SHARMA
PREM:
DR. LAXINARAYAN
PANDEYA:

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

(a) the number of foreign tourists (excluding tourists from Pakistan and

Bangladesh) who visited India during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the country from which the maximum number of tourists visited;

(c) the number of tourists, out of them, who visited tourist places in Kashmir Valley during the above period, year-wise;

(d) the annual foreign exchange earnings through tourism during these years;

(e) whether promotion of holiday and leisure tourism instead of culture-oriented tourism has been included in the Eighth Five Year Plan to boost tourism in the country; and

(f) the reasons for reducing the importance of culture oriented tourism ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Tourist arrivals excluding the nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh, during the last three years were as given below:-

Year	Tourist Arrival	% Change
1991	12,36,120	—
1992	14,34,737	16.1
1993	14,42,643	0.6

(b) The country from which the maximum number of tourists visited during 1993 is U.K.

(c) The number of tourists who visited Kashmir Valley during the last three years were as given below:

Year	Foreign Tourists
1991	5,006
1992	9,209
1993	Not Available

(d) The annual foreign exchange earnings through tourism during the last three years were as given below:-

Year	Foreign exchange earnings (Rs. Crores)	% Change
1991	2918.11	—
1992	3915.56	34.2
1993	4250.82	8.6

(e) and (f). The importance of culture-oriented tourism has not been reduced. Cultural tourism is the main stay of Indian tourism. The development of holiday and leisure tourism has also been taken up during Eighth Plan period.

[English]

Export Policy

941. SHRI BOLLA BULLI
RAMAIAH:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN
OWAISI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to make policy changes to realise

India's export potential emerging from liberalisation of world trade under the Uruguay Round Agreement;

(b) whether the Government have also decided to ask appropriate research institution in the country to analyse the global tariff schedule for identifying territories and products in which our great export potential lies;

(c) if so, whether any changes have been made in our export policy in this regard so as to boost our exports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d). The Uruguay Round results were authenticated at the Marrakesh Ministerial Conference in April, 1994. Market access schedules in respect of goods and services have been received only recently. These schedules are proposed to be sent to apex trade bodies and research institutions for detailed examination and analysis with a view to identifying goods, services and markets in respect of which we have the greatest export potential. This analysis would assist in our subsequent policy formulation.

Foreign Assistance to Gujarat

942. DR. AMRITLAL KALIDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent any proposals for seeking financial assistance from international agencies for certain development projects in the State;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals sent by the State Government;

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

(d) whether the Union Government are providing any assistance to the State Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (e). Information is given below:

- (i) A project proposal of Gujarat State Pollution Control Board (Trg. Programme Environmental Project for Strengthening of GSPCB) was received through the Ministry of Environment and Forests and posed to the Netherlands authorities. Further details regarding approval are awaited from the Netherlands authorities.
- (ii) A project on Salinity Ingress Prevention in Gujarat received through MOWR and posed to Netherlands is awaiting approvals of Netherlands Government.
- (iii) A project entitled "Empowerment of Women's Group viz Ecological Restoration of North Kutch (Kutch), Gujarat has been taken up with the Swiss Development Co-operation.
- (iv) A project on Integrated Watershed Management in Gujarat

(ECU 17 mln equivalent to Rs. 20 Cr. approx by way of commodity supply) has been closed by European Community (EC) w.e.f. Nov. 92. The extension phase of this earlier project is under consideration for EC assistance and the Government of Gujarat has been requested to send the necessary project documents through D/O Agriculture and Cooperation to DEA for taking up with EC.

[English]

Bank Professionals

943. SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI:
SHRI RAM VILAS
PASWAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of professionals in the public sector banks have resigned to take up assignments in private sector banks and financial institutions;

(b) if so, the number thereof during 1993 and 1994 so far; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to check such trend ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). A few bank officers have taken premature retirement to join service in the financial institutions and banks in the private sector or for seeking better opportunities elsewhere. The officers of the banks have to seek specific permission from their respective institutions to join any

private sector institution. The exact number of officers who have resigned to take up assignments in private sector banks/financial institutions is not readily available. Private sector banks by their very size cannot attract and absorb any large number of officials from the public sector banks. The scale of exodus is not such as to call for any special measures to arrest the same.

[Translation]

Privatisation of Airports

944. SHRI PANKAJ
CHOWDHARY:
SHRI SOBHANADREES-
WARA RAO VADDE:
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA
GAVIT:
SHRI SHIV SHARAN
VERMA:

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

(a) whether any proposal for privatisation of airports is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the works proposed to be handed over to the private sector; and

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

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

(b) and (c). An Inter-Ministerial group was constituted to identify the areas in development of airport which can be reserved for public participation. The

group has submitted its report. The Government will take a decision on the report in due course.

[English]

Securities Scam

945. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR
YADAV:
SHRIMATI GEETA
MUKHERJEE:
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR
PATEL:
SHRI SYED SHAHA-
BUDDIN:
SHRI SOBHANADREES-
WARA RAO VADDE:
SHRI SHARAD DIGHE:
SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:
SHRI LOKANATH
CHOUDHURY:
SHRI BHAGWAN
SHANKAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 156 on March 4, 1994 and state:

(a) whether the Action Taken Report' on the findings, observations and recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on Securities Scam has been prepared by the Government;

(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). The 'Action Taken Report' on the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee which enquired into the irregularities in securities and banking tran-

sactions has been laid on the Table of the House on 26th July, 1994.

[Translation]

Development of Civil Aviation in Gujarat

946. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for construction and development of infrastructure of civil aviation in Gujarat during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the details of the schemes finalised alongwith the amount earmarked for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). The National Airports Authority have allocated Rs. 40.57 crores in the Eighth Five Year Plan for upgradation and modernisation of airports in Gujarat.

[English]

International Price Reimbursement Scheme

947. SHRI TARA SINGH:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth rate of exports has fallen due to withdrawal of the International Price Reimbursement Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). As against an export growth of 20% in dollar terms during 1993-94 for engineering goods, during April-May, 1994, it has slowed down to 5% primarily on account of decline in exports of primary and semi-finished iron and steel items.

(c) Facility of duty free import of raw materials is available to engineering goods exporters under the advance licencing scheme.

Revival of sick PSUs

948. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tripartite Industrial Committee on Engineering Industry has sent final recommendations on revival of 15 sick PSUs;

(b) if so, the action taken to implement these recommendations through BIFR; and

(c) the financial involvement of the Union Government, Financial Institutions and the Banks for the revival proposals of the above units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) In the meetings of the Tripartite Industrial Committee on Engineering Industry held on 4.2.94 and 14.2.94 cases of the following 15 Sick Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) were considered:-

1. Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC)

2. Mining & Allied Machinery Corporation (MAMC)
3. Cycle Corporation of India Limited (CCIL)
4. Nagaland Pulp & Paper Corporation (NPPC)
5. Mandya National Paper Mills (MNPM)
6. Scooter India Limited (SIL)
7. Triveni Structurals Limited (TSL)
8. Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineering Limited (BPMEEL)
9. Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited (BOGL)
10. Bharat Brakes & Valves Limited (BBVL)
11. Tannery & Footwear Corporation Limited (TAFCO)
12. National Instruments Limited (NIL)
13. Weighbird India Limited (WIL)
14. Braithwaite & Company Limited (BCL)
15. Tyre Corporation of India Limited (TCIL)

Based on the decisions taken in the said meetings, trade unions have so far submitted their consolidated suggestions for revival of 14 out of 15 CPSUs for consideration of the Government. These suggestions have been forwarded to the Department of Heavy Industry for being incorporated in their Notes for the Cabinet for finalising Government's stand in respect of each CPSU.

(b) and (c). No final decision in the matter has been taken so far.

Export of Tobacco

949. SHRI R. DHANUSKODI
ATHITHAN:
SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any export order of tobacco during the the current year;

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

(c) whether the erstwhile countries of the Soviet Union have shown any interest in the purchase of Andhra tobacco from the 1994 tobacco crop;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the expected quantities to be purchased by erstwhile Soviet Union this year?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). As gathered from the trade, so far no contracts have been signed with countries of erstwhile Soviet Union for supply of FCV tobacco from 1994 A.P. crop.

(e) It is not possible to estimate the quantities to be purchased this year by erstwhile Soviet Union since indication regarding quantity required under debt repayment route is still awaited.

Archana Airways Aircraft

950. SHRI RAM PRASAD
SINGH:
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:

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

(a) whether the door of an Archana Airways aircraft flew off in mid air shortly after it took off for Shimla from Palam Airport in June, 1994;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any inquiry into the incident;

(c) if so, the findings thereof; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Archana Airways's L-410 aircraft wet leased from LET Aeronautical Works, Czech Republic was operating a flight from Delhi to Shimla on 17.6.94. The aircraft was under the command of Czech crew. After take off when the aircraft was about 15 nautical miles away from Delhi, its right side emergency door had flown off.

(b) and (c). Investigation into the incident has revealed that inadvertent turning of the handle to the 'open' position by the passenger/child had caused the emergency door to fly off during the flight.

(d) Immediately after the incident, as per manufacturer's recommendation, the handle of emergency door of the aircraft was repositioned by 90 degrees against the direction of rotation so that inadvertent pressure cannot move the

handle. The cover of push button lock was also sealed.

National Child Labour Policy are being implemented; and

National Child Labour Projects

951. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the States where the National Child Labour Projects/Schemes under the

(b) the funds released to the State Governments of the implementation of those Projects/Schemes during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). The information is given below:

Name of the State where NCL Project is under implementation	Funds Released ** (in Rs.)		
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
1. Uttar Pradesh	44,67,289	56,73,479	79,19,619
2. Tamil Nadu	39,29,289	44,10,447	60,49,076
3. Rajasthan	22,08,571	22,92,902	30,14,784
4. Madhya Pradesh	9,81,236	7,89,002	22,72,711
5. Andhra Pradesh	9,78,145	29,58,310	30,67,334
6. Bihar*	—	—	6,46,000
7. Gujarat*	—	—	70,000
8. Orissa*	—	—	19,50,000
9. Maharashtra*	—	—	17,50,000

* NCL Projects approved in the last quarter of 1993-94

** Funds are released to the implementing Agency and not to the State Governments.

Loan to Industrial Entrepreneurs

952. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the proportion of deposits received and loans disbursed to industrial entrepreneurs including small, medium entrepreneurs and unemployed youth for various projects by the branches of nationalised banks in West Bengal during the last three years as compared

to Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu?

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

Setting up of Free Ports

953. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA
KAUR:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUD-
DIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry had set up a Committee to consider setting up of free ports in the country;

(b) whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations thereof;

(d) whether the Government have decided to set up such ports in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(c) The Committee felt that the desirability and feasibility of a Free Port in India was established and initially recommended the setting up of a Free Port in Goa.

(d) to (f). The recommendations of the Committee besides involving financial implications also touch upon crucial areas of industrial, fiscal and monetary policies and raise several other issues such as environmental/ecological protection and insulation of the Free Port area from the

hinter-land, As these matters require careful examination, no decision has so far been taken on the proposal.

[Translation]

Export of Sandalwood and Its Oil

954. SHRI SURAJBHANU
SOLANKI: Will the Minister of
COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value and quantity of sandalwood and sandalwood oil exported during each of the last two years; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the export of these items?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) As per the current Export Import Policy, effective from 1st April, 1992 (revised), there is a complete ban on export of Sandalwood as such.

The value and quantity of Sandalwood oil exported during the last two years are as under:-

(Value: Rs./Crores) Qty: Th. Kg.)			
1992-93		1993-94 (Est.)	
Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.
12.09	42	14.20	26

(b) Normal incentives available to other exporters are also allowed on export of sandalwood oil. The exporters are always on the look out for new markets.

[English]

**World Bank Observation Regarding
Budget 1994-95**

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

(a) whether the attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Budget may not spur growth says World Bank" appearing in the Pioneer dated July 4, 1994;

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

(c) whether the Budget has stimulated private investment;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the private investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (e). The observations made in the news items referred to are based on World Bank Report entitled "India Recent Economic Development and Prospects" released in May, 1994. The 1994-95 Budget contains a number of policy measures aimed to stimulate private investment. These include reduction in the peak rate of customs duty from 85 per cent to 65 per cent coupled with further reduction in customs duties on capital goods; extension of MODVAT to capital goods; reduction in minimum lending rate on term loans by one percentage point to 14 per cent and reduction and unification of tax on corporate income. Besides, plan outlays in vital infrastructure areas like Power, Petroleum and Natural Gas. Tele-

communication, Railways and Transport have all been increased. These measures along with other structural reforms put in place are expected to have a favourable impact on private investment.

Loss suffered by Indian Airlines

956. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:
SHRI DHARMANNA MON-
DAYA SADUL:
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA
DEVISINGH PATIL:
SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM:

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

(a) the accumulated losses of the Indian Airlines as on June 30, 1994;

(b) the amount of loss suffered by the Indian Airlines during 1993-94;

(c) the percentage of the total loss attributed to uneconomic routes, grounding of A-320s and cutting into the Indian Airlines traffic by the private airlines, separately; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to minimise the losses?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) the accumulated losses of Indian Airlines as on 30.6.1994 are approximately Rs. 422.00 crores.

(b) Indian Airlines suffered an estimated loss of Rs. 297.80 crores during 1993-94.

(c) Since the total loss of Rs. 422.00 crores has been arrived at after taking into account the net

cumulative losses from 1953-54 onwards, it is not possible to work out the percentages, with reference to the total loss, under three heads separately.

(d) The following are the major steps taken to minimise the losses of Indian Airlines:-

(i) Product improvements:-

- Improvement in service both on ground and on board.
- Improvement in passenger comfort by increasing seat pitch in Economy Class of A-300.
- Introduction of Business Class in A-320 aircraft.

(ii) Pricing and Distribution Strategies:-

- Incentives/concessions introduced for customers and agents.
- Setting up of Sales Forces to generate more business.

(iii) Organisational improvements:-

- Changes in the organisational structure and systems to enable a speedy and cohesive response to the environment.

- Closer consultation with the employees Unions/Associations to foster an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

(iv) Increased fleet utilisation as a result of introduction of productivity linked schemes of remuneration.

(v) Increased international operations to usefully deploy available capacity.

(vi) Tie up with Air India in several areas, like joint venture operations in the Gulf countries, hub and spoke operations, frequent flier scheme.

[Translation]

Air linking of Buddhist Pilgrimage Centres

957. SHRI RAM PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to air-link the Buddhist pilgrimage centres in various parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). Buddhist Pilgrimage Centres in the country are served by flights to Patna, Lucknow, Varanasi, Ahmedabad and Baroda. Indian Airlines, presently, has no plans to airtlink any new centre.

[English]

Branches of Nationalised Banks

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

(a) the number of branches of the nationalised banks functioning in rural areas and in urban areas in the country, separately;

(b) whether almost all the nationalised banks have their branches in rural areas;

(c) if so, whether the Reserve Bank of India has received proposals in respect of merger of rural branches; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The population group-wise distribution of branches of Public Sector Banks as at the end of March 1994 was as follows:-

	No.
Rural	20695
Semi-Urban	9379
Urban	7284
Metropolitan	5603
Total	42961

(b) to (d). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that all the public sector banks have their branches in rural areas. Reserve Bank of India has further reported that they have not received any proposal for merger of rural branches of nationalised banks.

Trade Deficit

959. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the trade deficit during 1993-94 in rupees, dollars and SDRs, separately;

(b) the trade deficit in dollars as percentage of imports during the above period;

(c) the trade deficit in dollars as percentage of trade during the period;

(d) the trade deficit in dollars as percentage of balance of payment during the period;

(e) the major items of export which have shown increase as compared to 1992-93;

(f) the major export destinations which have shown increase as compared to 1992-93; and

(g) the major trade partners whose exports to India have shown a rise as compared to 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) India's trade deficit during 1993-94 in Rupees, Dollar and SDRs are given below:-

	Rs. Crores	US \$ Million	SDR Million
Trade Deficit	3259	1039	743

(b) The trade deficit in dollars as percentage of imports during 1993-94 was 4.5.

(c) The trade deficit in dollars as percentage of total trade during the 1993-94 was 2.3.

(d) It is presumed that the question relates to the ratio of the trade deficit to the current account deficit. The current account deficit, as tentatively estimated by the RBI, stood at US \$ 230 million during 1993-94. Thus the trade deficit in dollars works out to be four and half times

of the estimated current account deficit for the year 1993-94.

(e) The major items of exports during 1993-94 which have shown increase as compared to 1992-93 are : electronic goods, marine products, chemicals and related products, gems and jewellery agriculture and allied products, ores and minerals, engineering goods, textiles including handicrafts and carpets and leather and manufactures.

Visit of Finance Minister to USA and Britain

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

(a) whether he visited USA and Britain during May, 1994;

(b) if so, the purpose and details of the visit;

(c) the reaction of the Government and the business community of the countries visited regarding investment in India;

(d) whether agreements have been signed during this visit; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (e). To strengthen bilateral economic relations. The response from the Governments and the business communities in the USA and UK towards investing in India was encouraging. No agreements were signed by the Finance Minister during the visits.

Calicut Airport

961. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAM-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether several domestic and international flights could not land at the Calicut Airport with the onset of monsoon this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the instrumental landing system is available at the airport; and

(d) if not, the time by which it is likely to be installed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A total 23 flight Diversions took place.

(c) and (d). National Airports Authority has procured the Instrument Landing System for Calicut Airport. The equipment is in the process of installation which is likely to be completed by October, 1994.

[Translation]

National Child Labour Projects

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

(a) whether no funds have been allocated to Bihar under the National Child Labour projects during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide funds for the National Child Labour Projects to this State?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A National Child Labour Project for welfare of children engaged in carpet weaving in Garhwa District of Bihar has been sanctioned with hundred per cent funding from Ministry of Labour.

[English]

Cell for Tourists

963. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently decided to set up a cell to help tourists who get a raw deal from travel agents, tour operators, hoteliers and traders;

(b) if so, the composition of cell;

(c) the number of complaints by tourists which have come to the notice of the Government during the last one year; and

(d) the progress made in regard to the disposal of these complaints?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d). Complaint received by the Department of Tourism are taken up for remedial action with the agencies providing hotel and tourism services as well as with the Law Enforcing

Agencies at the State and Central levels through its headquarters as well as Regional Offices. Action is taken for providing satisfaction to the tourists by amicable settlements or through the Law Enforcing Agencies. Complaints are received by both the Headquarters as well as the Regional Offices and are dealt with depending on the nature of the complaints. Every effort is made to see that the tourist is satisfied.

Trade agreement with China

964. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI P.C. CHACKO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh trade agreement has been signed recently with China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the trade between the two countries is likely to give a boost to the Indian trade and also help in making Indian goods available at the world forums; and

(d) if so, the extent to which China has agreed to help in this regard?

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

(b) During the meeting of the India-China Joint Group on Economic Cooperation, Trade, Science and Technology held in New Delhi from 13 to 15.6.94, the

following areas of cooperation were identified:—

- (i) to conduct joint market surveys and undertake other trade promotion measures to increase bilateral trade.
- (ii) to explore possibilities of forming joint ventures and jointly contracting projects in third countries.
- (iii) to explore possibilities of bilateral cooperation in the fields of iron and steel, railway, telecommunications, aviation, water conservancy, coal and iron ore mining, metallurgy, auto components, computer software, pharmaceuticals, fisheries and agro products.
- (iv) to participate in tenders for projects to be financed by the World Bank, Asian Development Bank or other international financial organisations in either of the two countries.
- (v) the items of export and import interest for either country were identified and included in the trade protocol for 1994-95.

(c) and (d). The bilateral trade talks were held in an atmosphere of mutual cooperation. Steps identified to further the cooperation are expected to increase the bilateral trade as well as Indian exports to China.

Availability of Indian goods in world forums was not a subject of discussion in the talks.

[Translation]

Indian Banks vis-a-vis International Banks

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

(a) whether Indian Banks are able to compete with international Banks;

(b) if so, the reasons for the slow pace in the growth of ability to face the competition; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to create the capacity among our banks to face the competition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The performance and profitability of foreign banks in India vis-a-vis public sector banks is not comparable because the branches of foreign banks are located in metropolitan cities and port towns whereas the branches of public sector banks are spread all over the country, including semi-urban and rural areas. The need for strengthening the financial position of the public sector banks has been recognised and steps have been taken for improving their performance. These include recapitalisation and signing of performance agreements between the nationalised banks and the Reserve Bank of India.

[English]

Industrial Relations

966. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been taken any steps to establish better industrial relations so as to minimise the loss of mandays due to strike and lock-outs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (b). Yes, Sir. The Government have been maintaining a close and continuous watch over the industrial relations situation in the country. The Industrial Relations Machinery, both at the Centre and in the States, take suitable steps to resolve disputes and reduce work stoppages through mediation, conciliation, arbitration and adjudication. The mandays lost due to strikes and lockouts have come down from 35.36 million in 1987 to 20.30 million in 1993. Regular consultations and tripartite discussions with organisations of employers and workers have helped promote harmonious industrial relations.

[Translation]

Vayudoot Services

967. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM:
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVI
SINGH PATIL:
SHRIMATI VAUNDHARA
RAJE:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to restart Vayudoot services;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the towns/places proposed to be air-linked by Vayudoot;

(c) the reasons for grounding Vayudoot services alongwith the reason for restarting them;

(d) whether, with a view to provide air services in small towns, the Government propose to include new aircraft in the fleet of Vayudoot;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Vayudoot is operating at present in the North Eastern sector.

(b) The following 13 stations are linked by Vayudoot services:-

- (1) Calcutta
- (2) Cooch Behar
- (3) Bagdogra
- (4) Agartala
- (5) Shillong
- (6) Aizwal
- (7) Guwahati
- (8) Silchar
- (9) Dimarpur
- (10) Lilabari
- (11) Dibrugarh
- (12) Tezu
- (13) Zero

(c) Due to financial constraints and shortage of aircraft capacity, services from a large number of stations have gradually been withdrawn.

(d) to (f). The induction of new Aircraft has been left to Vayudoot's best commercial judgement.

[English]

Growth Rate of Employment

968. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth rate of employment in agriculture sector has been declining after 1989;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the growth rate of employment in agricultural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). Assessment made in the Planning Commission shows that employment growth in agriculture during 1988—94 is likely to have been around 1.77 per cent per annum as against the growth rate of around 0.94 per cent per annum during 1983—88.

(c) Employment is a thrust area of the Eighth Five Year Plan and the Plan strategy *inter alia* emphasises faster and geographically diversified growth of agriculture, so that the hitherto lagging regions have a larger share in agricultural growth and diversification of agriculture into high value, more labour intensive crops like vegetables and fruits, particularly in the agriculturally better developed regions.

Poverty Alleviation Programme

969. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any targets have been fixed for providing loan/assistance by the public sector Banks under Self-employment and poverty alleviation programmes sponsored by the Government;

(b) if so, whether these targets have been achieved during the last three years;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that adequate amount of loan/assistance is provided for the above programmes by the public sector banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The banks including the public sector banks are implementing various Government sponsored poverty alleviation programmes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and Self Employment Scheme like the Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME) and Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY). The Scheme for providing Self Employment to the Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) introduced in 1983 has been subsumed in PRMY with effect from 1st April, 1994. Under these schemes no separate targets are fixed for Public Sector Banks. However, the Central Government fixes annual targets State-wise and the concerned State Government authorities distribute these targets District-wise among the banks. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issues instructions to the banks for effective implementation of these schemes by the banks.

The year-wise targets fixed and achievements by the banks including the Public Sector Banks for each of these schemes are indicated as under:-

Integrated Rural Development Programmes (IRDP)

Year	Targets fixed	Achievement
	No. of families to be assisted	No. of families assisted
1991-92	2251519	2536566
1992-93	1875135	2068773
1993-94 (Upto February, 1994)	2573279	1945324 (Provisional)

The Scheme for providing Self Employment to the Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY)

Year	Target fixed	Achievement
1991-92	129300	77698
1992-93	100000	69321
1993-94	126300	42320 (Provisional)

The Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME)

Year	Target fixed	Achievement
1991-92	No physical target fixed	151033
1992-93	100760	160767
1993-94	123000	123000 (Provisional)

Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY)

Year	Target Fixed	Achievement
1993-94	42040	31558 (Provisional)

(c) The targets were largely achieved under IRDP and SUME. PMRY was introduced only on 2nd October, 1993. In view of the short time available to the various implementing agencies, the target could not be achieved.

(d) The implementation of the Schemes is monitored/reviewed at vari-

ous levels and remedial measures taken wherever necessary.

Air India Routes

970. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the routes of the Air India are economically viable;

(b) if not, the routes which are not economically viable alongwith the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to make these routes economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). All routes on which passenger services are operated by Air India, have recorded cash surplus during 1992-93 and 1993-94. Air India is constantly trying to upgrade its product and improve on time performance and passenger amenities in order to increase its revenue earnings on all routes operated by it.

Revival of Sick Industrial Units

971. SHRI DHARMANNA MOND-AYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposals from some State Governments for revival of sick industrial units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the proposals cleared so far and proposed to be cleared during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). As per the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA), sick public sector companies are required 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.

As on June 30, 1994, there were 65 cases of sick public sector companies of State Government that were registered with the BIFR. The details of cases is given hereunder:-

References registered	65
Dismissed as non-maintainable	20
Under inquiry	27
Rehabilitation schemes approved/ sanctioned by BIFR	4
Winding up recommended to the concerned High Courts	4
Winding up the notice issued	8
Draft schemes circulated	2

As BIFR functions within the framework of SICA and also reasonable opportunity has to be given at different stages of inquiry to all concerned, it is not possible to pre-determine the number of cases to be cleared during the current year.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Cars

972. DR. LAL BAHADUR
RAWAL:
SHRI MANJAY LAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the smuggling of cars;

(b) if so, the number of cars smuggled so far and the details thereof during the last one year; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the smuggling of cars?

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

[English]

Withdrawal of Budgetary Support to Sick Public Sector Undertakings

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to withdraw the budgetary support to the sick Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the PSUs affected as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The Budget for 1994-95 includes provision both under plan and non-plan for support to sick Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), including grant assistance for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme etc.

Taking over of Surat Airport

974. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal recently from the Government of Gujarat for taking over of Surat Airport from the State Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). Surat airport belongs to the Government of Gujarat. The State Government have approached this Ministry on more than one occasion for taking over of Surat airport by the National Airport Authority (NAA). Due to financial constraints, it is not feasible at present for NAA to take over Surat airport.

Catering Services By A.I.

975. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India proposed to restructure catering services; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). Improvement of catering services is an on going process and the following changes have already been introduced on Air India flights:-

- (i) Welcome drink of fresh fruit in first class (for passenger boarding the flight at Bombay).
- (ii) Chocolates in presentation box for first and executive class passengers.

(iii) Indian Mithai after meals in first class.

(iv) 'Sake' served for Japanese passengers, in the India-Japan sector.

To improve the catering on board further, menu compositions are being worked out in consultation with renowned chefs.

Minimum Wages

976. SHRI RABI RAY:
SHRI UDAYSINGHRAO
GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently revised the minimum wages of labourers workings in 39 scheduled employments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take some steps to ensure implementation of these revised wages;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any criteria for revision in wages has been evolved; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). The Central Government vide the Notifications dated 12.7.1994 have revised the minimum rates of basic wage and the rates of special allowance for the workers employed in the 39 scheduled employments, falling under Central sphere in the Mining, Construction and Railway sectors. A *Statement* indicating the revised minimum rates of wages and special allowance for each category of workers in these sectors is annexed.

(c) and (d). The Government have appointed inspectors/authorities under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for conducting regular inspections, and for ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act.

(e) and (f). The Government had considered a number of factors for revising the minimum wages. These include the criteria for fixation of minimum wages as recommended by the Indian Labour Conference in 1957, the recommendation of the National Commission on Rural Labour and the recommendations of the Minimum Wages Advisory Board constituted under Section-7 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

STATEMENT

Minimum Rates of Wages for the 39 Scheduled Employments in the Central Sphere

Mining

(Gypsum mines, Barytes mines, Bauxite mines, Manganese mines, China Clay mines, Chromite mines, Quartzite mines, Silica mines, Kyanite mines, Copper mines, Clay mines, Stone mines, White Clay mines, Ochre mines, Fire Clay mines, Steatite (including Soapstone and Talc) mines, Asbestos mines, Magnesite mines, Graphite mines, Felspar

mines, Redoxide mines, Laterite mines, Dolomite mines, Iron Ore mines, Granite mines, Wolfram mines, Magnetite mines, Rockphosphate mines, Hematite mines, Marble and Calcite mines, Uranium mines and Mica mines.)

Basic Wage

Category of Worker	Revised basic wage (Rs. per day)	
	Above ground	Below ground
Skilled	Rs.28.00	Rs.34.00
Semi skilled	Rs.34.00	Rs.41.00
Skilled/Clerical	Rs.41.00	Rs.50.00
Highly skilled	Rs.60.00	Rs.60.00

Special Allowance

Category of workers	Revised rates of spl. allowance for 4 point increase in AICPI beyond 1281	
	Above ground	Below ground
Unskilled	9 paise	11 paise
Semi skilled	11 paise	13 paise
Skilled/Clerical	13 paise	16 paise
Highly skilled	15 paise	19 paise

Construction

(The construction or maintenance of roads or in building operations, maintenance of buildings, construction and maintenance of runways and stone breaking or stone crushing)

Basic Wage

Category of worker	Area (Rs. per day)		
	A	B	C
Unskilled	Rs.36.00	Rs.34.00	Rs.28.00
Semi skilled	Rs.43.00	Rs.41.00	Rs.34.00
Skilled/Clerical	Rs.57.00	Rs.51.00	Rs.43.00
Highly skilled	Rs.65.00	Rs.63.00	Rs.51.00

Special Allowance

Category of workers	Revised rates of spl. allowance for 4 point increase in AICPI beyond 1281		
	AREA		
	A	B	C
Unskilled	11 paise	11 paise	9 paise
Semi skilled	13 paise	13 paise	11 paise
Skilled	16 paise	16 paise	14 paise
Highly skilled	20 paise	20 paise	16 paise

Railways

(Loading/unloading operations in Railways Goods' Sheds and Ash pit clearing. The work in these employment is of unskilled nature only)

Basic Wage

Areas	Revised basic wage (Rs. per day)
A	Rs.42.00
B	Rs.33.00
C	Rs.29.00

Special Allowance

Areas	Revised rates of Spl. allowance for 10 point increase in AICPI beyond 1281
A	33 paise
B	26 paise
C	23 paise

The Special Allowance is revised every six months based on the movement of the Consumer Price Indices for Industrial workers.

Transfer of Officials

977. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO
GAIKWAD:
SHRI MANORANJAN
BHAKTA:

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

(a) whether the Ministry has imposed a ban on transfer of officials working in the public sector undertakings for a period of one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

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

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

[Translation]

Refinance to Maharashtra by NABARD

978. SHRI VILASRAO
NAGNATHRAO
GUNDEWAR:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of refinance under schematic lending disbursed by NABARD to Maharashtra during the last three years, purpose-wise; and

(b) the schemes launched/proposed to be launched by NABARD during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has provided refinance support for schematic lending for the State of Maharashtra during the last 3 years as given below:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

1991-92	—	24681
1992-93	—	27207
1993-94	—	32645

The purpose-wise details are given below in *Statement-I* attached.

(b) During the current year (1994-95), NABARD has provided in their plan to extend refinance support of the order of Rs. 29401 lakhs in respect of various types of Schemes related to agriculture and rural development in the State of Maharashtra. The purpose-wise allocation is given in the *Statement-II* attached.

STATEMENT-I

Purpose-wise amount of refinance provided by NABARD to Maharashtra under schematic lending during the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94

(Rs. in lakhs)

Purpose	Disbursements		
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
Minor Irrigation	6801	7331	9957
Rural Electrification Corporation	3209	3804	2619

(Rs. in lakhs)

Purpose	Disbursements		
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
Land Development	307	6	91
Farm Mechanisation	2739	3745	5247
Plantation & Horticulture	1352	1870	2469
Dairy Development	642	1036	1647
Fisheries	70	94	109
Storage/Market Yard	275	473	290
Forestry	590	550	180
Bio-gas	180	89	47
Poultry Farming	2153	1007	837
Sheep/Goat/Piggery	61	102	408
IRDP	4112	4908	5631
Non Farm Sector	1796	1652	2350
Others	294	740	746
Total	24581	27207	32645

STATEMENT-II

Purpose-wise allocation of refinance to be provided by NABARD during the year 1994-95

(Rs. in lakhs)

Purpose	Allocation
Minor Irrigation	8531
REC/SPA	4695
Land Development	200
Farm Mechanisation	4700
Drying Farming	10
Plantation & Horticulture	1523
Dairy Development	883
Fisheries	203

Purpose	Allocation
Storage/Market Yard	600
Forestry	500
Bio-Gas	50
Poultry	1649
Sheep/Goat/Piggery	160
Others	603
Agro-Processing	600
Non Farm Sector	2140
NSP III	250
IRDP	2184
Total	29481

*[English]***Review of Duty Free Import Policy**

979. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government have liberalised the import of some of the items such as sugar and gold;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to review the duty free import policy; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b). Under the current Export and Import Policy, 1992—97, while import of sugar is permitted freely by all persons, import of gold in any form including liquid gold is not permitted except against a licence or in accordance with Public Notice issued in this behalf. Accordingly, import of gold is permissible against freely transferable Special Import Licences which are granted to the Export Houses/Trading Houses/ Star Trading Houses/Super Star Trading Houses etc.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. Review of the Export and Import Policy is a constant process and changes are made from time to time as and when considered necessary in public interest.

Modernisation of Calcutta Airport

980. SHRIMATI BIBHU KUMARI DEVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the modernisation work of the Calcutta Airport has been proceeding according to the schedule;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). Modernisation of facilities is a continuous process and is taken up in a phased manner subject to availability of funds. Modernisation of Calcutta Airport has been placed in the second phase of modernisation. However, care has been taken to ensure that Calcutta is provided with modern equipment. State-of-the-art Instrument Landing System has recently been provided for Calcutta.

Other equipment being procured and development planned are as follows:-

- State-of-art primary and secondary Radar.
- Air Traffic Control automation.
- Additional Navigational Aids.

Export Cess

981. SHRI V.S. VIJAYA-RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to impose export cess on Coffee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely impact of the proposed cess on export of coffee?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a)
Government has not taken any decision
to impose export cess on Coffee.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

UTI under SEBI Control

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

(a) whether the UTI has been
brought under the operational control of
Securities and Exchange Board of India;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have
issued any directives in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal to
bring more such bodies under the control
of SEBI; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (M.V.
CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a)
and (b). Unit Trust of India (UTI) has been
brought under the regulatory jurisdiction
of Securities and Exchange Board of India
(SEBI) with effect from July 1, 1994. In a
letter addressed to Unit Trust of India on
June 23, 1994, SEBI had indicated a
broad framework for the regulation of UTI.
The main features of this framework are
indicated below:

- (i) UTI will satisfy SEBI regarding
the separation of fund
management and trust
functions.
- (ii) All new schemes to be
announced by UTI on or after
July 1, 1994 will be approved
by SEBI.
- (iii) The provisions of the SEBI
Mutual Fund Regulations
relating to minimum amount to
be raised under a scheme,
maximum period for which a
scheme can be kept open,
manner of refund and period
within which unit certificates
have to be despatched will
apply to UTI.
- (iv) Investment restrictions con-
tained in the SEBI Mutual Fund
Regulations will apply to all
new schemes launched on or
after July 1, 1994.
- (v) Periodic disclosures will be
made by UTI to SEBI in
accordance with Mutual Fund
Regulations.

UTI will not take up any activity
without the approval of SEBI.

(c) and (d). In a letter addressed to
Chairman, SEBI on March 16, 1994
Government had conveyed its decision
that it would like UTI to come under the
regulatory jurisdiction of SEBI. Keeping in
view the special characteristics of UTI as
compared with other mutual funds, SEBI
was asked to give certain special
dispensations to UTI and to work these
out in association with UTI.

(e) and (f). All other mutual funds
are already under the regulatory jurisdic-
tion of SEBI in accordance with the provi-
sions of the SEBI Mutual Fund
Regulations.

ILO's Report on Child Labour

[Translation]

983. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Labour Organisation has criticised the lack of political will in India to prevent child labour in their annual report published on the eve of annual ILO Conference in Geneva on July 4, 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir. The World Labour Report 1994 published by ILO mentions specifically that the ILO's International Programme on Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) has been launched in countries that have demonstrated a real political will to combat child labour. India is one of the countries implementing IPEC.

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

Export of Commercial Vehicles

984. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of commercial vehicles exported during 1993 and the foreign exchange earned therefrom, country-wise; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to boost the export of such vehicles ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a). As per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, 5042 commercial vehicles valued at Rs. 160.19 crores were exported during 1993. A Statement giving countrywise exports is attached.

(b) Promotion of exports has been the constant endeavour of the Government. Measures taken to boost exports of engineering goods, including commercial vehicles, include various incentives under the Export-Import Policy including Duty Exemption Scheme, Export Promotion Capital Goods Schemes, Special Import Licences etc., of income tax, assistance from Market Development Fund to promote exports and making available deferred credit and line of credit to facilitate exports.

STATEMENT

Country-wise export of Commercial Vehicles during 1993 (January-December 1993)

Name of the Country	Quantity in Nos.	Value in Rs. crores
Bahrain IS	44	1.64
Bangladesh	153	3.97
Egypt ARP	767	13.31
France	692	11.27
Ghana	96	3.83

Name of the Country	Quantity in Nos.	Value in Rs. crores
Jamaica	100	1.72
Jordan	232	4.67
Kenya	40	1.17
Kuwait	91	4.85
Maldives	32	1.43
Mauritius	71	2.90
Morocco	103	1.90
Mozambique	218	11.14
Nepal	231	6.37
Nigeria	35	2.06
Oman	49	2.23
Qatar	109	2.52
Rwanda	37	1.13
Seychelles	62	4.57
Sri Lanka	440	18.20
Tanzania Rep.	357	13.90
Uganda	61	2.71
UAE	357	19.81
Zaire Rep.	74	2.26
Zambia	156	7.43
Others	435	13.20
Total	5042	160.19

Import of Silver

Scheme by the Government in February, 1993; and

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

(a) the annual consumption of silver in India;

(b) the quantity of silver imported after the introduction of Silver Import

(c) the reasons for allowing import of such a huge quantity of silver alongwith the names of exporting countries and details of export prices thereof ?

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

and (b). Estimated annual consumption of silver during last three years is as follows:

Year	Quantity (in Tonnes)	
1991	—	1484
1992	—	1850
1993	—	2547

Approximate quantity of silver imported under the NRI Scheme and Special Import Licences, from February 1993 till June 1994 is 3939 tonnes.

(c) Legal import of silver was permitted as part of liberalised policy and to contain smuggling. Names of exporting countries and export prices are not being maintained.

Wage Board for Journalists

986. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wage Boards for the Working and Non-working Journalists have since been constituted;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). The Government

have decided to constitute new Wage Boards for Working Journalists and Non-Journalist Newspaper Employees. Action has been initiated for setting up of these Boards, as per the provisions of the Working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955.

Business of I.T.D.C. Hotels

987. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the hotels run by the India Tourism Development Corporation have augmented their business during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the I.T.D.C. Hotels which utilised more than 90 per cent of their capacity during the last year; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for development of the I.T.D.C. Hotels in Rajasthan ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The performance of ITDC hotels during the last two years has been encouraging as indicated below:

	1992-93	1993-94 (Prov.)	%increase over previous year
Occupancy %	53	54	

	1992-93	1993-94 (Prov.)	%increase over previous year
(Rs. in crores)			
Turnover	96.44	111.95	16.1%
Operating Profit	12.02	18.41	53.2%
Operating Profit/Loss	(-) 2.31	5.19	325.0%

Jute Mills

(c) None of the ITDC hotels achieved 90% capacity utilisation during 1993-94.

(d) ITDC is already operating hotels at Jaipur, Udaipur and Bharatpur in the State of Rajasthan. The annual plan 1994-95 does not envisage any specific scheme for setting up any new ITDC hotel in Rajasthan.

[English]

Maximum Export Price for Tobacco

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

(a) whether the Government are considering to re-introduce the scheme to provide Maximum Export Price for tobacco; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Minimum Export Price (MEP) for FCV tobacco has been abolished as a measure of trade liberalisation in the long term interests of the tobacco trade. It has been decided not to re-introduce MEP for tobacco particularly in the current scenario of over-supply in the international market.

989. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of jute mills functioning in the North Eastern Region and the number of workers employed therein mill-wise;

(b) whether these mills are facing problems on account of shrinkage in market due to competition from lower priced synthetic substitutes; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps being taken to tide over these difficulties ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) There are two jute mills in the North Eastern Region, namely, Assam Cooperative and Tripura Jute Mills. They employ average work force of 860 and 1300 respectively, Tripura Jute Mill is lying closed since 1st April, 1992 while Assam Cooperative Jute Mill is under continuous operation.

(b) Stiff competition from cheaper synthetic substitute is major problem faced by all the jute mills belonging to the country. These mills are also facing the same situation.

(c) In order to overcome the problems faced by the jute industry due to stiff competition from cheaper synthetic

substitute and cost-price imbalance following steps have been taken by the Union Government to tied over the difficulties:—

- (i) To encourage modernisation of age-old machinery as well as conventional product mix Jute Modernisation Fund Scheme and Special Jute Development Fund Scheme have been set up with a Corpus of Rs. 150 and Rs. 100 crores respectively.
- (ii) To encourage production of value added diversified items of jute a programme has been undertaken with UNDP assistance of 23 million dollars.
- (iii) To explore market possibility in the area of soil sever, Composite Lamination Board, Jute/Blended Fine Yarn etc., which fetches comparatively higher price in export market.
- (iv) Procurement of B.T. will jute bags from jute mills on cost plus pricing basis by DGS & D.

Performance of I.D.B.I.

990. SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN THORAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of the Industrial Development Bank of India recently;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof along with the emerging trends of achievements and weaknesses identified;

(c) whether the Government propose to restructure the I.D.B.I.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). There has been all round increase in sanctions, disbursements, outstanding portfolio and profits of Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) during the year 1993-94. Overall sanctions during the year at Rs. 13196 crores recorded an increase of 37%, while disbursements at Rs. 8071 crore went up by 21%. Direct finance, which is the major segment of IDBI's business, recorded growth in sanction of 51% while disbursements went up by 30% IDBI's profit after tax for the year ended March, 1994 increased by 25.4% to Rs. 610.8 crores, IDBI's assets at end March 1994 stood at Rs. 34588.3 crores. The growth in assets during the year was 11.3%

(c) and (d). A proposal for restructuring of IDBI is under consideration of Government, but no decision has yet been taken.

Seizure of Narcotics

991. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether narcotic drug trade is on the increase;

(b) if so, the quantity of narcotics seized during the last one year in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the steps being taken to check the illegal drug trade in Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Since narcotic drug trade is a clandestine activity, it cannot be said definitely whether it is increasing or

otherwise. However, available information about the quantity of narcotics seized in Andhra Pradesh during the last one year is given below:

Drug	1993 Qty. in kgs.
Opium	—
Heroin	—
Ganja	9734
Hashish	—
Methaqualone	14
Poppy Straw	414

(c) Arrangements for gathering and exchange of intelligence between the different enforcement agencies have been streamlined. Training is being imparted to enforcement officers to improve their effectiveness. Equipment has also been provided to improve the drug testing and chemical analysis capabilities. Central and State enforcement agencies have been urged to launch regular campaigns to locate and destroy ganja plants. In cooperation with State Police, a massive operation was undertaken for destruction of cannabis plants in certain districts specially vulnerable to illicit cultivation.

Investment of Air India Funds

992. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1521 on March, 4 1994 and state:

(a) whether the Air India has identified the officials responsible for irregular investments;

(b) if so, the particulars of such officials;

(c) whether the matter relating to alleged irregularities in investment by the then Chairman and Managing Director and then Director (SAD), Air India has been referred to the C.B.I. for investigation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d). Disciplinary action against the then Deputy Director (Finance) and the then Deputy Financial Controller in Air India has been completed, and appropriate penalty imposed on them. A further enquiry conducted in this regard has brought out that though the need of suspicion points at the then CMD it has not been possible to fix any responsibility on him. Enquiries by Air India do not also reveal any role played by the then Director (ASD), Air India with regard to the transactions in question.

Cotton monopoly Procurement Scheme

993. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have reviewed the operational performance of Maharashtra's Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of modification proposed on the basis of operational shortcomings observed keeping in view the interest of farming community; and

(d) the final decision taken or propose to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILE (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (d). The request of the Maharashtra Government for extension of Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme beyond 30-6-94 is under consideration of the union Government.

Indian Construction Project Exporters

994. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of COMEMRCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total dues of Indian Construction Project Exporters stuck in Iraq as 'unreleased payment' because of the war between Iraq and Iran in the late 70s and early 80s as well as subsequent Gulf War of 1990;

(b) whether any decision has recently been taken to clear these dues in the form of special bonds to be issued by the Union Government or the Reserve Bank of India in favour of the concerned construction firms;

(c) if so, the salient features thereof;

(d) whether the aforesaid bonds have by now been issued; and

(e) if not, the time by which these bonds are likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The total dues of Indian Construction Project Exporters who executed projects in Iraq covered under the Indo-Iraq Govt. to Govt. Deferred Payment Arrangement (DPA) aggregate US \$488.587 mn

(Rs. 1534 crores) Apart from this, outstandings of the order of US \$153.31 (Rs. 481 crores) exist in respect of projects which are not covered under DPA.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir, EOGC will settle claims of Project Exporters and banks under construction work policies and counter guarantees for the amounts of claims under the Deferred Payment Arrangement with Govt. of Iraq partly in cash and balance by way of 7 years bonds guaranteed by Govt. of India. RBI will issue bonds, as an agent of Govt. of India, in favour of Exim Bank/Commercial banks towards unadjusted loan liabilities of project exporters and in favour of project exporters who have excess of receivables over borrowing.

(d) and (e). No, Sir. The Govt. is considering to make budgetary provision for meeting the interest liabilities on account of issue of bonds by RBI and EOGC, as the interest liabilities are to be met in cash. The bond would be issued after budgetary provision is made.

[Translation]

Foreign Investment

995. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have attracted international investment banks and share banking firms on a large scale after the declaration of the policy with regard to disinvestment of shares of the various public sector undertakings and

privatization in the field of telecommunications, power and oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed with some international companies in this regard; and

(d) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). foreign Institutional Investors, registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India have been permitted to participate in the auctions of shares under the public sector disinvestment during 1993-94. Among other Public Sector Undertakings, shares of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. and Hindusthan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. in the telecommunication and oil sectors were also offered.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Smuggling of Tyres

996. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of smuggled tyres were confiscated by the Customs Department recently;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) whether the Government are aware that smuggling of new tyres in the guise of used old tyres has been going on in the past depriving Government of its revenue by way of duties;

(e) if so, the action the Government propose to arrest this trend; and

(f) the disposal of seized tyres?

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

(b) and (c). Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(d) and (e). Information was received by the Government that attempts are being made to import new tyres in the guise of used old tyres at Bombay. As such, consignments of tyres are being subjected to thorough examination.

(f) the seized tyres are disposed of like other seized goods under the provisions of Customs Act, 1962.

Export Growth

997. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:
SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has recently given a clear indication of his preference for setting the current year's export target at around 25 per cent as reported in the 'Times of India' dated May 19, 1994;

(b) if so, the actual export target for different items for 1994-95; and

(c) the effective measures Government propose to take to achieve the target?

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

(b) Individual export targets for principal commodity groups for 1994-95 have not been fixed.

(c) Export promotion is an on-going exercise; it is a collaborative effort between Centre and the States; and steps are taken to provide an export-friendly policy environment in consultation with trade and industry. The cooperation of the States is being sought increasingly and the Government has formulated a scheme called Export Promotion Industrial Parks (EPIP) Scheme for this purpose.

[Translation]

Currency Notes and Coins

998. SHRI PHOOL CHAND
VERMA:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the defects in the printing of currency notes and minting of coins as reported in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated 8, 9 and 10 July, 1994 respectively;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure foolproof printing/minting of Indian currency/coins?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Reports about defects in certain notes and coins appeared in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated 8, 9, 10 and 11 July, 1994;

(b) and (c). Government had taken up the matter with the Mints/Presses about the above defects.

(d) The control procedures followed in the mints and presses and quite exhaustive and the system works quite satisfactorily. However, stray cases like the one referred to above to take place at times. It is always the endeavour of Government Mints/Presses to ensure that defective coins/notes are not put into circulation at all.

[English]

Flora and Fauna

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the illegal trade in the endangered flora and fauna and the illegal transportation of large segments of finches and munias;

(b) whether any complaint against the customs officials has been received by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any enquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government thereon? [Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir. Reports of illegal trade in the endangered species of flora and fauna and the illegal transaction of different species of birds have been received by the Government.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. A complaint has been received alleging that 107 Kgs of 'Shahtoosh' which was detained on the advice of the Wild Life Preservation officials, was released by the Customs officials without their clearance.

(d) to (f). The enquiry in the matter is in progress.

Unorganised Labour

1000. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to enact a Central legislation on unorganised labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) There is no proposal to bring forward a composite legislation for the unorganised labour as such.

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

Interim Relief to the Government Employees

1001. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the amount of interim relief being paid to the Central Government employees;

(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). No, Sir. The amount of Interim Relief being paid to the Central Government employees is based on mutual agreement between the Official Side and the Staff Side in the special meetings of the Standing Committee of National Council of the Joint Consultative Machinery held in September, 1993.

RRBs In Rajasthan

1002. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Regional Rural Banks functioning in the rural areas of Rajasthan and the total deposits and working capital thereof, separately;

(b) the number of officers and staff working therein;

(c) the number of the rural customers benefited by these banks during the last three years;

(d) the amount of the loans disbursed and recovered by these banks during the above period, year-wise;

(e) whether the Government have received complaints in regard to irregularities in these banks during the above period;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government, in this regard; and

(g) the steps being taken by the

Government to make them more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) There are fourteen Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) operating in the State of Rajasthan, and as at the end of March, 1993 the deposits mobilised by these RRBs and the working capital thereof were Rs. 440 crores and Rs. 522 crores respectively.

(b) As at the end of March, 1993 the number of officers and other staff was 1847 and 2541 respectively in RRBs in Rajasthan.

(c) and (d). Information is given in table below:—

Sl. No.	Particulars	Position as on 31st March		
		1991	1992	1993
1.	Number of rural customers benefited during last three years	101191	69394	80075
		(Rs. in lakhs)		
2.	The amount of loans disbursed	3053.79	4211.77	4828.86
3.	Amount of loan recovered	7785.93	2860.33	2811.34

(e) and (f). The reporting system in Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) does not generate the information with regard to number of irregularities found in RRBs in general or in their branches in the country.

Complaints have however been received from RRBs Employees Associations against the RRBs in Rajasthan. These complaints mainly relate to corruption charges, occurrence of frauds, financial irregularities, misuse of banks vehicle, victimisation/treatment of staff/officers and litigation in courts. NABARD has re-

ferred the matter to sponsor banks to look into the matter for necessary action on merits of each case.

(g) The following steps have been taken by Government, RBI and NABARD to avoid losses of RRBs and to improve viability in general:

- (i) With effect from 12.9.92 RRBs have been allowed to finance non-target group borrowers to an extent not exceeding 40 per cent to their fresh loans. Financing to non-target groups have been further raised to 60 per cent to their

fresh lendings with effect from January, 1994.

[English]

- (ii) RBI issued instructions on 4.3.93 to all sponsor banks to pay a minimum interest of 13.5 per cent per annum on all SLR term deposits of RRBs kept with them. Further all commercial banks (sponsor or non-sponsor) have been advised by RBI to revise upward with effect from 1.4.93 the interest rates on current account balances maintained by RRBs with such banks from 6.5 per cent to 7.5 per cent per annum.
- (iii) RRBs have been allowed to draw cent per cent refinance upto Rs. 10 lakhs for loans to small and tiny industrial units with outlay not exceeding Rs. 15 lakhs. Cent per cent refinance is also available to the RRBs for financing of small road transport operators.
- (iv) Further, with effect from 22.12.93 a package of measures have been initiated by RBI/NABARD in consultation with the Government which *inter-alia* include increasing non-fund business, freeing RRBs whose disbursements during 1992-93 were less than Rs.2 crores from service area obligation and permitting them to relocate loss making branches in places like Mandis, Taluks/District headquarters, agriculture produce centres etc., and to open extension counters and to install safe deposit lockers.
- (v) 49 Regional Rural Banks have been identified for comprehensive restructuring.

Strike by DGFT officials

1003. SHRI TARA SINGH:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import-export units in the Capital have been affected due to strike by DGFT officials;

(b) if so, the reasons for the strike by those officials; and

(c) the estimated losses suffered due to strike?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). There was no strike in the Head Quarters' Office of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade. However, in the Regional Offices of the organisation, there was a pen down strike due to the arrest of one official at Pondicherry under COFE-POSA. All urgent requirements of the Import Export units were attended to at Head Quarters office and by the Officers in Regional Offices.

(c) Losses suffered, if any, can not be quantified.

Textile Training Institutions

1004. SHRI RAM PRASAD
SINGH:
SHRI MANJAY LAL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the textile training institutions, particularly handloom textile, for cloth-wearing/dyeing/printing and designing being run by the Government at present and the total number of trainees admitted every year in these training institutions, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to start more such institutions in near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds earmarked therefor during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The Government of India, Ministry of Textiles Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms is running four Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology at Guwahati, Jodhpur, Salem and Varanasi. These Institutes are conducting 3 years Diploma Course in Handloom Technology. The two Institutes at Salem and Varanasi are also conducting one year Post Diploma Course in Textile Chemistry. The intake of students in these Institutes is 157 and the allotment of seats to various States in the four Institutes is as under:-

Jodhpur Institute

1. Madhya Pradesh	6
2. Punjab	2
3. Haryana	2
4. Delhi	3
5. Rajasthan	9
6. Gujarat	3

Total 25

Salem Institute

1. Kerala	7
2. Tamil Nadu	18
3. Pondicherry	4
4. Karnataka	18
5. Andhra Pradesh	12
6. Goa	1
Total	60

Varanasi Institute

1. Uttar Pradesh	13
2. Bihar	3
3. Orissa	7
4. West Bengal	5
5. Himachal Pradesh	3
6. J & K	4
7. Maharashtra	8
	43

Guwahati Institute

1. Assam	8
2. Meghalaya	2
3. Manipur	8
4. Tripura	4
5. Nagaland	2
6. Arunachal Pradesh	2
7. Mizoram	2
8. Sikkim	1
	29

(b) No, Sir.

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

Export of Banganapalli Mangoes from Andhra Pradesh

1005. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Banganapalli' mangoes of Andhra Pradesh introduced in several European and Asian markets this year as part of the drive to increase agro-horticultural export, have become a big hit with consumer there;

(b) if so, the total exports made so far during the current season along with the quantity likely to be exported further;

(c) whether any incentive has been provided to the mango growers of Andhra Pradesh in view of the greater demand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. Banganapalli mangoes from Andhra Pradesh are being exported to Singapore, Malaysia, UAE and U.K. during the current season and reports are that they are being very well received.

(b) State-wise and variety-wise exports statistics are not maintained. However, 23,00 m. tonnes of mangoes valued Rs. 45 crores have been exported during 1993-94 (Provisional). The estimated exports during 1994-95 will be 27,000 m. tonnes valued at Rs. 56 crores.

(c) and (d). Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority and National Horticulture Board have a number of financial assis-

tance schemes. Mango growers of Andhra Pradesh can avail of these schemes. Mango growers from Andhra Pradesh are eligible for export incentives including the air freight subsidy scheme which was introduced on a trial basis in 1993-94.

Shortage of Stamp Papers in Trichur

1006. PROF. SĀVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) the reason for short supply of Non-judicial/Notarial stamps and stamp papers in Trichur stamp depot; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government for adequate supply of such papers/stamps to Trichur stamp depot?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Normally, there is no delay in supply of Non-Judicial/Notarial Stamps by India Security Press, Nashik and Security Printing Press, Hyderabad to Trichur Treasury. Shortage of the above stamps sometimes occur because of delayed placement of indent by the Treasury on the Security Presses, or because of heavy work load with Presses.

(b) Government have advised both the Presses to rush supplies of Non-Judicial/Notarial stamps for Trichur Treasury.

Losses Incurred by TTCL

1007. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the losses incurred by the Tea Trading Corporation of India during each of the last three years;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to make the Tea Trading Corporation of India profitable?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Profit/loss position of Tea Trading Corporation of India for three years period upto 1992-93, the year upto which audited figures are available, is as follows:

(Rs. in crores)	
Year	Profit/loss
1990-91	(-) 67.17
1991-92	(+) 58.10
1992-93	(-) 291.05

(b) Main reasons for losses suffered by the Corporation are on account of losses of the Gardens Division of the Corporation, decline in export performance of the Corporation in line with the decline in overall export of tea from India due to lower exports to Russia and CIS countries, Iran etc.

(c) Steps taken by the Govt. to improve working of Tea Trading Corporation include proposal for revamping gardens Division of the Corporation; financial assistance to the Corporation by way of interest free loans to meet statutory liabilities and assistance in securing business for the Corporation etc.

Janata Cloth Scheme

1008. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:
SHRI RAM VILAS
PASWAN:
SHRI BAPU HARI
CHAURE:
SHRI PARASRAM
BHARDWAJ:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA
GAVIT:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to discontinue the Janata Cloth Scheme;

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

(c) the likely impact of this decision on the cooperatives engaged in janata cloth production besides weavers employment in the country; and

(d) the action plan prepared by the Government for their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The Government have decided to phase out gradually the Janata Cloth Scheme.

(b) The phasing out of Janata Cloth Scheme is in keeping with the policy of Government of India to phase out Subsidy Oriented Schemes. Accordingly the Janata Cloth production will be gradually reduced each year to a level of 200 million square metres during the terminal year of 8th Five Year Plan.

(c) and (d). During the phase out, the Janata Cloth Scheme is being imple-

mented in a modified format providing for an alternative package of assistance in the form of equity for undertaking increased production of non-Janata Cloth. In addition, an integrated scheme for setting up 3,000 Handloom Development Centres and 500 Quality Dyeing Units intending to cover 30 lakh weavers including those displaced by reduction in the Janata cloth production is being implemented. The alternative schemes have been designed to take care of the major problems of handloom weavers with regard to supply of inputs, design development, marketing, employment etc.

[Translation]

Computerisation of bank branches in Gujarat

1009. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the branches of public sector banks particularly in the tribal areas of Gujarat which have been fully computerised;

(b) the details of the branches in the urban and tribal areas of Gujarat which are likely to be computerised in the current financial year;

(c) the estimated expenditure in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the said banks are likely to be computerised?

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

[English]

Location of Headquarters of Banks

1010. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision regarding the location of headquarters of public and private sector banks with specific reference to the investment potential provided by an area; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The guidelines on the entry of new private sector banks issued by the Reserve Bank of India provide that preference may be given, in the matter of grant of licence to banks the headquarters of which are located in a centre which does not have the headquarters of any other bank. No policy decision has been taken regarding location of headquarters of public and private sector banks with specific reference to the investment potential of an area.

Airport at Mysore

1011. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of aircraft using the Mysore Airport daily;

(b) whether the air taxi operators are willing to connect Mysore by air from Bangalore and other parts of the country;

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

(d) the amount spent during 1993-94 for improvement at the Mysore Airport; and

(e) the amount proposed to be spent thereon during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Presently no flight is operating to/from Mysore Airport.

(b) and (c). Air Taxi operators are free to operate to/from any of the 93 aerodromes, including Mysore, listed in the Air Taxi guidelines.

(d) and (e). No amount has been spent on this airport during 1993-94. There is no proposal to incur any expenditure during the current year *i.e.* 1994-95.

Insurance of Exhibition Halls by I.T.P.O.

1012. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Trade Promotion Organisation has insured the exhibition halls at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the total expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) if not, the guidelines issued by the Government for insuring Government property; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Indian Trade Promotion Organisation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Indian Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) has insured all its assets including the exhibition halls at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi incurred a total expenditure of Rs.2,83,252/- only.

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

Microlight Aircraft

1013. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had imported some microlight aircraft (MLA) about four years back;

(b) if so, the number, type and cost of those aircrafts;

(c) whether all those aircrafts have been put to use;

(d) if so, the location thereof, hours flown and number of people trained for use of those aircrafts;

(e) if those aircraft have not been used, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether any plans have been prepared to utilise those aircraft;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the proposal of the Government for utilisation of those aircraft?

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

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

*[Translation]***Foreign institutional investors**

1014. SHRI RAM TAHAL

CHOUDHARY:

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign institutional investors working in the country at present;

(b) whether these investors have informed the Government regarding the funds available with their management for business in Indian shares market; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) As on 15.7.94, 208 Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) have been registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for investing in India.

(b) and (c). As per the disclosure requirements, the FIIs are not required to indicate before hand the quantum of investments they propose to make in the Indian Capital Market.

*[English]***Export Growth Rate**

1015. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT:

SHRI MANORANJAN

BHAKTA:

SHRI MOHAN SINGH

(DEORIA):

DR. S.P. YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the export growth rate in dollar terms for the year 1993-94;

(b) whether the growth rate has decreased as compared to the growth rate of last year;

(c) if so, the extent thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to maintain the growth rate of last year; and

(e) the import growth rate in 1993-94 and the amount of increase in it in comparison to 1992-93 and the reasons for this increase in imports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Exports during 1993-94 registered an increase of 20.4% dollar terms, over 1992-93.

(b) and (c). Exports during April-May, 1994, the latest period for which aggregate trade statistics are available, registered an increase of 9.7%, in dollar terms, on April-May, 1993. Exports during April-May, 1993 had registered a growth of 30% over the corresponding period of previous year. The reasons for the slower export growth compared to the previous year are withdrawal of IPRS affecting engineering exports sluggishness in demand for ready made garments and agricultural items like rice; procedural problems on account of withdrawal of excise exemptions for SSI units and overall high rate of inflation of over 10% causing an appreciation of the real exchange rate of rupee thereby adversely affecting export performance. Exports exhibit seasonality during these months and this too has contributed to the slower rate of the growth.

(d) Export promotion is a continuous process, it is a collaborative effort between the Centre and the States, and steps are taken to boost exports in consultation with trade, industry and export promotion organisations. The cooperation of the States is being sought increasingly and the Government has formulated a new scheme called Export Promotion Industrial Parks (EPIP) Scheme for this purpose.

(e) Imports during 1993-94 were valued at US \$ 3212* million registering an increase of 6.8% over imports of US \$ 21726 * million during 1992-93. Major part of this growth was accounted by exports related imports of inputs and capital goods.

[Translation]

Serving of Liquor by Airlines

1016. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM:
SHRI UDAYSINGRAO
GAIKWAD:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

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

(a) whether serving and consumption of liquor on all domestic flights has been banned;

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

(c) whether such ban is proposed to be imposed on international flights;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the date from which the ban orders referred to in part (a) above have been in force;

(g) whether the Government have received some complaints regarding drinking/serving of liquor in some flights after these orders have come into force;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the erring airlines ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. In order to secure safety of aircraft operators, it has been decided to ban service and consumption of liquor on domestic flights.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) It is a common practice in the airline industry to serve liquor on international flights which Air India and Indian Airlines are also following.

(f) 27th June, 1994.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) and (i). Do not arise.

[English]

Women Pilots

1017. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of women pilots in the country.

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to give incentives to women pilots; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Till 25.7.94, 356 Pilots licences of various categories have been issued to women pilots.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Market borrowings for Mankhurd
Belapur Railway Line Project**

1018. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested the Union Government for additional market borrowing allocation for financing its share of the remaining cost on the Mankhurd Belapur Railway Line Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the request has been accepted; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) No, request from the Government of Maharashtra has been received for additional market borrowing allocation

during the current financial year 1994-95 for financing the Mankhurd Belapur Railway Line Project.

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

[English]

Restructuring of Regional Rural Banks

1019. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI CHETAN P.S.
CHAUHAN:
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number and location of Regional Rural Banks which have been restructured/revamped so far and proposed to be restructured/revamped during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): After considering a number of alternative models for restructuring of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) it has been decided to revamp the RRBs by cleaning up of their Balance Sheets on a 'Stand Alone' basis. Accordingly, as announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech on 28.2.1994 it is proposed to take up 50 of the 196 RRBs all over the country in the course of 1994-95 for undertaking comprehensive restructuring including cleaning up of their balance sheets and infusion of fresh capital.

On the recommendations of a Committee constituted by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), 49 RRBs have been identified for restructuring. These are located in

different States/Union Territories as mentioned below:-

State/U.T. .	No. of RRBs identified
Andhra Pradesh	4
Assam	1
Arunachal Pradesh	1
Bihar	5
Gujarat	2
Haryana	1
Himachal Pradesh	1
Jammu & Kashmir	1
Karnataka	3
Kerala	1
Maharashtra	2
Manipur	1
Meghalaya	1
Mizoram	1
Madhya Pradesh	5
Nagaland	1
Orissa	2
Punjab	1
Rajasthan	3
Tamil Nadu	1

State/U.T.	No. of RRBs identified
Uttar Pradesh	9
West Bengal	2
Total	49

Besides above 49 RRBs, in respect of one RRB in Tripura, alternative mechanism is proposed to be evolved for ensuring uninterrupted credit flow in consultation with Sponsor Bank.

Misbehaviour with Airhostesses

1020. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether some incidents of misbehaviour by the passengers with airhostesses in the Indian Airlines aircrafts have come to the notice of the Government during the last two months;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the deterrent action taken by the Government to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir: Two incidents of misbehaviour by passengers with airhostesses have been reported during the last two months on Indian Airlines flights.

(i) On flights IC-468 between Goa and Delhi on 30.5.1994, two passengers behaved in an

indecent manner with the airhostesses on duty.

- (ii) On flight IC-183 - Bombay - Delhi on 9.7.1994, a drunken passenger passed remarks on the airhostess and created disorderly scenes during the dinner service on board.

(c) DGCA has issued order to the effect that no operator, operating domestic air transport service in India shall serve any alcoholic drink on board such an air transport service and that no passenger travelling on such a service shall consume any alcoholic drink while on board.

[Translation]

Loan to unemployed youth under PMRY

1021. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed youth in Maharashtra who have been provided and are likely to be provided of rupees one lakh under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during 1994-95; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) provides that each entrepreneur will be eligible for a loan for project cost upto a ceiling of Rs. 1 lakh. During the year 1994-95, as per the State-wise targets fixed under PMRY, 20,500 educated unemployed youth are likely to be provided loans in Maharashtra. The actual

number of beneficiaries who are provided loan during the current financial year (1994-95) under PMRY will be known at the end of the financial year.

[English]

Tax free perquisites for Corporate Employees

1022. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the income-tax authorities have started any probe into tax free perquisites for corporate employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome of the probe in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). No probe, as such, has been started by the Income-tax Department into the perquisites provided to the corporate employees by their employers. The Department has only taken steps to apprise the corporate sector of their responsibility to deduct the appropriate tax from the salaries and allowances paid to, and perquisites provided to their employees.

Private Airlines

1023. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the United Nations Development Programme's report on the Indian private airlines as reported

in the Financial Express dated July, 1 1994;

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

(c) the reaction of Government thereto and the measures taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) It is a project terminal report submitted by the Flight Safety Surveillance on Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan and Thailand conducted by the United Nations Programme on behalf of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) in December, 1993. The report urges the said Governments to take immediate steps to upgrade flight safety.

(c) In order to follow the recommendations of the report, DGCA has initiated the following steps:

- (i) Base inspection of airlines and inspections of flight inspector.
- (ii) Safety audit of airlines & Safety education seminars.
- (iii) Issuance of Advisory Circulars & setting up of in-house safety cell.

(iv) Introduction of refresher courses.

(v) Random monitoring of flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder (CVR).

[Translation]

Export of Items to Bangladesh

1024. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL
KATHERIA:
SHRI K. PRADHANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of finished goods to Bangladesh is increasing;

(b) if so, the details of goods being exported there at present;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned from export of these goods during each of the last two years; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the export of finished goods to Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). Statistics of trade between India and Bangladesh indicate increase in India's export of manufactured items to Bangladesh. Some of such manufactured items exported from India to Bangladesh in terms of value during the last two years are indicated below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of manufactured goods	Value	
		1992-93	1993-94
1.	Cotton Yarn, fabrics, madeu etc.	48494.23	54907.61
2.	Transport Equipment	3229.66	6570.57
3.	Manufactures of metals	1924.31	3188.88
4.	Machinery and Instruments	7406.82	7448.61
5.	Cosmetics/Toileteries etc.	55.64	271.70

The above figures are provisional.

Source : DGCI's Report

(d) Steps taken/being taken to increase our trade including the export of such items to Bangladesh include:

- (i) Signing of bilateral trade agreement with Bangladesh.
- (ii) Holding official and business level talks at periodic intervals.
- (iii) Participation in trade fairs and exchange of trade delegations.
- (iv) India is a signatory to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Preferential Trading Arrangements (SAPTA) and a member of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry alongwith Bangladesh amongst others.
- (v) India and Bangladesh are also members of Asian Clearing Union Mechanism.

Sick textile Mills

1025. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick textile mills in the country;

(b) the amount of bank loans outstanding against those sick textile mills, mill-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to handover such sick textile mills to the trade unions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) As per information furnished by Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), as on

31.1.94, there were 262 mills registered with BIFR as sick.

(b) As per the study conducted by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the total outstanding amount in March 1992 was Rs. 1467.25 crore pertaining to 296 Non-SSI sick textile units.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Textile city in Andhra Pradesh

1026. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to establish textile city in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds provided by the Union Government for this purpose?

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

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

Air Taxi Operators

1027. SHRI HARISH NARAIN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received proposals from the private taxi operators for direct flights from Delhi and Bombay to various tourists resorts in southern and western States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). Air Taxi Operators are free to operate to any airport open for scheduled operation.

Export of Cotton

1028. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA:
DR. RAMESH CHAND
TOMAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cotton exports during the last two years and in the current year till date;

(b) the main reasons for decline in cotton exports; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to prevent such declining trends?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The quantity of cotton exported during the last two years and in the current year is as follows:-

(Qty: in lakh bales)	
Year	Quantity shipped
1991-92	0.77
1992-93	13.766
1993-94	3.114 (upto 5-7-1994)

(b) and (c). In pursuance of the long term export policy, minimum 5 lakh bales of cotton are to be exported every year and subsequent releases are made thereafter, keeping in view the domestic availability and prices. However, during the cotton year 1993-94, cotton exports were temporarily suspended in view of sharp increase in the prices of cotton and cotton yarn.

Balance of Trade

1029. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR

YADAV:

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE:

SHRI RAMESHWAR

PATIDAR:

SHRI TARIT BARAN

TOPDAR:

SHRI LOKANATH

CHOUDHURY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of exports and imports during the first quarter of 1994-95;

(b) the commodity-wise break up of such exports and imports;

(c) the overall increase or decrease of exports and imports compared to the corresponding quarter in 1993-94;

(d) the reaction of the Government to the lower export growth rate; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the export target?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The value of exports & imports during April-May 1994-95, the latest period for which

such aggregate trade statistics are available, are over Rs.11898 crores (US \$ 3793 million) and over Rs. 12181 crores (US \$ 3883 million) respectively.

(b) Dis-aggregated trade statistics are available in published form upto April, 1994 only. Commodity-wise break-up of exports & imports are available in the April, 1994 issue of the Foreign Trade Statistics of India (Principal Commodities and countries) published by DGCI & S, Calcutta. This brochure, published on a monthly basis, is made available to the Lok Sabha library.

(c) Exports & Imports during April-May, 1994-95, the latest period for which such aggregate trade statistics are available registered an increase, in rupee terms, of 9.8% (9.7% in dollar terms) and 12.2% (12.1% in dollar terms) respectively over the corresponding period of 1993-94.

(d) and (e). Export promotion is a continuous process; it is a collaborative effort between the Centre and the States and steps are taken to boost exports in consultation with trade, industry and export promotion organisations. The co-operation of the States is being sought increasingly and the Government has formulated a new scheme called Export Promotion Industrial Parks (EPIP) Scheme for this purpose.

[Translation]

Export of Cotton Textiles

1030. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for export of cotton textiles during the last three years alongwith the achievements made;

(b) the names of those countries to whom this export was made alongwith the quantum of textiles exported to each; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The target fixed for export of cotton textiles during the last three years and achievements were as follows:

(Figures in US Million dollars)

	Target	Achievement
1991-92	1309	1542.40

(Figures in US Million dollars)

	Target	Achievement
1992-93	1670	1678.64
1993-94	1797.88	2008.95 (Provisional)

(b) and (c). Cotton textiles are exported to many countries. The major importing countries and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years are as follows:

(Value in Million US dollars)

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94 (Provisional)
1. EEC	468.55	512.16	652.90
2. USA	250.46	289.60	314.33
3. Bangladesh	135.29	184.16	209.47
4. Japan	69.34	71.25	110.57
5. UAE	73.12	62.33	63.03
6. Australia	28.72	47.25	43.18
7. Mauritius	25.76	24.39	38.27
8. Canada	23.02	24.33	32.00
9. Singapore	23.99	23.39	31.32
10. Sweden	25.22	28.72	29.80

Source: Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council and Handloom Export Promotion Council.

[English]

Agro-Based Industries

1031. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey for setting up of agro-based industries has been conducted by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development in any State;

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

(c) the amount likely to be mobilised by NABARD for these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has not conducted any detailed survey for setting up of agro-based industries in any State. However, on the basis of potential linked credit plans prepared by NABARD for each of the districts in the State, one or two districts of each State have been identified for intensive development of agro-processing sector. The names of such districts are given in the *Statement* enclosed.

(c) An amount of Rs.31.73 crores has been allotted by NABARD for the development of agro-processing for the year 1994-95. In addition, an amount of Rs.350 crores has also been allotted for hi-tech thrust project which cover, among others, agro-based industries.

STATEMENT*List of districts identified for intensive development of agro-processing activities*

Sl. No.	Name of State	Names of Districts
1.	Gujarat	1. Surat 2. Valsad 3. Kheda 4. Bhavanagar 5. Junagadh 6. Kutch
2.	Karnataka	1. Bangalore Rural 2. Dakshina Kannada 3. Dharwar
3.	Madhya Pradesh	1. Hoshangabad 2. Chindwar

Sl. No.	Name of State	Names of Districts
4.	Orissa	1. Cuttack 2. Keonjhar 3. Mayurbhanj 4. Balasore
5.	West Bengal	1. Darjeeling 2. Malda 3. South 24 Paraganas
6.	Punjab	1. Bhatinda 2. Sangroor 3. Jalandhar
7.	Haryana	1. Hissar 2. Ambala 3. Karnal 4. Kurukshatra
8.	Assam	1. Guwahati
9.	Andhra Pradesh	1. East Godavari 2. Chittoor 3. Bangareddy
10.	Rajasthan	1. Pali 2. Jalore 3. Sirohi
11.	Uttar Pradesh	1. Pratapgarh 2. Farukhabad 3. Barabanki
12.	Tamil Nadu	1. Dharampuri 2. Dindigul Anna 3. South Arcot 4. Thanjavur
13.	Maharashtra	1. Nasik 2. Pune

Sl. No.	Name of State	Names of Districts
		3. Jalagaon
		4. Ratnagiri
		5. Kolhapur
		6. Solapur
		7. Sangli
14.	Kerala	1. Kottayam
		2. Ernakulam
		3. Idukki
		4. Kozhikode
		5. Palakkad
		6. Malappuram
15.	Himachal Pradesh	1. Shimla
		2. Mandi
16.	Bihar	1. Muzaffarpur
		2. Bhagalpur
		3. Motihari
		4. Samastipur

[Translation]

(c) if not, the reasons thereof;

Development of Tourism

1032. SHRI RAM PRASAD
SINGH:
SHRI MANJAY LAL:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to give tourism the status of an industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). The National Development Council has recommended that tourism should be accorded the status of an industry. The Department of Tourism, as a follow up of the National Development Council's recommendation, has been requesting the State Governments to accord tourism the status of an industry. So far the following States have declared tourism as an industry:

1. Haryana

2. Himachal Pradesh

3. Andhra Pradesh

4. Karnataka

5. Kerala

6. Tamil Nadu

7. Assam

8. Mizoram

9. Orissa

10. Tripura

11. Arunachal Pradesh

12. Maharashtra

13. Bihar

14. Madhya Pradesh

15. Uttar Pradesh

Under the Statement of Industrial Policy 1991, hotels and tourism related industry is included in the list of industries eligible for automatic approval of foreign technology agreements and for 51% foreign equity approvals.

Robberies in Public Sector Banks in Gujarat

1033. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons including those of bank employees, killed and injured during robberies in the public sector banks in Gujarat during 1993-94;

(b) the amount of compensation paid to the persons killed/injured; and

(c) the details of employment provided to the dependents of the deceased by each of public sector bank in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) According to the information available with Reserve Bank of India (RBI), only one case of robbery/dacoity in Gujarat was reported to RBI by public sector banks during the period 1.4.1993 to 31.3.1994. No one was killed or injured in the incident.

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

[English]

Writing off of Bad-Debts

1034. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the commercial banks have been allowed to write off individual bad-debts to the tune of Rs. 25 lakhs in place of 25,000/- as at present;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the steps contemplated to prevent misuse of the above enhanced limit facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that no such instructions have been issued to commercial banks.

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

Hike in price of Coffee Powder

1035. SHRIMATI CHANDRA
PRABHA URS:
SHRI P.C. CHACKO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of coffee powder has been increasing for the last several months thereby causing lot of hardship to the poorer sections of the society;

(b) if so, the details of the increase in price of coffee powder during the last six-months, month-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring down the price at a reasonable level?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Over the last few months the prices of coffees has been showing an upward trend.

(b) and (c). The details of the price increase in coffee powder between January to June, 1994 in Bangalore is as follows:-

Month	Price/Kg.
Jan., '94	Rs.77/-
Feb., '94	Rs.73/-
Mar., '94	Rs.71/-
Apr., '94	Rs.80/-

Month	Price/Kg.
May, '04	Rs.91/-
June, '9	Rs.120/-

The domestic prices have shown an upward trend in consonance with the rise in international prices which has been caused mainly due to reported failure of crop in Brazil and short supply of coffee in the world market. The price situation is under close watch by the Government.

Installation of Automatic Teller Machines

1036. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether State Bank of India has installed Automatic Teller Machines (ATM) which can be operated by clients any time;

(b) whether such machines are also proposed to be installed in all the nationalised banks and in all the major cities of the country;

(c) if so, the time by which the above machines are proposed to be installed; and

(d) if not, the reasons, therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) State Bank of India has reported that Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) have been installed in three branches.

(b) There is no proposal at present for installation of ATMs by the nationalised banks in all the major cities. How-

ever, permission, has been given by RBI to the following nationalised banks for installation of ATMs:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	No. of ATMs for which permission has been given
1.	Bank of India	3
2.	Indian Bank	5
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	1
4.	State Bank of Travancore	2
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	1
6.	Vijay Bank	9
Total		21

(c) and (d). RBI has intimated that no time frame for installation/operation of ATMs has been prescribed by it.

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

Export of Tobacco

1037. MAJ.GEN.(RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council of Applied Economic Research has carried out a study with regard to increasing export earnings by exporting tobacco and its products;

(b) if so, the salient features of the findings of the study report;

(c) whether the Government have analysed the study report;

(d) whether the Government have made any plans to optimise tobacco products for export; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

(b) The salient features of the study titled 'Export potential of tobacco sector' are as follows:-

1. The emerging trend of globalisation of export trade and phasing-out of subsidies would help enhance exports of Indian tobacco because of its quality and low cost.
2. There is a mis-match in the pattern of production-consumption of tobacco in India with that of global pattern.
3. There is absence of clearcut "Tobacco Policy" for the country.
4. No worthwhile technological break through has been achieved in yields.

5. India is unable to export more tobacco because of the declining domestic base.
6. Domestic cigarette industry has not faced international competition.
7. There is lack of growth in the domestic cigarette industry due to discriminatory tariff structure for tobacco products sold in the country.

(c) to (e). Government has a clear cut policy for development and exports of tobacco and tobacco products. The policy has been designed having regard to various considerations like the international demand and supply situation, the interest of the tobacco growers and tobacco industry workers, and the considerations of public health. As regards optimising the exports of tobacco products the following measures are being taken:-

1. Giving wide publicity to Indian cigarettes and other tobacco products through participation in international exhibition.
2. Encouraging trade delegations to purchase Indian tobacco.
3. Permitting export oriented units for export of cigarettes.
4. Permitting foreign investment in cigarette industry mainly for export of cigarettes.
5. Encouraging manufacturers to establish ware-houses in CIS countries for stock and sale of cigarettes.
6. Encouraging cigarette exports to Russia.

The Tobacco Board is carefully examining the recommendations made in the Report and necessary steps as considered suitable in the light of the policy of the Government would be taken.

New Sky Policy

1038. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL:
SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal for a new sky policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Financial assistance to Industrial units in Maharashtra

1039. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the amount of the assistance sanctioned and disbursed by all India Financial and Investment Institutions to industries in backward areas of Maharashtra during the last two years and the current year, so far?

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

tent available and permissible under the Rules.

SAARC Finance Minister's Conference

1040. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he attended the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) Finance Minister's Conference held in Dhaka earlier this month;

(b) if so, the details of the strategies to improve the social and economic well-being and alleviation of poverty of the people of the SAARC region evolved at the conference;

(c) whether he also discussed with the Bangladesh Government the long-pending issue of having a corridor across Bangladesh territory for transportation of goods and passengers between the landlocked north-eastern region and rest of the country;

(d) if so, the reaction of that Government thereto; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The FM attended the Conference.

(b) The Conference, noting that Poverty alleviation strategies of all member countries emphasize access to credit, investment in social development and rural infrastructure, and employment generation, recognised the need to focus on the problems of the hardcore poor. It stressed social mobilisation strategies

that ensure community participation, empowerment of women and the poor, sustainable development, decentralisation of power, participatory planning, and ownership of development programmes by the poor. It also agreed that steps should be taken to bring about a closer interface between government agencies, NGOs and community organisations engaged in poverty alleviation. The Finance Ministers reiterated their commitment to policies and programmes that would; in the short term alleviate poverty in their countries and would lead to eradication of poverty by the year 2002. They affirmed their resolve to mobilise resources required for this effort commensurate with the magnitude of the problem, through policies conducive to such resource mobilisation. They emphasized that the reform programmes should facilitate the acceleration of efforts at poverty eradication, while ensuring that they do not adversely impact on the poor in the short term.

The Ministers decided that a three-tier mechanism should be set up which would act as a forum for exchange of information on experiences of the SAARC countries in the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes.

(c) to (e). The issue of transit across Bangladesh to and from our North-Eastern States was discussed with Bangladesh authorities at the higher levels. It was emphasized that this transit access would be a significant source of service of export earnings for Bangladesh and would help in expanding their transport sector, particularly ports and railways. The Bangladesh authorities indicated that they were willing to comprehensively examine bilateral issues.

Inquiry into forced landing of Indian Airlines Aircraft

1041. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air Marshal J.K. Seth Court of Inquiry into the forced landing of the Indian Airlines Airbus A-300 near Tirupati has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the findings and recommendations of the committee particularly in regard to the air safety department of the Indian Airlines;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the measures taken to enhance the level of flight safety consciousness of the Indian Airlines personnel?

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

(b) to (d). The report is under examination of the Government.

[Translation]

Loan to SSIs Rajasthan

1042. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loans advanced to small scale industries by the public sector banks in Rajasthan and other States;

(b) whether small scale industries in Rajasthan are in a better position to repay banks loans as compared to other States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the amount of loans advanced to Small Scale Industries (SSIs) by public sector banks in Rajasthan as on 31st March 1994 aggregated Rs. 520.32 crores.

(b) and (c). The RBI does not compile such data. However, recovery position of SSI units in Rajasthan as on 30 June, 1993 was as under:

Demand	:	Rs. 170.98 crores
Collection	:	Rs. 52.55 crores
Overdues	:	Rs. 118.43 crores
Percentage of Recovery	:	31

[English]

Taking over of Russian Banks

1043. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the request of the promoters, the Canara Bank management has recently decided to take control of the management of the two Russian banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating *inter-alia* the particulars of the two Russian banks, their equity structure, the previous relationship of promoters with Canara Bank, the reasons for choice of Canara Bank by promoters, terms and conditions of taking over;

(c) whether the Canara Bank is presently conducting negotiations for similar arrangements with some other banks in foreign countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Canara Bank propose to open a representative office in Moscow shortly; and

(f) whether the Reserve Bank of India/Government have given permission to the Canara Bank to take over management control of the two Russian banks and the banks in other countries and also to open their representative offices in Moscow and other foreign countries?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has intimated that Canara bank has not applied for permission for taking over control of any Russian bank. However, RBI has allowed the Canara Bank to open a representative office in Moscow.

Agricultural Lending

1045. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India has prepared a plan to step up its agri-

cultural lending in a big way especially for projects in sericulture, floriculture, aquaculture and horticulture and meat processing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States where the above plan has been formulated during 1993 and proposed during 1994 along with the details of the agricultural lending, State-wise; and

(d) the achievements made by the State Bank of India in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that it has prepared a plan for the growth in agriculture advances to the tune of Rs.990 crores during 1994-95. No specific plan has been prepared for sericulture, floriculture, aquaculture, horticulture, etc. State-wise plans specifically for the above activities have not been formulated. However, State-wise outstandings in respect of agriculture and allied activities as on March, 1994, of State Bank of India are given in the *Statement* attached.

(d) As on 31st March, 1994, the bank's outstanding amount under the above projects are indicated below:

(Rs. crores)		
Floriculture	—	3.75
Horticulture	—	92.45
Sericulture	—	8.12
Aquaculture		
Inland Fisheries	—	50.3
Marine Fisheries	—	68.6

STATEMENT

State-wise outstanding in respect of agriculture and allied activities as on March, 1994 of State Bank of India

(Rs. in crores)

State/Union Territories	Balance outstandings
Haryana	181.61
Himachal Pradesh	74.55
Jamru & Kashmir	24.66
Punjab	293.90
Rajasthan	119.63
Chandigarh	44.48
Delhi	19.29
Assam	43.08
Manipur	2.52
Meghalya	11.09
Nagaland	20.86
Tripura	10.46
Arunachal Pradesh	2.85
Mizoram	2.98
Sikkim	3.48
Bihar	417.61
Orissa	245.48
West Bengal	182.45
Andaman & Nicobar	2.14
Madhya Pradesh	413.22
Uttar Pradesh	784.14
Gujarat	147.11
Maharashtra	532.53
Goa	5.00
Daman & Diu	0.00

State/Union Territories	Balance outstandings
-------------------------	----------------------

Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00
Andhra Pradesh	891.45
Karnataka	319.72
Kerala	155.15
Tamil Nadu	614.90
Pondicherry	6.09
Lakshadweep	0.00
All India	5574.55

[Translation]

Air Mishaps

1046. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted any committee to check the increasing number of air mishaps in the country;

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

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

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

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

Child Labour

1047. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish National Child Labour Resource Centre for the Welfare of Child Labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the encouragement being provided by the Government to NGOs for the child labour problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). Government have decided to set up a National Resource Centre for Child Labour. The Centre would undertake and promote research, provide technical advisory services to Governments and field agencies, disseminate information, assist creating better awareness and serve as a Central source of information and data on child labour. The Centre is proposed to be set up at the National Labour Institute, NOIDA, UP., with participation on UNICEF and ILO.

(c) Government associates NGOs at all levels of planning and implementation of action programmes. NGOs have been given representation in the Central Child Labour Advisory Board, and the National Steering Committee for International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). Special seminars, workshops and training programmes are being organised regularly to ensure more effective participation of NGOs in implementation of projects. About 70 NGOs are currently implementing welfare and rehabilitation projects for child labour under the National Child Labour Projects (100% assistance), the Grants-in-Aid Scheme of the Ministry (75% assistance), and under the ILO assisted IPEC (90% assistance).

[English]

Smuggling of cattle to Bangladesh

1048. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Dhaka rakes takes from smuggled Indian cattle" appearing in the 'Sunday Observer'. New Delhi dated, May 22, 1994;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken to check the smuggling of Indian cattle by Bangladesh smugglers?

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

Import of cars by Trading/Export Houses

1049. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed the import of cars to trading/export houses for their official use;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cars have so far been imported by trading/export houses

and the expenditure in foreign exchange incurred thereon;

(d) whether some trading/export houses have sold these cars, imported for their official use, in the market; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Para 217 (e) & (f) of the Handbook of Procedures, 1992—97 (Revised Edition : March, 94) Vol-I provides for import of Cars by Export/Trading House/Star Trading House/Super Star Trading House as one time facility functional for their use against their own Special Import Licences. Such import of cars shall be with actual user condition and subject to normal customs duty to be paid in free foreign exchange out of status holder's Exchange Earnings Foreign Currency Account.

(c) No separate category-wise import data is maintained.

(d) No complaint has been received.

(e) Does not arise.

Irregularities In F.C.N.R. Accounts

1050. SHRI AMAL DATTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of the irregularities in the operation of the Foreign Currency (Non-resident) Accounts operated by banks that have come to light impelling the Reserve Bank of India to order a special audit;

(b) the period over which such irregularities have been committed and the total loss of foreign to the country as a result thereof; and

(c) the number and names of foreign banks involved in irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). A special audit has been instituted by the Reserve Bank of India to reconcile the books of the Reserve Bank of India and the authorised dealers handling foreign currency non-resident accounts transactions in order to locate any discrepancies in interest claims and purchases made by the authorised dealers from the Reserve Bank of India with reference to the exchange rate at which the principal deposit was sold to the Reserve Bank of India. The auditors have been advised to cover a period of four years from April 1, 1990 to March 31, 1994. The irregularities in individual banks and the loss in foreign exchange to the country, if any, would be known only after the special audits are completed.

Export of Software

1051. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to increase the export of software;

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

(c) the export performance of software during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and

(b). Yes, Sir. In addition to efforts aimed at increasing exports to USA, Canada and West Europe, to which the bulk of our software and services exports take place, the possibilities of increasing the export of software to selected markets such as Japan, Netherlands, Denmark and Australia are being explored. Contacts have been established with the trade promotion agencies in these countries. Experts from concerned organisations have been invited to meet software companies in India and identify areas of trade and for tie-ups. Delegations of Indian software companies have been sent to these markets and they are being encouraged to participate in specialised trade fairs.

(c) The export performance of software including services during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Rs. in crores
1991-92	508.00
1992-93	740.00
1993-94	1020.00

Source : Electronics & Computer Software
Export Promotion Council

Colliery Accidents

1052. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH
DRONA:
SHRI HARADHAN ROY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of tragic coal mine accidents in Asansol recently;

(b) if so, the number of coal workers who lost their lives and compensation paid to legal heirs of deceased;

(c) whether any committee has been constituted to probe the tragic coal mine accidents;

(d) if so, the composition and terms of the Committees; and

(e) the time by which the report is likely to be submitted?

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

(b) In the year 1994 (upto June 1994) a total of 71 coal mines workers lost their lives in 14 fatal accidents in the mines of Eastern Coalfields Limited.

Payment of compensation by the management to the next of kin of the deceased is regulated under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 which is administered by the respective State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Information on this aspect is not maintained by the Ministry of Labour.

(c) to (e). Yes. A Court of Inquiry has been appointed by the Ministry of Labour in respect of the mine accident that occurred on 25.1.94 at New Kenda Colliery of Eastern Coalfields Limited in which 55 persons were killed.

The Court of Inquiry which is headed by Justice Shamsuddin Ahmed, formerly Judge of the Calcutta High Court has been asked to inquire into the causes of and circumstances attending the accidents and present a report within three months. Prof. A.K. Ghose, the then Director, Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad and Shri B.N. Tiwari, General Secretary, Colliery Mazdoor Sabha (AITUC), Asansol have been appointed as assessors in holding the inquiry.

As the inquiry could not be completed, the terms of the Court of Inquiry has been extended upto 27th October, 1994.

[Translation]

Foreign Debt

1053. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
SHRI GUMAN LAL LODHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of foreign loan outstanding against the country as on June 30, 1994;

(b) the total amount of foreign exchange received under various heads during the financial year 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 respectively;

(c) the total amount of interest and principal paid back to foreign countries during each of the above financial years; and

(d) the amount of interest and principal to be paid back of the country during the financial year 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The total amount of external debt outstanding against the country is estimated to be US \$ 91 billion at the end of March 1994.

(b) Information is given in the attached *Statement*.

(c) The total debt service payment i.e. repayment of principal and payment of interest made by the country were US \$ 8.22 billion in 1991-92, US \$ 8.16 billion during 1992-93, and US \$ 8.14 billion during 1993-94.

(d) The amount of debt service payment during the current year would depend not only on past loans but also on loans to be taken during the current year. Future loans would depend on development in various items under both current and capital account of balance of payments which in turn would depend on a number of factors. In the context of complexity of the situation, it would not be possible to indicate precisely the debt service payments during 1994-95.

STATEMENT

Inflows/Outflows of Foreign Exchange as revealed by Balance of Payments Statistics

(US \$ Million)

	1991-92 (PE)	1992-93 (QE)	1993-94 (TE)
1. Exports	18223	18789	22700
2. Imports	20347	22895	23900
3. Trade Balance	- 2124	- 4106	- 1200
4. Invisibles (Net)	- 11	- 815	970
5. Current Account	- 2135	- 4921	- 230
6. External Assistance (Net)	2916	1842	1700

	199-92 (PE)	1992-93 (QE)	1993-94 (TE)
7. Commercial Borrowings (Net)	1647	- 451	624
8. I.M.F. (Net)	781	1288	191
9. Non-Resident deposits (Net)	- 454	1949	940
10. Rupee debt service	- 1332	- 977	- 745
11. Foreign investment	148	585	4110
12. Other flows	2004	1413	2278
13. Reserve use	- 3575	- 728	- 8868

[English]

Production of Yarn

1054. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry has identified 15 entrepreneurs manufacturing fine yarn as a part of the UNDP sponsored project;

(b) if so, the details of the entrepreneurs who have been selected;

(c) the extent to which they have produced jute and blended yarn in lighter counts required for weaving medium weight fabrics;

(d) whether the Government have offered to provide 30% of the cost in the form of an interest-free grant; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which banks are likely to finance these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (e). In Phase - I of the project of setting up mini jute spinning units for manufacturing jute fine yarn under UNDP assisted Jute Programme following five entrepreneurs have been selected:-

1. M/s. Eastern Ju-wool Tex. Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta.
2. M/s. Pioneer India Pvt. Ltd., Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
3. M/s. Arihant Business (P) Ltd., Guwahati.
4. M/s. B.C.O. Fabrics (P) Ltd., Calcutta.
5. M/s. Kanhailal Bhattacharjee Mini Jute Mill Coop. Society Ltd., North 24 - Parganas, West Bengal.

These units are at implementation/trial stage and are yet to undertake significant commercial operations. While for these five units no Govt. of India grant was provided, UNDP has provided soft

loan for purchase of machinery and equipment.

As regards setting up of more units in Phase-II of the project, no entrepreneurs have been selected and no decision has been taken about the Government grant or funding pattern.

Value added Tax System

1055. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce value added tax in place of sales tax/turnover tax from the current year; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government in regard to implementation of value added tax system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, Conference of State Finance Ministers was held on 27th May, 1994 in Delhi to discuss implications of introducing value added tax and other matters. The Conference resolved to constitute a Committee of State Finance Ministers to examine all aspects of tax reforms including Value Added Tax. In pursuance of the resolution, the Government has constituted a Committee of Finance Ministers of 11 States.

Committee on Employees Provident Fund Act

1056. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee appointed to look into the problems about the E.P.F. arrears has submitted its report;

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

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c). The major recommendations of the Sub-Committee of the Consultative Committee of Parliament, *inter-alia*, relate to making non-payment of the EPF/ESI dues a non-bailable offence, non-payment of the employers' share a criminal breach of trust, deposit of 75% of the amount as compulsory before the employer seeks judicial intervention setting up of special courts etc.

The Government has decided to have the report first considered by the ESI Corporation and the Central Board of Trustees, EPF.

Indian Tourist

1057. DR. D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage tourism culture among the Indians;

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

(c) whether any target has been fixed for improving the global and regional

traffic of Indian tourists during 1994-95
and

(c) if so, the details and outcome
thereof; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). Promotion of tourism, both domestic and international, is a continuous process. Steps taken to promote domestic tourism include, advertising, printing and distribution of publicity material, highlighting the tourist attractions of various regions through posters, Films and Audio-visual presentations, extending financial assistance to State Govts. for organising Fairs and Festivals, printing of publicity material, and making promotional films. State Governments are also given Central financial assistance for development and strengthening of infrastructure for both domestic and international tourists.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Foreign Capital Investment

1058. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign capital invested in the country since 1991 so far along with the names of enterprises in which it has been invested;

(b) whether the Government have set up any machinery to monitor the compliance of conditions regarding such investment;

(d) the interest paid to foreign companies by the industries set up with the help of foreign capital and the value of goods exported during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Since the announcement of the New Industrial Policy of 1991 and upto June, 1994, approvals have been given to 2118 proposals involving total amount of foreign investment of Rs. 15615.82 crores. Actual inflow of foreign investment from 1991 to June, 1994 has been reported to the extent of Rs. 3943.10 crores.

The details of proposals approved, namely, name of the Indian company, name of the foreign collaborator etc. in respect of each proposal are published by the Indian Investment Centre as a supplement to their Monthly Newsletter. Copies of the Newsletters are also supplied to the Parliament Library.

(b) and (c). After the receipt of the foreign collaboration approvals, collaborating parties are required to conclude collaboration agreements, and the foreign collaboration approval is to be made part of the agreement and such agreements are required to be filed with the Reserve Bank of India. Thereafter the Reserve Bank of India monitors the inflow of foreign capital or remittance of dividends etc. in terms of the approval, and this is a continuous process till the expiry of the collaboration agreement.

(d) Interest payments on account of external commercial borrowings are as follows:

Year	Amount in US \$ Million
1991-92	993.80
1992-93	917.30
1993-94	910.27

This does not include short-term debt of maturity of less than one year or self-liquidating loans. Government does not maintain data on export performance of individual firms.

Internal/External Loan

1059. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the internal and external foreign loans and dues outstanding against our country in rupees and dollars terms, respectively as on March 31, 1991 and March 31, 1994;

(b) the amount of payments made by the Union Government as principal of

the said loan and interest thereon during the aforesaid period;

(c) the sources from which the funds were mobilised;

(d) the percentage of foreign exchange obtained by way of foreign loans and assistance and the deposits of Non-Resident Indians used to pay the instalments of loans and interest accrued thereon alongwith the details thereof;

(e) the increase in dues and amounts of foreign loans as a result of devaluation of rupee; and

(f) the amount of foreign loans received in the first quarter of 1994-95 and the increase in the amount of dues and loans in terms of rupees and dollars respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The total debt outstanding, on Government account, as on 31st March, 1991 and 1994 was as under:

(Rs. in crores)

	1990-91	1993-94(RE)
(i) Internal debt and other liabilities	282733	425727
(ii) External debt (at the exchange rates prevailing at the end of the year)	66314 (Equivalent to US \$ 34.317 billion)	127407 (Equivalent to US \$ 40.757 billion)

(b) The repayment and payment of interest was as under :

(Rs. in crores)

	1990-91	1993-94
(i) Repayment of internal debt and other liabilities and interest thereon	44797	76998
(ii) Repayment of external debt and interest thereon	4097	8829

(c) Internal debt and other liabilities were raised mainly through market borrowings, issues of treasury bills, small savings, provident funds etc. The external loans were taken from multilateral financial institutions and bilateral donors.

(d) The external loans are taken for meeting the foreign exchange requirements of various project and non project needs of the economy according to our plan priorities. The repayment of loan and payment of interest on external loans are made on due dates mainly from our exports and invisible earnings. There is, however, no earmarking of funds for repayment against specific foreign receipts.

(e) There has been no enhancement in the amount borrowed in respect of foreign currencies as a result of the adjustments made in the exchange rate of rupee. The rupee equivalent of the amount borrowed had, however, undergone an enhancement by about 21 to 23 per cent as a result of the adjustments made in the exchange rate of during 1991 depending upon currency in which the borrowing is denominated.

(f) The amount of foreign loans received during the first quarter of 1994-95 was Rs. 993 crores equivalent to US \$ 318 million. The external debt was increased by Rs. 2572 crores equivalent

to US \$ 823 million during this period. The increase in debt outstanding is due to exchange rate fluctuation of certain major foreign currencies other than dollar during this period.

Income-tax Payees in N.C.R

1060. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey in respect of the number of income tax payees engaged in trade industry in National Capital region;

(b) if so, the total number of income tax payees engaged in trade and industry as on March 31, 1994;

(c) whether all these income tax payees have made the full payment of their income tax dues;

(d) if not, the number of such tax payees who have not paid full payment of their income tax dues;

(e) the total amount of income tax due against them;

(f) the details of those fifty industrialists and businessmen against whom the

maximum amount of income tax is due;
and

[Translation]

(g) the steps being taken by the Government to recover these dues?

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

[English]

E.P.F.

1061. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:
SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision recently to impose fine on defaulters for their failure to deposit the Provident Fund contributions of the employees in time with the Provident Fund Commissioners; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). Penalty provisions exist under the Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 including imposition of fine on the defaulters for their failure to deposit provident fund contributions of the employees in time.

Delegations to Foreign Countries

1062. SHRI RATI LAL VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of delegations sent to foreign countries by his Ministry every year during the last three years;

(b) the names of the countries visited by these delegations;

(c) the amount spent on each of these delegations; and

(d) the achievement of such visits?

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

[English]

Hike in Bank Service Charges

1063. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nationalised/commercial banks have recently proposed/decided to hike their service charges with effect from the August 15, 1994;

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

(c) whether the bank customers have expressed their resentment over the

steep hike in bank service charges, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Indian Banks Association have requested all the commercial banks to keep on hold the proposed hike in banks service charges;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reactions of the banks thereto; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Indian Bank's Association (IBA) have reported that though the question of revision of service charges has been under consideration for some time, no decision has been taken in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The representatives of the All India Bank Depositors' Association and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry which met the Managing Committee of IBA have suggested the need for rationalisation of charges in respect of some services.

(d) to (f). The Managing Committee of IBA have constituted a sub-committee of chief executives of five member banks to consider the representations received and all relevant issues regarding revision of service charges. A view will be taken on the issue after the sub-committee submits its recommendations.

Sale of NSCs

1064. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total sale of National Savings Certificates during 1993-94;

(b) the shortfall in the sales during 1993-94 compared to 1992-93;

(c) whether the deposits made to Unit Trust of India and other Mutual Funds are repayable after three years;

(d) whether people are losing interest in investing on NSCs because of locking period of six years; and

(e) if so, whether there is any proposal to reduce the locking period for NSCs to three years as in UTI and other investments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The total sale (gross collection) of National Savings Certificates VIII Issues during 1993-94 (provisional) were Rs. 2266.16 crores showing an increase of Rs. 403.34 crores over the sale during 1992-93 (provisional).

(c) The Equity-linked Savings Schemes of Mutual Funds have three-year lock-in period.

(d) The total sale in National Savings Certificates VIII Issues during 1993-94 was higher than that during 1992-93.

(e) Does not arise.

Aluminium Production

1065. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to withdraw import duty on alu-

minium so as to bring the domestic price at par with the international price;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the month-wise details of the production, import and consumption of aluminium from January to June 1993?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Certain representations for lowering the import duty on aluminium have been received by the Government. These representations are under examination.

(c) The production of aluminium metal from January to June, 1993 is as under:—

Year 1993	Production (in tonnes)
January	41,152
February	37,183
March	39,870
April	36,433
May	34,094
June	34,555

Monthly imports data (month to month basis) for aluminium is not maintained by the office of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade. Month-wise statistics of consumption of aluminium in the country is also not maintained. The consumption of aluminium metal from January to June, 1993 was about 1,95,000 tonnes.

Strike by Public Sector Undertakings Employees

1066. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of various Public Sector Undertakings had gone on a nation-wide strike on July 14, 1994;

(b) if so, the major demands of these employees; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). The non-INTUC/BMS trade unions under the aegis of the Committee of Public Sector Trade Unions, organised a country-wide strike on July 14, 1994. The major demands mentioned in the strike notices received in this Ministry are as follows:-

1. Oppose the drive for Privatisation of Public Sector Units and disinvestment of public sector shares.
2. The Government of India must come forward to help the revival packages of the sick public sector units.
3. Oppose discriminatory role of the Government of India against the public sector units to bolster the private sector and multi-national

recommendations of JPC

companies on the plea of generating competition and denial of orders of various public sector units by the Government Departments.

4. Scrap the DPE guidelines to ensure immediate conclusion of wage revision in public sector.
5. Finalisation of DA slab rates to ensure full neutralisation at all levels in consultation with the trade unions.
6. Amendment of Bonus Act to ensure removal of all ceiling on bonus payment to the workers.
7. Raise the exemption limit of Income Tax Act.
8. Ensure the implementation of Pension through joint contribution of both workers and management.
9. Abolition of contract system in PSUs and regularisation of contract workers.

The demand relating to revision of eligibility and computation ceilings for payment of bonus, implementation of pension scheme for EPF subscribers, finalisation of slab system of DA etc. are under the active consideration of the Ministry of Labour.

As regards revival of sick PSUs, a Special Tripartite Committee to consider the impact the New Industrial Policy on labour and other related matter and to make appropriate recommendations was set up in November, 1991 and six other sectoral Tripartite Industrial Committees in respect of Cotton Textiles, Jute, Engineerings, Chemicals, Power Generation & Distribution and Road Transport industries were revived based on the decision taken by the Special Tripartite Committee.

All these Committees have met and discussed revival of sick units in various sectors of the economy. The process of discussions is still ongoing.

Rest of the issues are of general nature and require policy decisions by various departments of the Government.

12.01 1/2 hrs.

RE: ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF JOINT
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON
IRREGULARITIES IN SECURITIES AND
BANKING TRANSACTIONS —*Contd.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Well, you make very fine statements and speeches. We are all interested in hearing you. You can speak one by one.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is audible what all of you are saying together.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am ready to hear you.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever you say is fully complied with by every one working here. You are saying that report should be withdrawn but yesterday, Shrimati Pratibhaji was saying that she had every right to speak on it. Even if a single member disagreed with it, it cannot be withdrawn like this. You bring a motion.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV
(Madhepura): Sir, you please withdraw it first. *(Interruptions)*

12.05 hrs.

At this Stage, Shri Mohammad Ali Ashraf Fatmi and some other hon. Member came and stood on the floor near the Table.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to reassemble at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 1st of August 1994.

12.06 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, August 1, 1994/Sravana 10, 1916 (Saka)
