

LOKSABHA DEBATES
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TENTH LOK SABHA

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates

(English Version)

Friday, August 4, 1995/Sravana 13, 1917 (Saka)

<u>Col/Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
4/11	237.00	287.00
144/13	over	ever
164/13(from below)	THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE	THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE.
175/21	SHRI RAM PRASED SINGH	SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH
201/15 (from below)	SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI	SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI
225/8 (from below)	Rrbs	RRBs
256/15	SHRI RAM KASPSE	SHRI RAM KAPSE
270/4	SHRI KRISHNA DUTT SULTANPURI	SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

[English]

Friday, August 4, 1995/Sravana 13, 1917 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Supply of Cotton Yarn

*81. SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the prices at which the cotton yarn supplied or being supplied to the handloom weavers particularly of Uttar Pradesh in 1993-94, 1994-95 and by the end of June, 1995 of the year 1995-96;

(b) the reasons for the recent increase in prices;

(c) the problems being faced by weavers due to rise in prices of cotton yarn;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide cotton yarn to the weavers at lower prices;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

STATEMENT

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

(a) Annexure indicating prices at which hank yarn has been supplied to weavers particularly in U.P. between October 93 and June, 95 is attached.

(b) The reasons for increase in prices of cotton hank yarn have been mainly due to increase in the prices of cotton; damage to cotton crop due to crop disease in the Haryana, Punjab, floods in Maharashtra, M.P. and Gujarat and cyclone in Andhra Pradesh; speculative buying and shortage of cotton in the International Market.

(c) The rise in price of cotton hank yarn may affect production, employment and marketing of handloom products etc. Government of India have however been taking timely measures for making yarn available at reasonable prices to the handloom weavers through Schemes such as Hank Yarn Price Subsidy Scheme and Mill Gate Price Scheme.

(d) Yes. Sir

(e) During the year 1994-95 Government of India had introduced a scheme for supply of 20.00 million kgs of hank yarn at a subsidy of Rs. 15/- per kg. The scheme has been extended for the year 1995-96 with an enhanced subsidy of Rs. 20/- per kg. with a target for supply of 20.00 million kgs. of hank yarn. Under the Mill Gate Price Scheme the Government of India makes available hank yarn to the weavers through National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) at the Mill gate prices.

(f) Does not arise.

ANNEXURE

Prices at which Cotton Hank Yarn was supplied in U.P. from November, 1993 to June, 1995

(Rs. per bundle)

Counts	Nov., 93	Dec., 93	Jan., 94	Feb., 94
1	2	3	4	5
10s	193.20	193.20	193.20	193.20
20s	218.70	218.70	218.20	218.70

1	2	3	4	5
30s	250.35	250.35	250.35	250.35
40s	299.37	299.37	299.37	299.37
60s	392.34	392.34	392.34	392.34

**Prices at which Cotton Hank Yarn was supplied in U.P. from
November, 1993 to June, 1995**

(Rs. per bundle)

Counts	March, 94	April, 94 to July, 94	Aug., 94 to Oct., 94	Nov., 94 to Feb., 95	March, 95 to June, 95
1	6	7	8	9	10
10s	224.00	224.00	236.00	237.00	280.00
20s	267.70	267.70	257.00	338.00	345.00
30s	296.00	296.00	331.00	456.00	415.00
40s	330.00	330.00	428.00	528.00	466.50
60s	528.00	528.00	—	528.00	528.00

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI : Mr. Speaker Sir, my question relates to the Weavers of India. The Weavers of India get employment by dint of their own labour and merit and are known to have been exporting their self-made cloth for the last hundreds of years. However, materials i.e. cotton yarn is not easily made available to these weavers in time. From the reply of the Minister, it appears that there has been an increase of Rs. 130.80 paise, Rs. 127. Rs. 164.65 paise and Rs. 135.36 paise since 1993. I wanted to know whether the Government will make available cotton yarn on cheaper rates to these weavers? In reply to this, he has stated that they are being given subsidy of Rs. 15 to Rs. 20. This subsidy is not going to benefit them. I want to say to the Minister that cotton yarn at cheaper rates and not subsidy should be made available to the Weavers so that they may be able to run their profession smoothly and they may export more and more cloth and may thereby demonstrate their arts and bring foreign exchange in India.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Mr. Speaker Sir, this is really a very important question which has been raised by the hon. Member. You know very well that the prices of hank yarn have also increased because of increase in the prices of cotton in the country, for which weavers were quite worried. How the Government can provide them

assistance, that is what we are thinking of? If we keep in mind the condition of weavers in 1991, we find that prices had considerably increased in 1993-94. One crore 37 lakh cotton bales were produced in 1992, but in the year 1993-94, the production was less by 10 lakh bales following which rates kept on increasing and went so high that it became difficult for the weavers to buy hank yarn. Weavers' life became quite pitiable. This time we have tried to sell out at lesser price whatever has been produced by NTC. The other textile mills in the country were also urged to extend their help in this work. They too were supplied yarn at Rs. 8 per kg less. Afterwards, subsidy was given by the Government in 1993 at the rate of 15 per kg, so that the increase in prices could have no bearing on them. Prices shot up further in the year 1994-95 due to shortfall in the production of cotton in Punjab and Gujarat and cotton crop having been affected by disease in Pakistan. All this has resulted in shortfall in the production by 10 lakh bales. The domestic consumption in the entire country was one crore twenty five lakh bales in 1993-94. Whereas in 1994-95 one crore twenty eight lakh bales were required. Due to this only, the shortage occurred and rates went on increasing. The Finance Ministry has given its permission to VISCOS to import under the OGL in order to avoid inconvenience being caused to weavers. After that unlimited import of cotton was also allowed. Then State Governments were also consulted for giving facilities to weavers and full

efforts were made to ensure the supply of hank yarn to the cooperative federations. I could give you the details as to how much yarn has been supplied and distributed. All these steps have benefited the weavers. Yarn has been supplied systematically to weavers through Cooperative societies a subsidy of Rs. 20 per kg. has been given, this has lessened the problems of weavers. I want to inform the hon. Member that all the applications for the supply of hank yarn were considered and entire hank yarn that was required to be taken from mill owners was indeed taken out and supplied at mill rate. Subsidy was given at the rate of Rs. 20 per kg to the State Governments. Care was taken that there was no inconvenience to the weavers. Efforts were made to keep weavers free from the burden of increase in the prices of cotton yarn, specially, that of the hank yarn.

SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI : What the hon. Minister has stated appears in his written reply. The hon. Minister perhaps could not understand what I had asked. I am, therefore asking once again.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a large number of weavers in my Parliamentary constituency 'Barabanki', who are very poor. I am talking of poor weavers and not of millionaire weavers. There is no effect of price rise on rich weavers because they have got money and are able to manage the things. I am talking of those weavers who are running India's cottage industry by setting up handlooms and their number runs into crores

You had given them the subsidy of Rs.15 in 1993. You have yourself stated in your reply that by June, 1995 price rise per bundle has been Rs. 127. Rs. 164.65 and Rs. 135.66 and you are giving the subsidy of Rs. 15 or Rs. 20/- only. It was stated in your party manifesto made public in 1991, that prices would be reduced. Would the price rise registered after 1993 be compensated as per the promise made in your party manifesto?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : I have given a detailed report to hon. Member and apprised him of the facts.

SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : The hon. Member wants to know the details on the basis of the rates prevailing in 1993.

SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI : I am repeating the question. At what rate you used to supply cotton to weavers in 1993?

MR. SPEAKER : Tripathiji, I have not given you permission to speak. Mr. Minister, he wants to know when you will fulfill the promise made in your party manifesto?

[English]

He has extensively replied to your question. There is no scope for any kind of Supplementary and yet I am allowing you.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the price of yarn has increased because of rise in the price of cotton in the country.

MR. SPEAKER : You will try to reduce the prices

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : We are of course, making efforts in this direction.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That is right. Mr. Ansari.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI : Sir, I have not gained anything from the answer to my question.

[English]

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI : Kuttarma : Mr. Speaker Sir, despite the assurances given by the hon. Minister in this House, the prices of hank yarn are rising and it has not been made available to the actual weavers. So many starvation deaths of weavers have taken place in the homeland of the hon. Minister himself. He also knows this fact. Sir, whatever subsidies and facilities are being extended to the weavers, they are not reaching to the actual weavers. There are a large number of middlemen like the National Development Corporation and the Handloom Development Corporation. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps he is going to take in order to ensure that these facilities and benefits reach to the actual weavers?

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Mr. Speaker, Sir we have opened a number of depots in each State. We have supplied hank yarn to the Apex-Bodies and directed them to make yarn available to weavers at Rs. 20/- less than the usual price. We cannot do it directly except formulating schemes so that weavers get benefited by them. We have given these facilities to a great extent to many States but it is still to reach some other States. The hon. Member's question has some facts. This is because the State Government is the implementing authority. Formulating a scheme and providing them funds is the duty of the Government of India, which we have performed sincerely. This much I can assure the hon. Member.

[English]

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection. The hon. Minister has also just accepted the fact that is some sort of irregularity.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, he has noted your point and he will do something.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has given an impression to the House that the Government is going to give relief to the poor people. One of the basic necessities of the poor people and the people who are living below the poverty line is cloth. The hon. Minister has pointed out that Rs. 15 were given as subsidy for one kilogram of cotton.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what was the price of the cotton at the time of giving subsidy at the rate of Rs. 15 in 1993-94 and 1994-95 because in 1995-96 you are going to provide subsidy at the rate of Rs. 20 per kg. of cotton? This is part (a) of my question.

Part (b) of my question is, what are the reasons for not increasing the subsidy to more than 20 million kgs. in spite of the fact that there is increase in population in our country?

MR. SPEAKER : If the statistics are not with you now, you can supply them as to what were exactly the prices of cotton at a particular time. But he wants to know whether you are going to give subsidy to more people.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : We want maximum subsidy to reach weavers. We have allotted funds to the State Government for this purpose.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : This is not is the reply to the question.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Is it possible for you to give it to more people as well as more of it?

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : We have decided to give them Rs. 20 as subsidy and they are very much satisfied with it.

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the main reasons for the problem of the real workers, as pointed out, is that they are not getting sufficient quantity of yarn at the proper time at a reasonable price, even though there are certain measures for ensuring that. Realising

this, about eight years back, the then Government came forward with a project for opening of Yarn Banks. In Trivandrum one unit was inaugurated and it was performing well. But due to some reason that has become defunct. So, in view of the fact that the subsidy is not reaching the real workers, may I know from the hon. Minister whether these Yarn Banks will be revived and more units opened so that the real workers can get the subsidised yarn from the yarn Banks?

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : No decision has yet been taken to open a yarn bank. The subsidy that is being given at present in...(interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES : It was inaugurated and it was performing well.

MR. SPEAKER : He says that it is not reaching the weaver. To reach it to the weaver, would you like to have Yarn Banks? That is the question.

SHRI A. CHARLES : They were functioning earlier.

MR. SPEAKER : You can get it examined.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : I will examine it.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has admitted that due to rise in the prices of Cotton marketing problem has come up before the weavers. Today the plight of weavers is very pitiable. Earlier, the Government had thought that since the prices of cotton were increasing subsidy will not be provided. Therefore, the Government used to purchase their finished produce/material by providing them some profit on the cost price. That is why the scheme of Janata dhoti or sari was launched. The scheme was later shelved on the order of the Government of India, particularly in Uttar Pradesh and in some other states. With this the condition of weavers worsened further. I want to know from hon. Minister why subsidy is not being given on the increased prices? Earlier the Government used to give the subsidy of Rs. 15 against the Price of Rs.193 and Rs. 20 against Rs. 285/-.

MR. SPEAKER : He has replied to it.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : I want to know whether the Government propose to relaunch the old scheme of purchasing the finished products from weavers and providing subsidy to them for their welfare.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Member has rightly said that there was a scheme of

Janata sari and dhoti but that scheme had an adverse effect on the skill. There was also bungling in it. There is no doubt that our weavers are capable of preparing good quality cloth. At that time, when the weaver prepared one dhoti, four dhoties were shown in the records. This gave rise to corruption...*(Interruptions)* I am bringing it to the notice of the hon. Members but they do not want to listen. We tried to check the corruption. We have launched a new scheme to uplift the standard of life of the weavers. In the Seventh Five Year Plan Rs. 7300 crore were allocated for this purpose and out of it, Rs. 1836 crore were provided for this scheme. *(Interruptions)* I am putting forth the entire picture and if there is any lacuna, the hon. Members may definitely raise a question. According to the report of Opposition Committee if husband and wife of both are working together they get Rs. 300/- in wages. The question is how to increase their wages?

We have sanctioned Rs. 1836 crore during the Eighth Five Year Plan and set up 3000 handloom weavers development Centers in villages and supplied hank yarn in the required quantity and brought the cloth prepared by them in the market and also arranged for their marketing. We have also formulated a scheme for their children and two lakhs of bicycles are still with us so that they may take their cloth for marketing. We are trying day and night to make them take these bicycles for marketing their cloth so that more money could be earned by weavers but when the question of implementation comes, then we approach the state Governments and we feel embarrassed...*(Interruptions)*

ONE HON. MEMBER : His intentions are malafide...
(Interruptions)

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he says that my intentions are malafide. Mr. hon. Members hails from Bihar. I want to ask him as to how much money we have sanctioned for Bihar and to what extent you have implemented this scheme?

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : We want to know from you as to how much money you have given to Bihar...
(Interruptions)

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : You ask your Chief Minister.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Yadav, if you just want to criticise the Minister, you are not going to get any help. If you want to attack the difficulties, you will get some help.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister in his reply has given the details up to 60 counts. But in Mayurbhanj area, the

Important handloom market area in U.P., 200s and 280s are the main consumer counts of hank yarn. You have mentioned nothing about the 200s and 280s counts. Further, after hon. G. Venkat Swamy has come, he has brought Hank Yarn Obligation Scheme and 20 million kgs scheme, I am told that discrimination is being shown in procuring yarn under this Hank Yarn Obligation Scheme. How much yarn has been procured from the public sector, that is, N.T.C., and Cooperatives, and how much yarn has been procured from the private sector? I also want to know categorically, how much yarn has been procured from Southern India and Northern India. More hank yarn obligation is there in Southern India, but there is discrimination. Therefore, I want to know from the Minister whether the discrimination in procuring hank yarn from the textile industry will be removed. I also want to know from the Minister about the 200s and 280s counts, which are the main consumer counts in U.P., mainly in Mayurbhanj area. The prices have increased; this year, there is drought also. So, what are you going to do for the remaining part of this year?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, adequate efforts have been made to protect the handloom weavers. Hank yarn obligation orders are being strictly enforced thus ensuring overall availability of yarn to weavers. Export ceiling on cotton yarn has been reduced from 130 million kgs to 75 million kgs.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : Sir, I want to know how much is the hank yarn obligation procurement from Southern India and Northern India.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : It is a separate question and I want the hon. Member to give a notice for this.

MR. SPEAKER : You collect the information, analyse it and send it to him.

[Translation]

LABOUR MINISTERS, Conference

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

(a) The decision taken in the conferences of Labour Ministers of States held during 1992; and

(b) the decisions which have been accepted and implemented so far and the suggestions which have not yet been agreed to?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The 40th and 41st Sessions of Labour Ministers' Conference were held on 6th February and 13th August

1992 respectively. The main conclusions of the Conference as well as the action taken thereon are indicated in Annexures I and II respectively.

ANNEXURE-I**Action taken on the Conclusions of 40th Labour Ministers' Conference held on 6th February, 1992 in New Delhi.**

Item No.	Conclusions	Action Taken
1	2	3
(1)	The recommendations of the Ramanujam Committee on restructuring of industrial relations law, which are unanimous, should be accepted. A group of 5 State Labour Ministers should examine the areas of disagreement in the report of the committee with a view to arrive at a consensus and submit their report for consideration by the Indian Labour Conference.	In pursuance of this decision Committee consisting of Labour Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu under the chairmanship of Union Minister of Labour was constituted on 25th Feb., 1992. The report of the Committee was placed for consideration by the ILC held on 7-8 September 1992.
(2)	As regards the new industrial policy, the conference recommends that steps should be taken to protect the interests of the labour, enhance their welfare and provide facilities for skill upgradation so that they are able to adjust to technological changes.	While considering this conclusion. The Government noted that to protect the interest of workers in the wake of implementation of New Industrial Policy, the National Renewal Fund (NRF) was established on 3.2.92. One component of the Fund namely. National Renewal Grant Fund (NRGF) was meant to deal with the immediate requirements of labour in sick units on accounts of revival or closure of such units. This Fund, inter-alia. was also meant for implementation of schemes relating to re-training re-deployment counselling and placement. The Director General of Employment & Training (DGE&T) under the Ministry of Labour has also commenced short duration training courses for workers—who have taken voluntary retirement as well as other surplus workers. At present training is imparted for a batch of 1585 workers at Ahmedabad, Pune, Nagpur, Dhanbad, Bangalore, Mangalore, Kolar, Coimbatore and Cochin. As of now an amount of Rs. 10 crores has been placed at the disposal of the DGET for carrying out these training courses.
(3)	Minimum wages for unskilled labour should not be fixed below Rs. 20/- per day. Minimum wages should be revised at an interval of 3 to 4 years and should have a component linked to the consumer price index.	The Central Government on its part has fixed the minimum rate of wages at or above Rs. 20/- for the 40 scheduled employment in respect of which it is the appropriate Government. The State Govts./Union Territory Administrations are the appropriate Govt. for the fixation of minimum rate of wages for the scheduled employments in the State sphere. The recommendations of the N.C.R.L. for fixing the basic minimum wages at Rs. 20/- per day for rural workers has already been brought to the notice of all the

1	2	3
		State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. Consequent to the 40th Session of the Labour Ministers Conference, this recommendation was again reiterated to States/Union Territory Administrations at various levels.
		Similarly, the State Govts./Union Territory Administrations have been advised to review/revise the rate of minimum wages once in two years unless a variable component linked to Consumer Price Index number is provided as part of minimum wages.
(4)	Workers, participation in management should be encouraged so that there is a better understanding by the workers and the management of the importance of productivity and efficiency and the problems of management as well as the need for welfare measures for workers.	In accordance with the 1973 amendment of the Constitution, successive schemes for workers' participation in management were introduced and taken up for implementation. The scheme now in operation was notified by the government on 30th December 1983. Keeping in view the shortcomings of the various schemes implemented from time to time and also the experience gained in this regard, the Government decided to give legislative back up in the matter. The participation of Workers in Management Bill introduced in May, 1990 for the purpose is now under the examination by the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour & Welfare. In the meanwhile, the progress of implementation of the existing scheme is being reviewed and monitored on a regular basis.
(5)	The representatives of a number of State Governments favoured participation of workers in the equity capital as well as taking over of management of sick industrial enterprises by workers.	While considering this suggestion, Govt. noted that the new Industrial Policy announced on 24.7.91 envisaged that workers cooperatives would be encouraged to participate in the packages designed to turn around sick companies. Keeping this in view the issue of extension of NRF coverage to workers cooperatives was considered by the Empowered Authority of NRF and it was agreed to extend NRF and assistance to workers cooperatives under certain terms and conditions.

ANNEXURE-II

Action taken report of the 41st Labour Ministers' Conference held on 13.8.1992 in New Delhi

Item No.	Conclusions	Action Taken
1	2	3
(i)	The summary of the recommendations of the Committee of five Labour Ministers (Maharashtra, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu,	The report of the Committee of five labour Ministers on the contentious issues of the Ramanujam Committee Report was placed before the 30th Session of the Indian Labour

1

2

3

Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh) under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of State for Labour on the contentious issues of the Ramanujam Committee Report was considered by the Conference and it was decided to place the recommendations before the Indian Labour Conference to be held on the 7th and 8th September, 1992.

- (ii) The Conference decided to appoint a Committee of Labour Ministers to go into the recommendations of the National Commission on Rural Labour (NCRL) relating to the following :—

- (a) Social security;
- (b) Central legislation for agriculture labour;
- (c) central legislation for construction workers; and
- (d) Appointment of National Commission on Bonded Labour.

The Labour Minister of Maharashtra will be the Chairman of the Committee and the Labour Ministers of twelve States of Kerala, Bihar, U.P., Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Orissa, Tripura, Andhra Pradesh, M.P., Manipur and Meghalaya will be members. The report of the Committee will be placed before the next conference of Labour Ministers.

- (iii) A Special Conference of Labour Ministers will be convened to consider the question of improvement of the quality of medical services under the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC). The Conference may be held in Bombay in the second week of October, 1992.

Conference (ILC) held on 7-8 September, 1992. The ILC felt that it would be more useful to discuss the matter after the views of the Government were known in this regard. The Chairman assured that the draft of the proposed Industrial Relations and Trade Unions Bill would be prepared keeping in view the ideas and suggestions expressed by all the parties and the changes that had since taken place both inside and outside the country. Accordingly, the Bill to amend the Trade Unions Act was prepared, which has been referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare for examination and report. Like-wise proposals to amend the Industrial Disputes Act also have been prepared and approval to introduce the Bill in Parliament is being obtained from the competent authority.

The Union Labour Minister himself took meetings of Labour Secretaries and other concerned senior officials of State Govts. as also of State Labour Ministers and secured a general consensus on the need for Central legislation for Agricultural workers and construction workers. It was agreed that social security schemes for unorganised classes of workers needed to be implemented including through expansion of existing schemes. As the National Human Rights Commission, which has come to be established has mandate on bonded labour as well, it was felt that there was no need for a separate Commission on bonded labour.

The 42nd Labour Ministers' Conference was convened on 7-8 July, 1993 in New Delhi. Issues of improvement of the quality of medical services under the ESIC was, inter-alia, discussed in this conference. The decisions taken in this Conference were considered and the Corporation has, inter-alia, decided on 4th August, 1994 that ceiling on expenditure on medical care be raised to Rs. 410 per insured person family unit per annum with effect from 1.4.94 out of which a minimum expenditure of Rs. 130 should be exclusively earmarked for drugs and dressings.

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(iv) It was felt that the question of restrictions on employment of outsiders and the problems of Inter-State migrant workers require serious consideration and, therefore, could be referred to the Inter-State Council and even to the National Integration Council.

(v) To consider the suggestions contained in agenda items No. 12 to 47 for the 41st Labour Ministers Conference, it was decided to appoint a Committee of Labour Ministers under the Chairmanship of the Labour Minister of West Bengal. Labour Ministers of ten States of Gujarat, Haryana, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Sikkim and Pondicherry would be members. The recommendations of the Committee will be placed before the next conference of Labour Ministers.

(vi) In regard to child labour, the following conclusions were arrived at :

(a) These should be more effective implementation of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

(b) Ministry of Labour will examine all suggestions/lacunae and will bring in suitable amendments to the Act.

(c) There is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for strengthening of Enforcement machinery wherein 50% assistance is given to State Governments. The Scheme which has been introduced on a pilot basis in two States will be opened to all the States.

The matter relating to the problems faced by Inter-State Migrant Workers has been referred to the Inter-State Council in the first instance.

The Committee of Labour Ministers has since submitted its report which will be placed before the forthcoming Conference of Labour Ministers.

The State Governments have been requested to have the enforcement position of various laws relating to child labour reviewed with a view to ensuring their rigorous enforcement.

Certain amendments to the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act to make it more effective are under active consideration of the Government.

This Scheme is amongst those which have been discontinued in the Centrally Sponsored Sector, based on Planning Commission's advice.

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my original question was what decisions have been taken for labourers in the conference and which of them have been implemented? He has in his reply told the dates when meetings with State Governments, were held. My original question was whether those decisions were strictly enforced or not?

If enforced, the names of the places where these decisions were implemented and if not the reasons therefor?

[English]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I have given a very detailed answer here on which decisions and what actions were taken. The decisions of the Conferences are to be implemented by the Central Government and by the State Governments. Every action that has been taken has been elaborated. I do not think I can elaborate anything more.

MR. SPEAKER : You read the written reply, you will get the reply.

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was decided in the labour conference of '93 that the labour laws would be strictly enforced and a vigilance committee would be constituted therefor. It had also ruled out the possibility of setting up a commission for unorganised labourers and poor farmers. What are you doing for their benefits?

[English]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : The question relates specifically to the Labour Ministers' Conference held in 1992. I have given all the reply. If the hon. Member wants to know about 1993 Conference, I will require a notice for that.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : In the 41st Indian Labour Conference which was held in the year, 1992 a decision was taken to appoint a Committee of Labour Ministers to go into the recommendations of the National Commission on Rural Labour. That Commission recommended for a comprehensive legislation for agricultural labour as well as construction labour. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will bring a comprehensive legislation for agricultural labour and also for the construction workers because the agricultural labour are agitating. They will be holding a massive rally in Delhi in front of Parliament. There is an urgent need for a comprehensive legislation for agricultural workers. I want to know whether that legislation will come or not.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : In the last Session, I had an occasion to assure the House on this question. The National Commission on Rural Labour has recommended a legislation for agricultural workers and construction workers. The Ministry of Labour had accepted the recommendation. All the consultations with the State Governments had been completed. The Ministers' Committee has approved it and the Bill is at the final stage of drafting.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You have not said about construction workers.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I have said about both.

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV : The hon. Minister knows that for the last four years, we have switched over to a new industrial policy and economic policy. Earlier, under public sector undertakings, we have been following certain labour laws i.e., unions and all that. I want to know whether the hon. Minister has given a serious thought to the fact that the implementation of new industrial policy and the labour unionism cannot travel parallelly and whether the Government intends to change either the labour laws, the union laws etc., or the industrial policy

because these two things cannot go together. Many industries are facing lot of troubles. The Government, on the one side, says that it is new economic policy. On the other side, they insist on unionism. How these two things can travel parallelly? I want to know this from the hon. Minister.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : There are two Acts which govern the industrial relations in our country. One is the Trade Union Act and the other is the Industrial Disputes Act. Government proposes to bring changes in both the Acts. In fact, the Trade Union Act Amendment Bill is already before the Rajya Sabha. It has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha. It has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha. I think it is before the Standing Committee now. I am told that the Standing Committee has finalised its recommendations. As soon as we get it, I am sure it will be taken up in the Rajya Sabha and then it will come to Lok Sabha.

As far as the Industrial Disputes Act is concerned, we have examined it thoroughly. We have not come to a final conclusion. But the Government really feels the need to bring certain changes in that Act also.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is stated in it that a bill related to worker's participation in management was moved here in 1990 i.e. in the last Lok Sabha and has been pending with the Standing Committee for the last four years. Now the term of the House is going to be over. I want to know through you as to why this has been pending before the Standing Committee for the last four years and whether Mr. Minister has tried to know the reasons therefor?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : That is not the Standing Committee of this house.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Is it before the Departmentally-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Yes, it is with the Standing Committee of Parliament. The problem is that there have been a very large number of amendments proposed by the hon. Members of Parliament in the other House reflecting different ideas and different views of different political parties. We try to bring some sort of a consensus.

SHRI RAM NAIK : For the last four years?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Discussions are going on because even the unions themselves are discussing so much. In any case, the Bill is now before the Standing Committee. I have met the hon. Members of this Standing

Committee. I think they are coming to some understanding. As soon as they come to some understanding, it will be before the House.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : For how long will we have to wait?

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I thought that perhaps it was pending with the Standing Committee of Labour Ministry and not that of Parliament, but Mr. Minister has put us in the dock. If any Standing Committee takes four years, then it is wrong.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is too long a time. We will look into it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of Mr. Minister through you that Deputy Director General of the International Labour Organisation had toured Varanasi and Bhadohi area in April, 1995 which is a carpet weaving belt. It is the area where carpet weaving labourers are in a large number.

MR. SPEAKER : The main question is related to the Labour Ministers' conference of 1992.

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI : I am coming to the issue of child labour. A memorandum has been given to the Union Labour Minister against exploitation of child labourer by carpet industries and carpet exporters but Mr. Labour Minister has not contradicted it so far. I want to know why Labour Minister has not contradicted it, what are the reasons therefor? Sir, this is causing very adverse impact on our carpet industry whereas the Government of India earns crores of rupees in revenues from it. Today the carpet weavers of Mirzapur, Varanasi and Bhadohi are starving, this is the situation?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Would you like to reply?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I have not only contradicted the statement made by the hon. Minister of Germany but also I have informed the ILO that we do not accept any external assistance as far as Elimination of Child Labour Programme is concerned. The Prime Minister was kind enough to allocate Rs. 850 crores. This is a good enough money for us. So, I have even refused to take any external assistance for the Programme towards Elimination of Child Labour.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDER SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India has always been giving assurance in the House that no external interference in our country would be tolerated.

I would like to draw the attention of Labour Minister to the fact that Labour Minister of Germany toured my constituency and there after called a press conference and made a propaganda that in India carpets were being made by child labourers.

He also stated that the carpets from India should not be purchased because they are being made by child labourers. So Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from Labour Minister as to what power the Labour Minister of Germany has got that he went to the extent of raising the issues concerning the Labour Ministry of India.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the question.

This is not allowed.

[Translation]

When I cannot stop you from speaking here then how I could stop there.

SHRI VIRENDER SINGH : If the Government is unable to stop him, the people of India are powerful enough to stop him and definitely I will stop him.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. Minister has given a statement here and said that everything has been mentioned in it. I would like to draw his attention towards Annexure II of the statement and ask a question. In that he has said that

[English]

In regard to child Labour, the following conclusions were arrived at :

[Translation]

And this meeting was held on 13th August, 1992. He has also given details of the conclusions and Action Taken thereon.

[English]

What are the conclusions?

(a) There should be more effective implementation of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

[Translation]

The Labour Ministers of State Governments and Union Labour Minister sit together to take decisions. What is the action taken?

[English]

Action Taken: The State Governments have been requested to have the enforcement position of various laws relating to child labour reviewed with a view to ensuring their rigorous enforcement.

The second recommendation is

[Translation]

What is the next recommendation?

[English]

(b) The Ministry of Labour will examine all suggestions/lacunae and will bring in suitable amendments to the Act.

[Translation]

What is today the position of the law of 1986, the decision of 1992 and Action taken?

[English]

Certain amendments to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act to make it more effective are under active consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

It means nothing and the third interesting recommendation it has been made by them together.

[English]

(c) There is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for strengthening of enforcement machinery wherein 50 percent assistance is given to State Governments. The scheme which has been introduced on a pilot basis in two States will be opened to all the States.

[Translation]

And what is the Action Taken?

[English]

This Scheme is amongst those which have been discontinued in the Centrally Sponsored Sector, based on Planning Commission's advice.

[Translation]

I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what kind of conference you do organise for this? Why do you take such decision and why do you mislead the people

especially labourers and I will like to ask finally as to why that type of action report is presented here?

[English]

SHRI PA SANGMA: The hon. Member has raised basically two points. Firstly, about the implementation of the Act. The implementation of the Act is to be done by the State Governments. That is the reason why this particular issue is discussed in the Conference of the Labour Ministers of all the States because it is the State Governments who have to implement this. But when we decide that the law will be strictly implemented, it cannot be done in a day. The implementation of the law specially of this nature is a continuous process. And the type of problem that we are facing in the case of child labour is not an easy one. In fact, I am happy to inform the House that we have made a lot of progress towards the elimination of child labour by 2000 in the hazardous industries which is our target. And we are convening on the 13th and 14th of September a workshop of one hundred Collectors where there is concentration of child labour. The idea is, how to implement it, how to enforce the law and many other projects. As I said in reply to the earlier question, Rs. 850 crore is available with us, I must say that the State Governments are taking keen interest. I am talking to the Chief Secretaries, I am talking to the Labour Ministers. In fact, there has been a very good response to the proposed Collectors' Conference and a lot of work is being done. But the implementation of the law cannot be done overnight. I cannot give you any assurance.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker Sir, this is not a proper reply. I do not know as to whether you are satisfied with his reply or not but I had raised three points but instead of giving a proper answer to these points he gave a sermon.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, are you satisfied with the answer?

MR. SPEAKER: The House should be satisfied.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: How the whole House could be satisfied when not even a single Member has been satisfied with the reply I have not got any reply.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Your question was why there was delay. Well, the reply of the Minister is that the State Government is responsible.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Why the scheme has been discontinued?

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : This matter is not related to the State Government. The last point was related to the Central Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, you are right.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : You have discontinued the scheme which was finalised by all the people. Recommendations were made, but those were not implemented....(Interruptions) he would not speak anything.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Why it has been discontinued?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : There is no discontinuation.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Why do not you say that in the reply?....(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Sharad Yadav. Nothing-else will go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of child labour is really a very serious matter. I do not know what is happening in the world but it has got a special significance in this country. I hold that the debate which is going on here in the House is merely an imitation of the debate going on all over the world on child labour. There seems to be no seriousness behind it.

The question is what is the concept of Child Labour in our country, you must discuss it with all the political parties. It is not proper to implement it after consulting only with the Labour Minister. It is necessary to demarcate as to who comes under the category of child Labour and who does not. Moreover, the handicrafts of the nation cannot survive unless and until children are engaged in it from their childhood only. The handicraft of the nation is not a simple thing and learning the handicraft from childhood is not at all atrocious. As a matter of fact, it is an art and I believe that it enjoys world wide popularity because of this very reason only.

MR. SPEAKER : This is like an edge of a Razor, so you speak carefully. This has got two aspects.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I am serious about that matter. We have to consider as to who comes under the definitions of child labour and who does not. The people engaged in the handicrafts, it is a fact, cannot learn

carpentry or the work of blacksmith at the age of 15 or 20 years. If the child of a weaver does not learn weaving from his childhood then he is not going to learn it after this stage. Similarly, there are so many works of handicrafts which cannot be learned after crossing a certain age.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please come to the question.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question is very important. This question is raised every time and I rise to speak every time.

MR. SPEAKER : You will be given an opportunity after the speech is over. You speak on your question or let others ask their questions.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I am coming to the question only. The art of the nation particularly the art of music...

MR. SPEAKER : Are you going to do something for the protection of such an art or not.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : If some are exponents of Tabla or some are learning from a teacher then do not include them. Such artists should be encouraged to get recognition. Through you, I would like to urge the Minister that in an all party meeting we should consider which part of the country is covered under the child Labour Act and the areas, which are not. The children are maltreated. They are engaged in filthy jobs. We should concentrate on such areas of work. Children are engaged in various types of work in homes as well as in hotels. Is it not injustice to them? Can you neglect such children or can you neglect those children who are engaged in brick-kilns?

MR. SPEAKER : Are you going to deliberate on such a serious issue?

[English]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member for giving a good suggestion of consulting all the political parties. I accept the suggestion. I will convene a meeting of all the political parties.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : According to the reply of the hon. Minister the Conference of Labour Minister recommended in Item No. 2 i.e. protect the interests of the labour, enhance their welfare and provide facilities for skill upgradation so that they are able to adjust to the technological changes. Regarding implementation, on 3rd February, 1992 a National Renewal Funds was established.

I want to know from the hon. Minister how much money has so far been released from the National Renewal Funds.

MR. SPEAKER : You can ask these statistics in writing

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : I would like to know whether any action has been taken so far by the hon. Minister to protect the interests of these units, to revive these units by making use of the Fund.

MR. SPEAKER : If you have the information, give it. Or you can send it to him later on.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I have got the information, Sir. the allocation for the National Renewal Fund in 1992-93 was Rs. 829.66 crore and the disbursement was Rs. 688.72 crore. In 1993-94 the allocation was Rs. 1040.40 crore and the disbursement was Rs. 542.23 crore. In 1994-95, up to 31st March, the allocation was Rs. 200 crore and the disbursement was Rs. 251 crore.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we agree that the Minister is taking seriously the issue of oppression and exploitation of Child Labour. The Minister has promised to put a stop to this (oppression) making in Firozabad, which are sold not only in the country but also exported. After the death of the fathers, their sisters, brothers and their mothers are left behind to look after the work. I would like to know from the Minister as to what steps he is going to take to end the oppression of such fatherless children. Will the Government think over it, in all seriousness?

MR. SPEAKER : He has said.

...(Interruptions)...

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : It is a very serious question. The Minister should state as to what the Government proposes to do for such marooned families?

[English]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Firozabad is one of the hundred districts initially selected where the Conference will take place in September. We have requested the Collector of each of these hundred districts to identify fifty places where, from the month of November itself, we would start the primary schools. In special schools for children who are working, they will be given stipend and midday meal. So, in each district fifty schools will be started from November.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : The question has taken a different turn. I had asked about the policy being formulated by the Government for such families.

MR. SPEAKER : It spends money on the children's education.

...(Interruptions)...

MR. SPEAKER : If you have sympathy with them, then go through the full scheme.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : That is not in the scheme...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply the Minister referred to the workers participation and Management Bill. It dates back to 1990 and it still stands in Rajya Sabha in my name. When I was the Labour Minister, we had completed all the formalities and the Bill was almost to be passed by the Parliament. Even after five years, the Government says that it has been referred to the Standing Committee for deliberation. I want to know whether it would be discussed in this session and be passed or not?

[English]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I think when my friend Mr. Paswan was the Minister then, maybe he was not very sure of his tenure there as to how long he was going to stay. So, he had to work day and night and he had to rush. Therefore the Bill was adopted in such a rush that there are more than 80 amendments, very vital ones. Everything has been referred to the Standing Committee. The moment it comes back, it will be before the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I object. Standing Committee was constituted last year only. What happened in the intervening three years?

[English]

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : As we all accept, this is a grave problem. At least we were discussion about it for a long time. I was also there in the Committee. Several proposals were made for the intensive areas.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you also in the Committee?

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Previously I was in the Child-Labour Committee; not now. We made several proposals that in the intensive areas there should be some effective measures to give financial aid to the families, to send them to the school and also to give them a light work in the schools. Some hours of light work can be given to them, so that they can earn something doing some work after the schooling.

So many such proposals were made. They have selected Sivakasi and the functioning there is very bad. They have not actually progressed very much. So, I would like to know from the Minister what they are proposing to

do in areas where child labour is much more intensive.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : All the proposals that the hon. lady Member has referred to have been accepted by the Government. After consultation with the hundred district collector, ...*(Interruptions)* All these programmes will be implemented from the 1st November, 1995, including the programme referred to by her.

[Translation]

DR. P.R. GANGWAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now the Minister said that child labour is in state List and progress has been made in this regard. In the Parliament Complex itself I have seen child labourer engaged in earth work, preparation of beds for planting etc. That is not the work of the State Government. What action has been taken by the Labour Minister to put a stop to Child labour in the Parliament complex?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Well, this question is very important. Probably, you should have brought it to my notice. And if it is happening, I will take proper action against it. But it was your duty to bring it to my notice before raising it on the floor of the House. Probably, you should not appear to be getting publicity to your statement.

...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I have answered, Sir.
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is very wrong on the part of the hon. Member.

...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER : If it is not correct, I will send this matter to the Privileges Committee.

...*(Interruptions)*...

[Translation]

AN HON. MEMBER : Please name them ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No. Parliament should not be maligned in this fashion. And Parliament should not be taken in this light fashion. If it is there, I will see that the corrective actions are taken and I will ask the Officers why it is done. If it is not there, I will send this matter for proper action against the Member to the Privileges Committee.

[Translation]

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER : He is in charge of the Lok Sabha. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANNA JOSHI : We will bring their names, will you. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the first Annexure, on page two, in his reply the Minister has mentioned the recommendation to enhance the daily wage to Rs. 20. It has also been said that the daily wage would be linked to Consumer Price Index. In his Action Taken portion, the Minister has mentioned that this recommendation has been implemented on various levels in the States and in the Union Territories. I want to know from the Minister, whether it is just to fix the daily wage at a mere Rs. 20, considering the price rise?

Part (a), of my question is whether the Central Government would implement it merely in states, or it would also monitor whether the minimum wage of Rs. 20 is being paid there or not? Part (b) of the question is, do you consider Rs. 20 adequate? Part (c), relates to your reply, in which you said it would be linked to Price Index. Will you take effective steps to achieve it?

[English]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Sir, I have got the details of what the hon. Member wants to know in a statement regarding what each State Government has done. It will take a long time to read it out here. I will, perhaps, inform the hon. Member later.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : To link it to the Price Index and to consider Rs. 20 as adequate, seem somewhat contradictory.

[English]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : You are correct. Not all the State have linked it to the price Index—some States have and some States have not. All this information is available.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : Will you issue instructions to the other States also to implement that?

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an important section of workers, which is seldom discussed in the House—the Beedi workers. Women constitute 90 percent of the work force engaged in Beedi making. During the previous session, a very big conference was organised by them in my constituency. Ninety per cent of the participants were women. The main issue raised by them was regarding their pitiable working conditions. They work in small sheds and cells lacking proper ventilation. What is more, Beedi workers are effected with T.B. I apprehend they must also be affected with cancer. There is no provision for medicines for its cure. In view of their plight, they have

demanding that the Government should formulate a life insurance scheme for them, provided for better working conditions and hospitals should be set up in the area having major beedi making centres. Have you formulated any special scheme in this regard for the Beedi workers? And what steps are you going to take?

[English]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Sir, it is true that majority of beedi rollers are women and they do this job in their respective homes. It is not easy to regulate them because rolling is done at home—it is done in their respective residences. As far as the packing is concerned, it is done in a factory. I have visited a number of them and I have visited their families also. Doing various welfare schemes for the beedi workers is no the priority of the Government of India. There are a number of dispensaries which are running and there are a number of hospitals. I do not have the full details now as to how many hospitals and dispensaries are there. But as far as the insurance part is concerned, we have launched a Group Insurance Scheme. I do not have the details now, but one thing which I remember is that the beedi workers do not have to contribute anything. 50 percent of the premium comes from the Finance Ministry, Government of India and another 50 percent of the premium comes from the Welfare Fund which we have set up for the beedi workers. So, the Group Insurance Scheme is on.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : In the recommendation it is said that the sick industries will be taken over by the Workers' Cooperatives. So, I want to know whether this scheme of handing over sick industries to the Cooperative is actually framed and implemented.

Secondly, as regards social security, it was discussed and decided that the social security scheme should be extended. I want to know what is the modified social security scheme as discussed in the Labour Ministers' Conference.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Sir, it was the policy of the present Government right from the beginning that if the workers are willing to form a Cooperative Society and take over the sick mills, the Government would be very happy to hand over to them. This announcement was made by the hon. Finance Minister in the Special Tripartite Meeting; and the hon. Finance Minister went to the extent of offering to see that the liabilities are also written off on a case to case basis. That was also there. Unfortunately, there is not much response to that. Perhaps one reason why there was not much response to that was that they were not entitled to the National Renewal Fund because money in the National Renewal Fund being limited, it was being used only for the Central Public Sector Undertakings. There is one Workers' Cooperative Society which is running a mill, a new Central Jute Mill; they had come to me a number of times to ask that they wanted some assistance from the NRF. We could not

give it, but I am happy to inform the House that in the last meeting of the Empowered Authority, a decision has now been taken to give assistance from NRF also to the Workers' Cooperatives, if they are reviving the sick units.

12.00 hrs.

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Sir, I think, the workers engaged in the manufacturing of beedi will be limited as compared to the workers who are collecting the tendu leaves. In my State, mostly in five or six districts, men and women have been collecting the leaves. Even the children are engaged in collecting the tendu leaves in my State.

It is a matter of regret that the labourers engaged to collect the tendu leaves are being paid Rs. 12 per day. It is a Government agency and Government is responsible for that. Why are Rs. 20 not being paid to them?

Tendu leaves are a major source of income in my State....

MR. SPEAKER : No, no; it is not going on record.

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : I would like to know whether Rs. 12 are still being given to them. What about the backlog which has not been given to them? Will the Minister of Labour do justice to the people who are engaged in the collection of tendu leaves?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I do not have the figure of the tendu leave workers. I do not compare it. As far as beedi workers are concerned, there are about five million such workers in the country. The minimum wage fixed by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for the unskilled workers, which include the tendu leave workers, is Rs. 30.76 p.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Vacant Posts of Chairman/CMD in Banks

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

(a) the details of nationalised banks which are functioning in the country without full-time Chairman/CMD and the dates from which these posts are lying vacant, bank-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to abolish the post of Chairman in banks; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in filling up the vacant posts in the banks?

** Not Recorded

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

(a) Only one post of Chairman and Managing Director, i.e. Chairman and Managing Director, Indian Overseas Bank, is vacant since 1st August, 1994.

(b) The Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980, provides, inter-alia, that the Board of Directors of each of the nationalised banks shall include not more than two wholetime directors to be appointed by the Central Government after consultation with Reserve Bank of India. One of the wholetime directors is designated as the Chairman and Managing Director and the other wholetime director is designated as Executive Director. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to abolish the post of Chairman and Managing Director on the boards of nationalised banks.

(c) Necessary action has been taken for filling up the vacancy.

Interim Relief to Government Employees

*84. SHRI RABI RAY :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have announced an interim relief to its employees and also to the retired Government servants on the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government employees have represented and expressed their dissatisfaction in this regard;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the time by which the report of the Fifth Pay Commission is proposed to be made public?

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

(a) and (b) Based on the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission, the Government have announced the following benefits with effect from 1st April, 1995;

(i) Grant of Interim Relief at the rate of 10% of the basic pay, subject to a minimum of Rs. 100 per month to all employees;

(ii) Grant of Interim Relief to pensioners at the rate of Rs. 50 per month plus 10% of the basic pension/family pension, subject to a minimum of Rs. 50 per month;

(iii) Dearness allowance linked to the average AICPI 1201.66 will be treated as dearness pay for reckoning emoluments for the purpose of retirement gratuity and death gratuity alone and the ceiling on gratuity be enhanced from Rs. 1 lakhs to Rs. 2.5 lakhs.

(c) and (d) A section of the Central Government employees have expressed dissatisfaction over the quantum of interim Relief. There is no proposal to enhance the Interim Relief already sanctioned.

(e) It is proposed to place the Interim Report submitted by the Fifth Central Pay Commission on the Table of the House during the current Session of the Parliament. The time by which the Report of the Fifth Central Pay Commission is to be made public can be examined only when the Pay Commission submits its final Report.

[Translation]

Revival of Textile Mills

*85. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of textile mills revived by the Union Government during the last three years. State-wise;

(b) the names and the locations of those mills and the amount spent on them for their revival; and

(c) the details of the textile mills proposed to be revived during the current financial year. State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) The Central Government has not revived any textile mills during the last three years.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Revival schemes for sick/closed textile units are finalised by the BIFR. Presently 11 cases of NTC & BIC which pertain to Central Government are before the BIFR. The revival proposals of these textile mills during the Current financial year will depend upon the scheme finalised by the BIFR in each case.

Strike by Engineers and Pilots of IA

*86. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV :
SHRI PREM CHAND RAM :

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

(a) whether consequent upon the introduction of private airlines the pilots and engineers of Indian Airlines are resorting to strike over and again for pressing their demand of salaries and allowances at par with the private airlines;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the number of pilots who left the Indian Airlines during the year 1995 so far;

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to retain the outgoing pilots?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. But the pilots and engineers of Indian Airlines have resorted to industrial action for better emoluments prior to the introduction of private airlines also.

(b) The demands raised by the various Unions are discussed and resolved through consultations. Following a settlement with the Indian commercial Pilots Association in November 1993, the emoluments of Indian Airlines pilots were substantially increased and their career prospects improved.

(c) Three pilots have voluntarily retired and three have resigned from the service for Indian Airlines since 1.1.1995.

(d) Following measures have been taken to prevent the pilots from leaving the service of Indian Airlines :

- (i) Increase in various allowances.
- (ii) Improvement in career advancement prospects of Commanders.
- (iii) Improvement in training pattern.
- (iv) Appointment of Grievance Officer to look after the day-to-day needs of pilots.
- (v) Increase in the notice period of resignation from one to six months.
- (vi) Introduction of a requirement of No Objection Certificate from the DGCA for employment of Indian Airlines pilots in private airlines.
- (vii) Increase in the value of bond from Rs. 7.50 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs.

Writing off of Loans

*87. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR :
SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge amount of loan has been written off by the nationalised banks during the last few Years;

(b) if so, the details thereof as against the capital deposits of these banks during the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 respectively;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the defaulting individual/firms/industries for their failure in repayment of the loan amount and the bank officials for granting loans without proper and adequate securities;

(d) the details of the new directives issued by the Government to the banks to put a check on such writing off of loans; and

(e) the results achieved therefrom?

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

(a) and (b) Details regarding bad debts written off day nationalised banks during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94, as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), are given in the enclosed Statement-I. The paid-up capital and deposits of nationalised banks as on 31.03.1992, 31.03.1993 and 31.03.1994 are given in the enclosed Statement-II and Statement-III respectively.

(c) wherever follow up measures do not yield results, recovery suits are filed in Civil Courts, Debts Recovery Tribunals, etc. Compromise settlements are also resorted to in genuine cases. Wherever staff lapses are noticed, due accountability is fixed and departmental/legal action initiated by the banks against the erring staff.

(d) and (e) The latest guidelines issued by RBI advised commercial banks to ensure recovery of dues to the maximum extent, make a distinction between wilful and non-wilful defaulters, evaluate the realisability of the security, take into account the benefits that will accrue on recycling of funds locked up, fix accountability where staff lapses are noticed, etc. These guidelines have been issued in July, 1995.

STATEMENT-I

Amount of Bad Debts written off by the Nationalised Banks During the last three years

(Amount in lakhs of Rs.)

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad Bank	93.67	127.28	3584.00

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Andhra Bank	1015.50	8282.97	13163.33
3.	Bank of Baroda	14927.34	12027.43	48997.52
4.	Bank of India	18882.12	17374.26	32846.78
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	147.42	102.01	142.01
6.	Canara Bank	5595.67	39548.26	15230.27
7.	Central Bank of India	3627.56	197.70	10557.27
8.	Corporation Bank	2887.55	3273.36	6207.53
9.	Dena Bank	2677.79	8701.01	12371.73
10.	Indian Bank	447.30	76.16	600.70
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	89.88	419.25	461.09
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	176.00	165.00	260.13
13.	Punjab National Bank	5144.75	19412.34	36550.00
14.	Punjab & Sind Bank	673.43	11282.40	15139.45
15.	Syndicate Bank	141.06	118.55	857.70
16.	Union Bank of India	3531.30	4412.62	8236.90
17.	United Bank of India	205.00	156.00	1182.00
18.	UCO Bank	5593.56	27346.67	36866.35
19.	Vijaya Bank	213.70	304.23	451.26
20.	New Bank of India	19.76	113.21	*

* Merged With Punjab National Bank

Note : Figures include both actual and technical write off.

STATEMENT-II

Paid up capital of Nationalised Banks

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	31.3.92	31.3.93	31.3.94
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad Bank	107500	17250	26250
2.	Andhra Bank	6200	9200	24200
3.	Bank of Baroda	23837	32995	73930
4.	Bank of India	46900	46900	110400

1.	2	3	4	5
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	14950	18450	33450
6.	Canara Bank	11423	20791	58878
7.	Central Bank of India	18299	18299	67299
8.	Corporation Bank	3700	67200	11200
9.	Dena Bank	9700	14700	27700
10.	Indian Bank	16800	20300	42300
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	37000	37000	107500
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	4800	7800	12800
13.	Punjab National Bank	11284	18784	36362
14.	Punjab & Sind Bank	12249	20749	36750
15.	Syndicate Bank	15900	15900	83900
16.	Union Bank of India	10800	13800	33800
17.	United Bank of India	36299	36299	57800
18.	UCO Bank	50000	50000	103500
19.	Vijaya Bank	7699	12699	19199
20.	N.B.I.	12600	18600	-

STATEMENT-III

Statement showing deposits of Nationalised Banks for the last 3 years i.e. 1992, 1993 and 1994

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	As on 31 March		
		1992	1993	1994
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad Bank	6584.24	7479.50	8212.29
2.	Andhra Bank	3762.01	4131.39	4886.13
3.	Bank of Baroda	3605.12	16616.85	19163.66
4.	Bank of India	12805.10	14201.41	15943.02
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	3385.29	3883.89	4425.60
6.	Canara Bank	13687.77	15640.45	19152.57
7.	Central Bank of India	12798.49	13576.61	15607.53
8.	Corporation Bank	2310.25	2803.30	4083.35
9.	Dena Bank	3299.85	4012.05	4860.46

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Indian Bank	7651.25	9385.03	10573.01
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	6254.13	7569.86	9118.53
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	2506.69	4221.00	5206.58
13.	Punjab National Bank	15950.23	18078.57	22146.86
14.	Punjab and Sind Bank	2777.12	3337.17	3949.92
15.	Syndicate Bank	6528.65	7371.62	8523.36
16.	Union Bank of India	7921.39	9201.40	11803.44
17.	United Bank of India	5027.48	5883.34	6722.58
18.	UCO Bank	6374.06	7110.11	7265.55
19.	Vijaya Bank	2716.42	3289.90	4277.43
20.	N. B. I.	2135.71	2350.82	-

Purchase of Dollars*[English]*

*88. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the value of US dollars purchased by the Reserve Bank of India or other authorised agencies of the Union Government in the post budget period;

(b) whether any such purchase were made as a result of weakening of US dollars in International market;

(c) whether there has been any inflationary pressure on the monetary system of the country as a result of these purchases;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to make changes in its exchange policy to combat the problem; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) :
(a) The value of the US dollars purchased by the Reserve Bank of India from the foreign exchange market in the post Union Budget (1995-96) period upto July 28, 1995 amounted to US \$ 374.73 million.

(b) to (d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Import of Boeing Aircraft by Private Airlines

* 89. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received by the Government from private airlines for import of Boeing aircraft alongwith the name of each airline;

(b) the details of the applications which have been cleared and pending;

(c) the reasons for delay in clearing the pending applications; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (d) Government have cleared the import of Boeing-737 aircraft for scheduled private airlines as follows :

S. No.	Name of Airlines	Details of Boeing Aircraft Cleared for Import
1	2	3
1.	East West Airlines	7 B-737-200 4 B-737-400 (one as replacement + three as maintenance reserve)

1 2	3
2. Jet Airways	4 B-737-300 2 B-737-400 4 B-737-300/400 (Not more than 8 aircraft to operate at any time)
3. Damania Airways	5 B-737-200
4. Modiluft	4 B-737-200 4 B-737-400

In addition, one application has been received from East West Airlines on 30th June, 1995 for import of five more B-737-400 aircraft. The Company has been asked to furnish information regarding status of acquisition of aircraft earlier permitted for import, financing arrangements for proposed additionality and submission of a perspective plan for fleet expansion.

[Translation]

Customer Service at Banks

*90. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the growing negligence and indifference towards work among

the bank officers/employees as a result of which public is not getting satisfactory banking services;

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

(c) the number of public complaints received in this regard during the last three years and the number of persons found guilty therein, bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c) Complaints of unsatisfactory customer service against public sector banks are received by Government from time to time. These complaints are referred to the appropriate authority for suitable action, including redressal of grievance.

In 1990, the Reserve Bank of India had appointed a "committee on Customer Service in Banks" under the Chairmanship of Shri M.N. Goiporia. The Committee made a number of recommendations most of which have been implemented by banks.

The Reserve Bank of India has recently formulated the "Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 1995" Which provides for expeditious and inexpensive resolution of customer complaints against banks. Five Ombudsmen have already been appointed by the Reserve Bank of India.

As per the information received from public sector banks, the number of complaints received by banks and the number of employees found guilty with regard to these complaints is given in the enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	Number of Complaints Received by Banks			Number of Officers/ Workmen Who Have been Found Guilty		
		31.3.93	31.3.94	31.3.95	31.3.93	31.3.94	31.3.95
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Bank	902	767	740	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
2.	Indian Overseas Bank	1237	1170	1135	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
3.	Central Bank of India	2719	2379	2325	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
4.	United Bank of India	1034	977	1046	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
5.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	287	220	279	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
6.	Punjab & Sind Bank	623	645	556	13	31	22

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	Bank of Maharashtra	598	703	732	14	3	6
8.	Vijaya Bank	764	676	746	43	36	19
9.	Bank of Baroda	1659	1760	1155	2	4	2
10.	Canara Bank	999	617	452	N.A.	5	1
11.	UCO Bank	878	750	638	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
12.	Bank of India	1646	1557	1310	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
13.	Punjab National Bank	1253	1427	1530	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
14.	Syndicate Bank	1607	1510	1451	N.A.	N.A.	1
15.	Allahabad Bank	1997	2225	1541	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
16.	Dena Bank	1675	1499	1210	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
17.	State Bank of India	16331	13981	14857	4	7	9
18.	State Bank of Hyderabad	173	113	52	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
19.	State Bank of Patiala	811	753	633	15	13	10
20.	State Bank of Indore	253	214	215	7	16	12
21.	State Bank of Mysore	567	425	191	25	14	8
22.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	936	777	634	46	35	32
23.	State Bank of Saurashtra	58	42	33	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

NOTE : (1) Information from the remaining 4 banks is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(2) N.A.—Not Available.

[English]

Foreign Debt

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to an editorial captioned "Have cake, eat it" in the Economic Times dated July 1, 1995 indicating that almost 98 percent of the concessional loan disbursed during the year was used in servicing past debt;

(b) the details of amounts borrowed from different foreign multilateral and bilateral agencies and total amount of interest paid on such concessional loans during last year; and

(c) the effective long-term and short-term measures taken and proposed to be taken to reduce the burden of foreign debt of the country?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amount borrowed from different multilateral and bilateral agencies on government and non-government account is estimated to be Rs. 9952.63 crores during 1994-95 and the amount of interest paid on government and non-government account is estimated to be Rs. 4771.80 crores during 1994-95.

(c) The Government is keeping a close watch in the

external debt situation with a view to keeping it within prudent limits. The Government has already taken a number of steps to reduce the deficit on the current account of the balance of payments and thus reduce the rate of increase in total external debt. The Government and RBI have taken a number of measures to contain high cost external debt. These include a reduction in the interest rate on Non-Resident External (Rupee) Accounts (NRER) discontinuation of new deposits in Foreign currency (non-resident) Accounts (FCNRA) with exchange risk borne by Government discontinuation of new deposits under FCON and encouragement to the corporate sector to repay expensive external debt. With the introduction of a much more open approach to foreign investment, dependence on debt creating inflows of capital stands reduced.

Irregularities in Export of Gold Jewellery by MMTC

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

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of modalities of the scheme relating to export of gold jewellery through Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation;

(b) whether large scale fraudulent transactions and other irregularities have been noticed in the export of gold jewellery resulting in heavy bad debts for the MMTC;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the total loss suffered by the MMTC during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into the matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to curb such activities in MMTC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) MMTC Limited is one of the nominated agencies for supply of gold to the exporters of jewellery in the country under various schemes mentioned in Chapter VIII, para 88 of the Export-Import Policy. Apart from such supply of gold to exporters, MMTC also operates a scheme of export of gold jewellery whereby it provides exporters, registered as its Associates, with gold on loan against appropriate security and export packing credit limits to enable them to manufacture and export jewellery. The export is carried out on MMTC's account. The proceeds of the exports are required to be remitted into MMTC's account and after adjusting the packing credit provided and service charges, the balance is remitted by MMTC to the jewellery manufacturers.

(b) to (e) In the course of developing and promoting

exports of gold jewellery from India, some irregularities have come to light. These include tampering with airway bills and non-realisation of export proceeds. The total outstandings as on 1.4.95 comes to Rs. 17.85 crores comprising of :

—Tampering with airway bills	Rs. 1.90 crores
—Non-realisation of export Proceeds beyond stipulated period as on 1.4.95.	Rs. 15.95 crores
Total	Rs. 17.85 crores

MMTC has been making strenuous efforts to speed up realisation of export proceeds. As a result, as on 1.8.95, this figure has come down to Rs. 14.85 crores and by 1.9.95 is expected to be Rs. 11.90 crores. Instances of tampering with airway bills have been referred to the investigating and enforcement agencies.

The scheme was introduced in 1987-88. The total export of gold jewellery under the scheme during the last three financial years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 was Rs. 861.91 crores. There has been no loss incurred by MMTC thus far. However, provisions for bad debts of Rs. 8.00 crores has been made, which corresponds to 0.93% of the total exports in the last three financial years.

Uniform Sales Tax

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Finance Ministers Committee on tax reforms has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main recommendations thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken fresh initiatives on the issue of uniform sales tax regime in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the state Governments thereto; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be introduced in all the states?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Further action in this regard would

depend on the recommendations that may be made by the Committee of State Finance Ministers. However, Sales Tax being a State subject, steps to bring about uniformity in the Sales Tax regime would have to be taken by the States Governments.

(e) It is not possible to give any time frame in this regard.

Borrowings by Enron.

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

(a) whether the Government have allowed the US based Multinational Company, Enron to borrow \$150 million from abroad at an interest rate of 13% in dollar terms;

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

(c) the likely impact of this permission on the balance of payments condition in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARE MURTHY) : (a) No, Sir. The Dabhol Power Company was granted approval to raise a foreign currency loan of USD 150 million at an interest rate of 6 months London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) plus 3% p.a.. The current 6 months LIBOR is 5.93%.

(b) and (c) External Commercial Borrowings by Indian firms are permitted within annual ceilings consistent with prudent debt management, as well as the overall balance of payments position. The power sector is a priority sector for the allocation of external commercial borrowings.

Import of Rubber

*95. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :
PROF. P.J. KURIAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of rubber imported so far and proposed to be imported this year;

(b) whether the views of the Rubber Board and the Government of Kerala have been taken before allowing this import;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there has been a steep decline in the price of natural rubber after the decision to import of rubber was taken;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government to curb the import of rubber and safeguard the interests of the domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (f) Since early 1995, persistent reports were received by the Government of a gap between demand and supply of natural rubber in the domestic market leading to depletion of stocks. Moreover, there was a steep increase in prices reaching an all time high at Rs. 6,550 per quintal for RSS-IV in mid-June, 1995 as compared to Rs. 2,851 per quintal in June, 1994. After considering all relevant factors and the view points of all concerned including Rubber Board, growers and user industries, Govt. permitted import of about 38,450 tonnes of natural rubber, by 31-8-95 to ensure adequate availability and to stabilise the domestic market during the current lean season. This was exclusive of imports under Advance Licences for export of rubber products.

However, according to information received, the total quantity of rubber actually imported till 21st July, 1995 was 11,263 tonnes which includes imports against advance licences.

The price movement of natural rubber in the domestic market during 1995 has been as follows :

1995	Average price of RSS-IV/Quintal
JANUARY	4273
FEBRUARY	4637
MARCH	5197
APRIL	5441
MAY	6047
JUNE	6171
JULY	5231

Rubber Board has been successfully implementing various developmental and R & D schemes to increase production and productivity of rubber in order to minimise the need for import.

Strike by Employees/Pilots of AI and IA

*96. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA :
DR. G.L. KANAUIA :

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

(a) whether pilots of the Indian Airlines observed strike during June, 1995;

(b) whether the employees of the Indian Airlines and the Air India have been resorting to strike frequently;

(c) if so, the amount of loss suffered by the Indian Airlines and the Air India as a result thereof during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(d) whether the Government propose to recover such losses from the Indian Airlines and Air India employees in case they resort to such strikes without seeking redressal of their grievances under the established administrative machinery;

(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) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Estimated net loss due to industrial action by various categories of employees of the two airlines during 1993-94 and 1994-95 is as under :

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Estimated net loss to	
	Air India	Indian Airlines
1993-94	71.42 (April to Sep.-1993)	0.90
1994-95	5.73 (May-1994 to Feb.-1995)	2.20

(d) to (f) At present, Managements of the two

airlines adopt No Work-No Pay principle for the period of the industrial unrest. However, drastic steps like recovery of losses from concerned employees have not been contemplated, since such a step will further worsen the industrial relations in the two airlines.

[Translation]

EPF/ESI Defaulters

*97. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of defaulters who have not deposited the amount of Employees Provident Fund/Employees State Insurance Schemes in the country especially in Gujarat during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of the defaulters and the amount outstanding against each of them region-wise;

(c) the action taken against the defaulters; and

(d) the measures taken proposed to be taken to check the recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d) The information showing number of defaulters, amount of dues etc. is enclosed with attached Statement-I and II. As the number of defaulters is quite large it is somewhat difficult to furnish individual details.

Necessary legal and penal actions are already being taken by the authorities of the Employees State Insurance Corporation and the Employees Provident Fund Organisation to prevent recurrence of default and to recover the dues outstanding against the defaulting establishments.

STATEMENT—I

A – E.P.F. Default

(Rs. in lakh)

Name of Region	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95	
	No. of defaulters	Amt. of defaults	No. of defaulters	Amt. of defaults	No. of defaulters	Amt. of defaults
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	793	988.29	971	1018.22	647	1132.22
Bihar	1120	747.97	1139	1116.30	1304	844.03
Delhi	275	382.78	456	364.30	536	254.65
Gujarat	585	436.56	282	620.08	274	1836.12
Haryana	327	710.56	360	838.84	464	1389.07

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Karnataka	330	370.50	409	508.80	412	688.90
Kerala	145	356.83	503	350.35	388	411.28
Madhya Pradesh	662	1893.32	993	1389.56	673	2476.00
Maharashtra	887	2396.13	876	3137.41	768	3089.11
N.E. Region	277	172.20	145	232.15	144	294.13
Orissa	468	472.56	387	425.39	343	601.80
Punjab	1081	687.71	1329	1595.54	1389	1909.84
Rajasthan	420	266.35	490	331.22	546	429.07
Tamil Nadu	1296	834.71	1316	923.92	1525	999.31
Uttar Pradesh	1011	1920.67	1230	3511.26	1353	3943.25
West Bengal	1223	14103.28	1232	18536.47	1216	17641.50

STATEMENT—II**B - ESI Default**

(Rs. in lakh)

Name of Region	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95	
	No. of cases of default	Amount of default	No. of cases of default	Amt. of default	No. of cases default	Amt. of default
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	3205	1136.62	2661	1496.37	3086	1518.04
Assam	614	171.13	695	215.99	701	255.96
Bihar	1305	750.64	1333	808.39	1366	904.62
Delhi	1815	292.22	1884	318.73	1859	323.13
Gujarat	2049	994.86	2651	1231.40	2884	1393.63
Haryana	2411	449.99	2504	445.53	2061	408.27
Karnataka	2904	766.53	2950	749.68	3300	902.04
Kerala	1899	579.46	2062	633.68	2275	683.29
Madhya Pradesh	1676	1496.28	1894	1651.22	2098	1690.76
Bombay	4133	2244.42	4532	2464.34	4784	2507.89
Nagpur	484	201.76	455	214.45	523	283.13
Puna	1728	334.33	1938	767.04	2053	779.80

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Goa	212	58.78	266	98.73	299	110.46
Orissa	655	260.94	642	460.70	690	443.20
Punjab	2254	619.80	2599	799.74	3112	987.00
Rajasthan	1429	287.90	1524	293.79	1716	326.90
Tamil Nadu	1962	615.35	2250	757.33	2194	756.21
Pondichery	221	47.81	248	59.15	246	76.78
Koimbatore	668	182.59	745	195.18	762	204.87
Madurai	1647	278.31	1543	282.61	1045	286.43
Uttar Pradesh	896	823.19	1185	1336.17	1228	1499.08
West Bengal	3249	5293.42	3556	6245.15	4264	7735.09

[English]

Surplus Land at Airports

*98. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA :

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

(a) whether there are massive irregularities in leasing of surplus airport land due to lack of any concrete policy;

(b) if so, whether in the enquiry report on the irregularities committed in the lease of surplus land at Hyderabad airport, the vigilance officer has called for immediate formulation of a policy for leasing of surplus land;

(c) if so, whether the Government have examined the enquiry report; and

(d) if so, the main features of the enquiry report and the action taken in implementing the suggestions made in the report?

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

(b) to (d) The Chief Vigilance Officer Airports Authority of India (National Airports Division) in his enquiry report has indicated certain irregularities in the lease of land at Hyderabad Airport to a private party for the setting up of a hotel complex. The need for formulation of a policy for leasing of airport land has also been mentioned in the report. The Airports Authority of India is competent to lease land for setting up of hotels, restaurants, rest room, etc. to mobilise resources for modernisation and expansion of airports subject to the fulfilment of provisions of the

Airports Authority of India Act. The report is under examination of the Government.

Allotment of Bagia Restaurant

*99. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY :

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

(a) whether a number of restaurants, shops and offices in ITDC hotels of Delhi are being run by private parties;

(b) if so, the names of such restaurants and hotels alongwith the name of the parties in each case;

(c) the terms and conditions being followed in allotting the restaurants to private parties;

(d) whether the 'Bagia Restaurant' in Ashok Yatri Niwas was given on contract;

(e) if so, the name of the person who was managing it when the women's body was burnt in the hotel; and

(f) the details of the basis on which present contractor was selected and whether all the norms were followed in this regard?

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

(b) The requisite information is given in the attached Statement.

(c) The terms and conditions for leasing out different type of restaurants to private parties vary from case to

case. However, salient features of the terms and conditions are given below :

- Security deposit in cash/bank guarantee;
- Expertise and experience of the licensee in the field;
- Percentage of sales proceeds subject to minimum guaranteed amount as licence fee;
- Supporting documents for financial soundness of the licensee;
- Licensee to abide by all local laws and regulations applicable from time to time;
- License to obtain all required licences from concerned authorities;
- Provision to terminate the licence by the management by giving notice for a specified period;
- Deposit of daily sales proceeds of the restaurant with the hotel;
- Menu price to be fixed with the approval of the Management;

- Licensee to be responsible for the quality of food;

- The material used by the Licensee in the preparation of dishes shall be of a standard quality and purity, as approved by the Management.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) According to the information received from the Police Authorities, Shri Keshav Kumar, Manager was present at the time of the incident.

(f) According to information received from ITDC, M/s Excel Hotels & Restaurants Inc. was selected after following the normal procedure i.e. calling of public tenders through press advertisement, calling technical and financial bids, evaluation/negotiations/recommendations by the Tender Award Committee and seeking approval from the Competent Authority. However, it has been recommended to the concerned Ministry that CBI may be instructed to conduct a formal investigation in the matter with a view to find out whether certain irregularities were committed in the matter and if so, the nature thereof and the persons responsible therefor.

STATEMENT

Details of Restaurants/Space for Restaurant presently leased out to private parties in ITDC Hotels in Delhi.

Name of the Hotel	Name of the Restaurant	Name of the Company
Ashok Hotel, New Delhi	1. Jewel of the East (Chinese Restaurant)	M/s. Klass Associates
Lodhi Hotel, New Delhi	2. Wanchai (Chinese Restaurant)	M/s. Wanchai Caterers
	3. Sagar Ratna (South Indian Vegetarian Restaurant)	M/s. Sagar Food Home
Ashok Yatri Niwas, New Delhi	4. Coconut Grove (South Indian Non-Vegetarian Restaurant)	M/s. K.S. Kumar & Co.
	5. Bagia Bar-be-que*	M/s. Excel Hotels & Restt. Inc.
Hotel Janpath, New Delhi	6. Food Plaza (Fast Food Cafeteria)	M/s. Kwaliti Caterers.

*A legal notice for terminating the licence agreement has been issued on 14 July 1995.

Hike in Price of Coffee

*100. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether coffee prices have increased considerably within a year or so;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Coffee Board to contain the price hike;

(c) whether exports in 1994-95 resulted in reduction of the availability of coffee in domestic markets; and

(d) the remedial steps proposed to be taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The price of coffee both in the domestic and international markets had experienced a sharp upward movement from May-June, 1994 onwards due to shortage of coffee in the world market owing to the damage caused by frost to the coffee crop in Brazil. The domestic prices also moved upwards alongwith the international prices and there was also a pull effect in favour of exports. In order to increase the domestic availability and stabilise the prices, Government had imposed a quantitative restriction on exports of coffee apart from banning a few grades for exports in August, 1994. The ban was removed on 31st Dec., 1994. As the price of coffee in the domestic market continued to be influenced by international prices and remained high, the Govt. of India directed the Coffee Board to intervene in the market by offering coffee at rates lower than the open market prices. Accordingly, the Board has been selling coffee blends through its outlets at Rs. 125/- and Rs. 130/- per kg. for plantation 'C' and commercial blends, respectively, from 15.7.95.

(c) and (d) Against the total estimated production in 1994-95 of 1,80,100 tonnes, coffee exports accounted for 1,33,794 tonnes, thus leaving sufficient coffee for domestic consumption. With effect from 1.4.95, Govt. has also allowed the import of decaffeinated/roasted coffee in bulk packaging under Open General Licence (OGL) to supplement overall availability of coffee in the domestic market.

[Translation]

Tassar Cultivation

730. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any study regarding tribal families in different parts of the country who are earning their bread through Tassar cultivation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the participation of cooperative societies of such families in the Centrally sponsored programmes to promote sericulture?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) The Central Government have financed base line survey of the tribal families engaged in tasar silk in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. Besides, a study titled "Direct assault on poverty through technological and managerial interventions" was earlier conducted by the Centre for Social and Technological Change, Bombay under Inter State Tasar Project.

(c) The Central Silk Board has assisted the Orissa State Tasar Cooperative Society by extending loan amounting to Rs. 6 lakhs. Similarly, Regional Cooperative Sericulture Federation Ltd. Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh and Federation of Sericulturists & Silk Weavers Cooperative Societies in Andhra Pradesh, who are engaged in marketing of tasar products have been provided margin money loans of Rs. 10 lakhs and Rs. 17 lakhs, respectively, for purchase of tasar cocoons from tribal rearers.

[English]

Sick Industrial Units

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

(a) the details of industrial units declared sick during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 in the areas of textiles, engineering, chemicals, iron, electricals, paper and sugar, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of money of the banks locked up in the respective industrial units;

(c) the measures taken by the Government to recover these amounts; and

(d) the amounts recovered as on March 31, 1995, industry-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) The details of sick small scale industrial (SSI) units and sick/weak non-SSI units for the years ending March 1992, 1993 and 1994 (latest available) in the areas of textiles, engineering, electricals, iron & steel, chemicals, Paper and sugar alongwith credit outstanding as reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are given in the attached Statement. The time and labour involved in preparing the State-wise and Sector-wise details of industrial units declared sick

during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 would not be commensurate with the results to be achieved.

(c) RBI has reported that the banks initiate legal action/other measures for recovery of dues from those sick/weak industrial units which are found to be non-viable. Detailed guidelines have been issued by RBI regarding formulation and implementation of rehabilitation packages in respect of sick/weak industrial units found potentially viable for their revival. Rehabilitation package inter alia provides for funding of existing dues of banks and financial institutions with extended period for repayment (7 to 10 years) thereof in a phased manner, interest concessions, grant of fresh term loan as also fresh working capital facilities. As regards non-SSI sick industrial companies, the Board

for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), a quasi-judicial body set up under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 has been adequately empowered to take necessary action for determination of preventive, ameliorative, remedial and other measures for rehabilitation of sick units and expeditious enforcement of such measures.

RBI monitors periodically the performance of banks in implementation of rehabilitation packages in respect of non-SSI sick units and deficiencies and shortcomings noticed in their working are followed up with the concerned banks.

(d) The data reporting system of RBI does not generate such data.

STATEMENT

Industry-wise classification of Sick/Weak Industrial units for the years ending March 1992, March 1993 and March 1994

(Rs. in crores)						
Sector	1992		1993		1994	
	No. of Units	Amount Outstanding	No. of Units	Amount Outstanding	No. of Units	Amount Outstanding
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A. Non SSI Sick/Weak Industrial Units						
Engineering	358	1525.94	315	1400.85	297	1302.65
Electrical	64	412.50	74	480.69	87	768.21
Textiles	440	1960.96	476	2010.90	466	2018.70
Paper	139	398.12	143	423.26	134	404.06
Iron & Steel	133	443.19	152	676.94	149	749.61
Sugar	39	169.83	37	190.43	32	99.37
Chemicals	201	699.72	216	795.90	207	866.59

B. SSI Sick Industrial Units

Engineering	27253	633.29	28667	665.11	28200	680.34
Electrical	6918	180.35	7835	217.97	8674	236.94
Textiles	19162	210.67	20086	248.51	20668	250.30
Paper	2533	54.23	2982	77.35	4211	88.17
Iron & Steel	3403	157.05	4300	155.83	4078	160.25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sugar	374	16.04	379	17.16	383	24.95
Chemicals	10027	318.56	10906	351.76	11108	364.67

[Translation]

Bilateral Agreement With South Africa

732. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been signed with South Africa for bilateral trade, capital investment and for development of Joint Enterprises;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in the implementation of this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Trade Agreement between India and South Africa was signed on 22nd August, 1994 at Johannesburg. The Agreement provides for grant of Most Favoured Nation status by each country of the other in all matters of import and export licences, customs duties and all other charges & taxes applicable to importation, exportation and transit of goods as well as grant of all advantages, favours, privileges/ immunities.

(c) Against the trade turnover between India and South Africa for the year 1993-94 of Rs. 181 crores, the trade turnover between the two countries during 1994-95 reached the level Rs. 995 crores thereby showing a quantum jump as a sequel to the signing of the Trade Agreement between the two countries.

Business Generation by LIC in Gujarat

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

(a) whether any study has been conducted to assess the business generated by the Life Insurance Corporation of India in Gujarat during the last two years; and

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India has informed that on such study has been conducted. However, data for New Business in terms of policies, sum assured and first premium income during the last 2

financial years is available and is given below :

Year	Policies	Sum Assured (Rs. Cr.)	First Premium Income (Rs. Cr.)
1993-94	781985	3175.30	103.82
1994-95	727492	4326.92	99.37

[English]

Employment in Tourism Sector

734. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to generate additional employment in the tourism sector; and

(b) if so, the steps taken and the progress made in this regard during the Eight Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Creation of additional employment opportunities is one of the primary objectives of developing tourism in the country. The Government has therefore, initiated several measures for the improvement of infrastructural facilities for tourism. It includes declaration of tourism as a priority sector for foreign investment, provision of incentives and facilities for attracting private investment in tourism projects, central financial assistance to State Governments for specific projects.

Central Subsidy for Hotel Business in Rural Areas

735. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government provide subsidy for setting up of hotels in rural areas;

(b) if so, the percentage of the subsidy being provided for this purpose; and

(c) the amount of subsidy provided for this purpose by the Union Government in rural areas of Maharashtra during the year 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government of India grants 3% interest subsidy on the loans disbursed by TFCL, SFC and IFCI to approved hotel projects in 1, 2 and 3 star category located outside the four Metropolitan cities. For projects located in special areas and specified destinations and Heritage Hotels, the rate of interest subsidy is increased from 3% to 5%.

(c) No Financial Institution has submitted claim for interest subsidy in rural areas of Maharashtra State during the year 1994-95.

Contracts for Export of Rice and Wheat

736. SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of contracts signed for the export of rice and wheat to various countries during each of the last two years;

(b) the total quantity of rice and wheat exported, year-wise and country-wise during the above period; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the export of rice and wheat during the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Registration Cum Allocation Certificates issued by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority for export of wheat during the last 2 years are as under :

Item	1993-94		1994-95	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Basmati Rice	527233	1061.27	468696	857.76
Non-Basmati Rice	240454	255.44	422727	323.45
Wheat	390	0.20	58206	30.85

(Source : DGCI & S, Calcutta)

(c) Steps taken to increase export of rice and wheat inter-alia include :

- (i) removal of price and quantity restrictions on the export of both basmati and non basmati rice. Wheat is exportable without price restrictions but with a quantitative ceiling of 2.5 million tonnes.

Year 1993-94

Name of Country	No. of Contracts
1. France	1
2. Dubai	1
Total :	2

Year 1994-95

1. Dubai	4
2. Singapore	4
3. Algeria	2
4. Doha	1
5. Hongkong	1
6. Netherland	1
7. Australia	3
8. Bangladesh	20
Total	37

Export of rice is permitted without any quantity and price restrictions. Details of the contracts entered into for export of rice are not maintained.

(b) The total quantity of rice and wheat exported during the last two years is as under :

Quantity : in MTs Value : In Rs. Crores

- (ii) Food Corporation of India has also been permitted to export/sell for exports 2.0 million tonnes of fine and superfine rice and to exports/sell for exports upto 2.5 million tonnes of non-durum wheat. In case of wheat such exports/sale for exports by FCI would be within the overall ceiling of 2.5

million tonnes of non-durum wheat released for exports. In addition, a quantity ceiling of 5 lakh MTs of durum wheat has been released for export for the year 1995-96.

- (iii) Assistance in organising overseas campaigns and participation in trade fairs and exhibitions;
- (iv) Providing financial assistance to exporters in improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products, conducting market surveys etc.
- (v) For enhancing domestic production to generate exportable surpluses, a number of measures have been initiated such as supply of high yield variety of seeds to growers, enhancing area under assured irrigation encouraging use of fertilisers, ensuring remunerative prices to farmers etc.

Bilateral Settlement of SBI with Employees

737. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Bank of India had entered into some bilateral settlement with the All India State Bank of India Staff Association for absorbing some temporary employees during 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the SBI has since implemented the agreement; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken or proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

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

Textile Laboratories

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

(a) Whether the Government propose to set up some more textile laboratories in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when such laboratories are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c) The Bombay Textile Research Association (BTRA) has been commissioned to undertake a study on the existing facilities and future requirements for testing in the textile sector, with the following broad

terms of reference.

- (i) Status of existing testing facilities available for the textiles industry in the country.
- (ii) Requirement for upgradation of the existing laboratories for meeting the future requirements of the textile sector, keeping in view the export market
- (iii) Identification of new places for setting up laboratories to cater to the needs of the industry. The objective would be to have laboratories at places close to the major textile production centres so as to have a quick response to the requests of the industry.
- (iv) The requirement of training and the methodology thereof to be adopted.
- (v) The requirements for facilities would inter-alia include those of eco-parameters.
- (vi) Any other matter relevant to the subject.

The study is underway and upon its completion, further action would be taken for upgrading and expanding testing facilities in textile sector.

Beautification of Sea Coasts of Kerala

739. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for the beautification of Sea Coasts to attract tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the allocation made by the Union Government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Private Sector Investment

740. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has shown keen interest in providing an alternative guarantee structure to the private sector power projects in India and also extending initially a line of credit of US \$ 800 million to ICICI for financing private sector investments;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the reaction of Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE : (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) :
(a) to (c) Discussions are being held with the World Bank to evolve a scheme whereby to Bank would guarantee servicing of foreign debt in respect of private infrastructural development projects.

Discussions are also going on with the World Bank for a line of credit for infrastructure financing projects through intermediation of ICICI and some other agencies.

Registered Emigrants

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

(a) the number of emigrants approved by the Protectors of Emigrants during 1994-95;

(b) the cumulative number of registered emigrants upto April 1, 1995;

(c) the countries of major emigration;

(d) whether the Government have posted Labour Attaches in the Missions/Posts in those countries to look after the welfare of the emigrant workers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) :
(a) During 1994-95, Protectors of Emigrants have issued Emigration Clearances/Emigration Check Not Required (ECNR) endorsements to 4.20 lakh workers.

(b) The Protectors of Emigrants have issued Emigration Clearances/Emigration Check Not Required (ECNR) endorsements to 26.25 lakh workers from the date the Emigration Act, 1983 came into force upto 31.3.95.

(c) The countries of major emigration to Indian workers are Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain and Kuwait.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of External Affairs have intimated that whole time officers have been posted specifically to deal with the problems of Indian workers and to look after their overall welfare in all countries where there are large numbers of Indian emigrant workers. The Officers dealing with labour matters are designated as Second/First Secretary (Labour) or Second/First Secretary (Consular). In some of the Missions Attaches have also been posted to assist these Officers in dealing with day to day problems of the Indian workers.

Recommendations of the Sodhani Panel

742. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have examined the various recommendations made by the Sodhani Committee; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) The recommendations made by the Sodhani Committee are under examination by the Reserve Bank of India.

[Translation]

Irregularity in Granting Loan Under P.M.R.Y.

743. SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the criterion fixed for providing loan to the unemployed persons by banks under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana.

(b) whether complaints have been received to the effect that the people are being harassed and the banks are charging 10% commission (Suvidha Shulk) on the amount of loan from the applicants; and

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

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

(a) Under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) an unemployed educated person living in any part of the country (rural or urban) fulfilling the following conditions would be eligible for assistance :

(i) Age : Between 18 to 35 years.

(ii) Qualification : Matric (Passed or Failed) or ITI passed or having undergone Government sponsored technical course for a minimum duration of 6 months.

(iii) Residency : Permanent resident of the area for atleast three years.

(iv) Family Income : Upto Rs. 24,000/- per annum of family and upto Rs. 24,000/- per annum of parents of beneficiary.

(v) Defaulter : Should not be a defaulter to any bank/financial institution/cooperative Bank.

(b) and (c) The complaints received by the Government mainly relate to non-sanctioning of loans by banks, delays in sanctioning/disbursement of loans, insistence on collateral security/third party guarantee/ fixed deposit and alleged corrupt practices by some bank officials. The complaints as and when received are taken up with the concerned bank for remedial action.

[English]

Voluntary Retirement

744. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revival package scheme for the workers who accepted Voluntary Retirement Service was initiated in 1992;

(b) if so, whether it has been finalised;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the details of payment which were affected because of this delay?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d) The National Renewal Fund (NRF) which was established in February, 1992, inter alia, provides for funds, where necessary, for payment of compensation to the employees affected by industrial restructuring, including payments under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme, as well as assistance to cover the costs of retraining and redeployment of the affected employees.

Five Employee Assistance Centres (EAC) for counselling/retraining for self-employment and redeployment of the affected workers were sanctioned in 1993-94 as pilot projects at Bombay, Kanpur, Indore, Ahmedabad and Calcutta. In addition, a Special Training Scheme has been sanctioned under the NRF for implementation through the Directorate General of Employment & Training under Ministry of Labour. 48 additional locations have since been identified in 16 States and 13 Nodal Agencies have each been sanctioned assistance from the N.R.F. to commence activities relating to survey and retraining of rationalised workers. As amount of Rs. 50 crores has been earmarked from the NRF for survey, counselling, training and retraining activities.

Fifth Pay Commission

745. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA :
SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have extended the time period fixed for submission of report by the Fifth Pay Commission;

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

(c) the expenditure incurred so far on this Commission since its inception and the estimated total expenditure likely to be incurred till the final date of Report submission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) No time limit has been fixed for submission of the Report by the Fifth Pay Commission. The Commission is required to make its recommendations as soon as feasible.

(c) The Commission has incurred an expenditure of about Rs. 1.70 crores upto the end of June, 1995. Total expenditure expected to be incurred till March, 1996 is Rs. 3.54 crores.

Foreign Exchange Earned from Tourism Sector

746. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of foreign exchange earned by the Government from tourism sector during the Eighth Five Year Plan period so far, Year-wise; and

(b) the target fixed for earning of foreign exchange during the remaining years of the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism during the first three years of the Eighth Five Year Plan are as given below :

Year	Estimated foreign exchange earnings (Rs. crores)
1992-93	6060.00
1993-94	6509.00 (P)
1994-95	7365.61 (P)

(P) : Provisional

(b) No Specific targets have been fixed, however, efforts are being made to maximise the foreign exchange earnings from tourism.

Assistance for Setting up EPIP in Karnataka

747. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought central assistance for the Export Promotion Industrial Park proposed to be set up in Mangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) No formal proposal was received from the Government of Karnataka for setting up of an Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) in Mangalore. However, on the basis of the State Government's recommendations, an EPIP has been approved at Hoodi near Bangalore.

Export Promotion

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

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to launch a major drive for the export promotion; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Export promotion is a continuous process. Steps are taken to boost exports in consultation with the trade, industry and other relevant interests. The Government is striving to make the environment of policy and procedures more export-friendly. Among the measures taken for export promotion mention may be made about simplification of Export-Import Policy and Procedure, increasing Export production, improving efficiency and competitiveness, focussing on quality improvement and technological upgradation, improvement in infrastructure and actively involving State Governments in export promotion. In the current year an Annual Action Plan has been formulated which, inter-alia, covers commodity-specific and country-specific measures for exports promotion.

[Translation]

Air Conditioned Planes for Export of Fruits and Vegetables

749. SHRI MANJAY LAL :
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

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

(a) whether any survey has been conducted or is being conducted by the Government in regard to the necessity of having air conditioned air transportation facility for export of the fruit and vegetables;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) For transportation of perishables by air, the cargo compartments of the

aircraft of Air India have temperature control facility.

[English]

Import of Homoeopathic Medicines

750. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the value of the homoeopathic medicines imported during each of the last three years, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : The value of the homoeopathic medicines imported during each of the last three years and the countries from where these imports were made are as under :

A. Homoeopathic Medicines not for retail sale

Countries	Value : Rs. lakhs		
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (upto Feb '95) (Prov.)
France	3.81	-	-
German Fed. Republic	103.88	337.28	288.16
Netherland	-	-	15.42
U.K.	-	-	0.80
U.S.A.	5.44	1.30	93.35
Italy	4.58	37.40	-
Japan	-	9.89	4.77
Switzerland	-	-	2.13
Total	117.71	385.87	404.63

B. Homoeopathic Medicines for retail sale

France	0.03	-	-
German Fed. Republic	259.16	161.79	51.98
Netherland	50.65	16.83	30.55
Romania	-	0.20	-
U.K.	-	0.14	-
U.S.A.	-	16.85	7.01
Total	309.84	195.81	89.54

(Source : DGCI & S, Calcutta)

Setting Up of a Free Port at Goa

751. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal to establish a Free Port at Goa is pending consideration for a long;

(b) if so, the recommendations of the experts Committee and since when these are pending with the Government; and

(c) the present status of the proposal and the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) In its report submitted to Government in March, 1992, the Raunaq Singh Committee, set up to examine the desirability and feasibility of establishing a Free Port in India, recommended Goa as a suitable location. The proposal is under examination in the context of the on going process of economic liberalisation. No time frame can be indicated by which a decision would be taken in this regard.

Massive Stockinvest Scam in Vysya Bank

752. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been invited to the news-item captioned "Massive stockinvest SCAM unearthed in Vysya Bank Branch" appeared in the Indian Express dated July 18, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the RBI propose to undertake an investigation of the matter not only in the reported branch but in all the branches of the bank to safeguard the money of the public deposited in the branches of the bank all over;

(d) whether the Vysya Bank had carried out an investigation into the SCAM itself; and

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

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

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

Tourism Potential

753. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION and TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the potential of tourism of the country has not been fully utilised;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the proposals of the Government to explore this potential fully to attract more tourists?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India is a vast country with many attractions, the potential of which needs to be fully developed. For this, joint efforts are required to be made by Central Government, State Governments and the Private Sector. For the Central Government, tourism is one of the priority sectors for development among others and thus fund allocation for the development of tourism has to be made on the basis of inter-se priority.

(c) The Central Government is encouraging the State Governments to give more priority for tourism development. For attracting private investment in tourism, the Central and the State Governments have announced many concessions and incentives. Tourism has been declared as an industry by many State Governments. Further the Government of India has declared hotels and tourism related industry as a priority area for foreign investment. The Department of Tourism, Government of India also promotes and markets India's attractions in the tourism generating markets abroad.

Operations and Deals by NEPC Group

754. SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India, Bombay Stock Exchange and various financial institutions have taken initiatives to enquire into the operations and various deals by NEPC group of companies including deals with other carriers etc.;

(b) if so, the present stage of various investigations in this regard;

(c) the details of the irregularities detected in various deals;

(d) whether the Government/SEBI has taken any action against this group;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the preventive measures being taken to stop such irregularities in future?

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

[Translation]

Strike by Civil Aviation Staff

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

(a) the number of strikes such of "Pen down" strike and "Go slow" strike of staff, pilots air hostesses and officers of Civil Aviation held between January 1, 1994 to July 10, 1995 in the country;

(b) the number of lock outs held during the above period;

(c) the reasons of lock outs and strikes;

(d) the details of the demands made and the steps taken to meet the demands;

(e) the revenue loss suffered by the Government as a result of the strikes; and

(f) the steps the Government propose to take to avoid such strikes in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Employees of Public Sector Enterprises under the Dept. of Civil Aviation resorted to industrial action like strike/go-slow etc. on 26 occasions during the period January 1, 1994 to July 10, 1995.

(b) No lock-out was declared during this period.

(c) and (d) Reasons for strikes are broadly; demands for enhancement of wages and allowances, interpretation of awards; settlements and other conditions of service. These demands are negotiated and are settled by discussions between the management and the concerned associations.

(e) The net revenue loss suffered during this period is as below :

Air India —Rs. 5.73 Crores;
Indian Airlines—Rs. 2.62 Crores and
Pawan Hans Ltd.—Rs. 2.12 Crores.

(f) It has always been the endeavour of the Government and the Public Sector Enterprises to settle all disputes by negotiations for which adequate machinery exists.

[English]

Modernisation of Mints

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under active consideration of the Government for modernisation of

the three Mints at Bombay, Calcutta and Hyderabad;

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

(c) the expenditure involved in modernisation of these mints, mint-wise?

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

(a) The modernisation of the Govt. Mints at Bombay, Calcutta and Hyderabad is in progress.

(b) The modernisation Project is intended for increasing existing annual capacity of the above 3 Mints as under :

(figures in Million Pieces)

IGMs	Existing Capacity		Expected Capacity	
	Blanking	Coining	Blanking	Coining
Bombay	550	750	1850	1000
Calcutta	550	750	1900	1000
Hyderabad	350	400	950	700
	1450	1900	4700	2700

Note : The above existing capacity is based on smaller denominations upto Rs. 1/- and with the support of additional quantity of coin blanks from outside. The expected capacity is based on denomination upto Rs. 5/- without any additional coin blanks from outside.

(c) The mint-wise expenditure involved in modernisation of these 3 mints is a under :

(figures Rs. in crores)

Bombay Mint	96.48
Calcutta Mint	87.85
Hyderabad Mint	117.50
Total	301.83

Loan For Deep Sea Fishing

757. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESHWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Shipping Credit and Investment Corporation of India has advised not to apply for loans or

assistance for deep-sea fishing sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to remedy this situation?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

**Replies to Letters of MPS by
New India Assurance Co. Ltd.**

758. SHRI HARCHAND SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of letters received by the New India Assurance Co. Ltd. from Members of Parliament during 1994-95 and the current year till date, the number of letters acknowledged and the number of letters to which a final reply has not been sent so far;

(b) whether the Government have taken or propose to take any action for not replying to the letters of MPs promptly;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) The information, as reported by the New India Assurance Co. Ltd., is as under :

	During 1994-95	Current year till date
(i) No. of letters received from MPs	114	16
(ii) No. of letters acknowledged	144	16
(iii) No. of letters to which final reply not sent so far	1	3

(b) to (d) As per Government guidelines, letters received from Member of Parliament are attended to promptly and final reply also sent at the earliest. Normally information sought by a Member is supplied unless it is of such a nature that it could have been denied to him/her even if asked for on the floor of the Houses of Parliament.

Contract Labour

759. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed to the

Central and the State Governments to take necessary steps for abolition of contract labour system;

(b) whether the Supreme Court while disposing a number of cases had recommended that both the Central & State Governments should appoint a Committee to investigate the establishment in which contract labour is engaged;

(c) if so, whether the Central and State Governments have accepted the recommendations of the Supreme Court and have appointed Committees;

(d) if so, the details, thereof; and

(e) the time by which the contract labour system is likely to be fully abolished?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

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

Ware-Housing Facilities in Russia for Exporting Tea

760. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Tea Association (ITA) has requested the Union Government to provide warehousing facilities in Russia and has also sought assistance from the brand equity fund being set up to encourage marketing of Indian brands of tea in global markets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Indian Tea Association has recently submitted a proposal for promoting "India Blend" for marketing of Indian teas in the Russian market in value-added form. The proposal inter-alia seeks support by way of ware-housing facility, export credit guarantees by ECGC and assistance for promotional expenditure.

This proposal of the Indian Tea Association will be considered by the Government on merits in consultation with Tea Board and other concerned agencies.

[Translation]

Loan Refunded to Russia

761. SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (Deepa) : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Russia has offered to spend a part of the amount of loan refunded by India on joint ventures;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c) India and Russia have agreed, in principle, that a part of India's rupee debt repayments to Russia could be utilised towards Russian investments in joint ventures in India. However, the details are yet to be agreed upon between the two sides.

[English]

Indo-Bangladesh Border Trade

762. SHRIMATI BIBHU KUMARI DEVI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been under discussion with the Government of Bangladesh for opening the Indo-Bangladesh borders between North-Eastern States of India and the adjoining area of Bangladesh for trade and transit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have studied the implications of opening the borders particularly in view of the increasing incidence of narcotic smuggling and infiltration of unauthorised foreign elements; and

(d) if so, the details of the findings of studies?

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

(b) Government of India have taken up the proposals for resumption of border trade between the two countries, and for transit facilities, with Bangladesh Government on several occasions. No progress has been made because of lack of a positive response.

(c) and (d) No Study as such has been carried out, but the Government are fully aware and seized of the situation arising from infiltration of unauthorised foreign elements and implications thereof.

[Translation]

Revival of Industrial Units in U.P.

763. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Industrial Units lying closed for want of financial assistance in Uttar Pradesh, at present;

(b) whether the State Government has requested the

Union Government to provide Central assistance to revive these units;

(c) if so, the amount of assistance sanctioned or proposed to be sanctioned by the Union Government for this purpose;

(d) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India and other banks have also proposed to provide financial assistance to these units; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (e) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as at the end of March, 1994, 96 non-SSI sick/weak industrial units were lying closed in the State of Uttar Pradesh involving credit outstanding of Rs. 217 crores by banks. 45 units directly assisted by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) in Uttar Pradesh are also lying closed. Some of these units may also figure in the list of 96 non-SSI sick/weak units as reported by RBI.

Detailed guidelines have been issued by RBI regarding formulation and implementation of rehabilitation packages in respect of sick/weak units found potentially viable for their revival. Rehabilitation packages inter alia, provide for funding of existing dues of banks and financial institutions with extended period for repayment (7 to 10 years) thereof in a phased manner, interest concessions, grant of fresh term loan as also fresh working capital facilities. As regards non-SSI sick industrial companies, the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), a quasi-judicial body set up under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 has been adequately empowered to take necessary action for determination of preventive, ameliorative, remedial and other measures for the rehabilitation of sick units and expeditious enforcement of such measures. Rehabilitation packages have been extended to 26 units by IDBI in accordance with the directions of BIFR.

Unemployment in the Country

764. Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to solve the problem of unemployment in the country;

(b) if so, the number of unemployed skilled and unskilled labourers registered upto July 31, 1995 in different State Employment exchanges, category-wise and State-wise;

(c) the number of the youth and the unemployed people who have been provided with employment during 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(d) whether the Government contemplate to launch a special drive to bring down the increasing number of unemployed persons and to provide employment to all;

(e) if so, the details of these employment oriented scheme/projects; and

(f) the target fixed state-wise to provide employment to the people during 1995-96?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of unemployed skilled and unskilled jobseekers registered with the Employment Exchanges as on 31-7-95 is not available. However, the above information, State-wise, as on 31-12-1989 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The information is as under.

Year	No of placements effected by the EE's (in 000's)
1994-95	212.5
1995-96 (upto April)	11.4

(d) and (e) The employment strategy in the Eighth Five Year Plan has been formulated as part of a medium term perspective of achieving the goal of near-full employment in 10 years, i.e. by the year 2002. About 19.6 million additional employment opportunities or an average of 6.5 million per year, are estimated to have been generated during the first 3 years of the 8th Five Year Plan.

(f) No State-wise target to provide employment has been fixed for 1995-96.

STATEMENT

Number of Job-Seekers on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges in the Country.

(in thousands)

States/Union Territory	Number as on 31-12-1989	
	Skilled/Semi-Skilled	Unskilled
1	2	3
States		
1. Andhra Pradesh	110.1	590.8
2. Arunachal Pradesh	-	-
3. Assam	17.6	117.7

1	2	3
4. Bihar	156.4	332.7
5. Goa	8.0	6.0
6. Gujarat	31.4	108.4
7. Haryana	20.5	137.7
8. Himachal Pradesh	26.8	74.6
9. Jammu & Kashmir	4.5	40.5
10. Karnataka	40.3	105.8
11. Kerala	106.9	187.7
12. Madhya Pradesh	43.8	364.7
13. Maharashtra	100.0	407.0
14. Manipur	1.4	2.1
15. Meghalaya	0.2	3.9
16. Mizoram	-	9.7
17. Nagaland	0.4	1.2
18. Orissa	28.0	86.8
19. Punjab	23.6	180.3
20. Rajasthan	16.5	148.8
21. Sikkim*	-	-
22. Tamil Nadu	115.8	366.3
23. Tripura	1.0	23.4
24. Uttar Pradesh	171.2	554.0
25. West Bengal	101.2	914.2
Union Territories		
26. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-	-
27. Chandigarh	7.7	46.3
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	103.2
29. Delhi	45.6	103.2
30. Daman & Diu	-	-
31. Lakshadweep	-	-
32. Pondicherry	3.9	17.2
Total	1182.9	4930.9

Note : 1*. No Employment Exchanges is functioning in this State;

2. Figures may not add up to total due to rounding off.
3. All the job-seekers on the Live Register are not necessarily unemployed.

[English]

Textile Workers

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

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from Textile Industries Mazdoor Sabha for implementation of 8 Point agreement and immediate payment of salaries to NTC workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c) Representations have been received in the past from the workers Unions/Associations of NTC Mills on different aspects of functioning of NTC including provision of funds for working capital and payment of wages and salaries. During the last two years, NTC has been facing shortage of working capital. Government have approved a Revised Turn Around strategy, based on the 8 point package approved by the Special Tripartite Committee for NTC mills for modernisation and revival. The Revised Turn Around Strategy would require the prior approval of BIFR before implementation. Government are providing funds to NTC for meeting the shortfall faced by them for payment of wages and salaries during the current financial year.

Profits Earned by OBC

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Record net profit by OBC" appearing in the 'The Hindustan Times', dated June 24, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the amount of bad and doubtful debts of the Oriental Bank of Commerce has also come down during 1994-95 as compared to 1992-93 and 1993-94; and

(d) if not, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to

improve the performance of the bank in this regard?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Oriental Bank of Commerce has reported that the net profit of Rs. 113.36 crores earned by the Bank during 1994-95 was the highest ever since the bank's inception.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

New Textile Mills

767. DR. (SHRIMATI) K.S. SOUNDARAM : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up more textile mills in the country especially in the tribal and backward areas of Orissa and Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details of the new textile mills likely to be set up during the current financial year, Statewise.

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Schools for Child Labour

768. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open schools for the education of child labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such schools proposed to be opened in Bihar; and

(d) the location of such schools, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) Under the National Child Labour Policy, 1987—National Child Labour Projects Scheme of the Minister of Labour, a major activity undertaken is establishment of special schools to provide basic needs like non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition etc., to the children withdrawn from employment. Voluntary agencies are being financially assisted to the extent of 75% for taking up welfare projects for working children under the Grants-in-Aid Scheme.

(c) At present there are 4 schools functioning in Bihar covering 450 children.

(d) Projects under the National Child Labour Projects which include special schools for children withdrawn from work are currently under implementation in the following States :

Sl. No.	State	District	Industry
1.	U. P.	Ferozabad	Glass
2.		Moradabad	Brass Ware
3.		Aligarh	Locks
4.		Mirzapur & Bhadohi	Carpet
5.	A. P.	Markapur	Slate
6.		Jaggampet	Tile
7.	T. N.	Sivakasi	Match & Fireworks
8.	M. P.	Mandsaur	Slate
9.	Bihar	Garhwa	Fireworks
10.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	Gems
11.	Maharashtra	Thane	Agri/Chemicals
12.	Orissa	Sambalpur	Beedi

Bank Loan to Priority Sector

769. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the directives issued by the RBI to the effect that nationalised banks should provide a fixed percentage of the total deposits as loan in priority sector;

(b) whether many banks have not complied with these directives during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

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

(d) the reasons for which these banks have not complied with the above directives together with the action taken against them?

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

(a) In terms of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s guidelines on lending to priority sector, all Indian Banks are required to extend at least 40 percent of their net bank credit to priority sector.

(b) and (c) The names of Indian banks which have failed to comply with the priority sector target during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) RBI have reported that the fall in the percentage of priority sector lending to net bank credit can be attributed to factors such as greater emphasis laid on the profitability of banks since 1988, prudential norms stipulated by RBI in regard to income recognition, provisioning and capital adequacy and high transaction and risk costs involved in lending to priority sector. RBI have advised all banks to make every effort to achieve the stipulated target for priority sector lending. Banks have also been advised that failure on their part to achieve the target could invite bank specific policy measures. RBI have also recently taken a number of steps such as introduction of to secure production credit instantly, cash credit facility, financing of innovative and high-tech agricultural projects, establishment of Rural Infrastructural Development Fund, formation of a consortium of selected public sector banks to provide credit to Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). etc., to ensure enhanced credit flow to priority sector.

STATEMENT

Banks which failed to achieve Priority Sector Target

Public Sector Banks

As on March 1994	As on March 1995
1	2
State Bank of India	State Bank of India
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur
State Bank of Hyderabad	State Bank of Hyderabad
State Bank of Indore	State Bank of Patiala
State Bank of Mysore	State Bank of Saurashtra
State Bank of Patiala	Allahabad Bank
State Bank of Saurashtra	Andhra Bank
Allahabad Bank	Bank of India
Andhra Bank	Bank of Maharashtra
Bank of India	Central Bank of India
Bank of Maharashtra	Corporation Bank
Canara Bank	Dena Bank
Central Bank of India	Punjab National Bank
Corporation Bank	Punjab & Sind Bank
Dena Bank	Syndicate Bank

1	2
Syndicate Bank	Union Bank of India
UCO Bank	UCO Bank
Vijaya Bank	Vijaya Bank

Allocation to Bihar for Tourist Spots

770. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state the allocation made by the Union Government for development of tourist sports in Bihar during each of the last three years, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : The details of Central financial assistance sanctioned to the State Government of Bihar for development of tourist centre during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT

Projects/Schemes Sanctioned in Bihar

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1992-93		
1.	Tourist Reception Centre at Bodhgaya	20.55
2.	Yatrika at Gaya	15.92
3.	Public Conveniences at 5 places namely Mohania, Sasaram, Sultanganj, Deoghar and Basukinath	12.86
4.	Purchase of trekking equipment	2.48
5.	Chhota Nagpur Adivasi Mela	2.60
Total		54.41
1993-94		
1.	Yatrika at Patna Saheb	21.93
2.	Yatrika at Deoghar	21.93
3.	Cafeteria at Jhumari Tilaiya	9.75
Total		53.63

1	2	3
1994-95		
1.	Tourist Complex at Muzafarpur	27.07
2.	Tourist Complex at Jamshepur (Chandel)	26.56
3.	Wayside facilities at Masanjore	8.48
4.	Wayside facilities at Kuju	8.96
5.	Tourist Complex at Deogarh	27.00
6.	Water sports equipment	14.05
Total		112.12

Ombudsman for Banking Service

771. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has formulated any scheme to appoint Ombudsman for the bank customers;

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

(c) the stage at which the proposal stands at present and the time-frame fixed to start the work in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has formulated "Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 1995" for expeditious and inexpensive resolution of customer complaints against banks. The objective is to enable resolution of complaints relating to provision of banking services and to facilitate the satisfaction or settlement of such complaints.

(c) RBI has already appointed banking Ombudsman at Bombay, New Delhi, Bhopal, Chandigarh and Bangalore.

[English]

Tribunals for EPF Cases

772. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up tribunals to hear cases relating to the Employees Provident Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the location thereof;

(c) the time by which these tribunals are likely to start functioning;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up such tribunals in each State;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) It is proposed to set up one Employees, Provident Fund (EPF) appellate tribunal each at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. Keeping in view the existing workload, establishment of four tribunals on zonal basis is considered adequate. As such, there is no proposal to set up a separate tribunals in each State. The proposal relating to setting up to the EPF tribunals involves creation of certain posts which requires concurrence of the Ministry of Finance. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate the definite time by which the tribunals would start functioning.

Loans Under PMRY in Bihar

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Bank branches in Bihar, particularly in Darbhanga and Madhubani districts are adopting delaying tactics in granting credits to self-employed productive ventures under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojna;

(b) whether the complaints against such practices have been made from time to time; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon and the steps taken to fix the responsibility in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the progress of implementation under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) is reviewed in the meetings of the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) and District Consultative Committee (DCC). As the disbursements in respect of the cases sanctioned were not found satisfactory, Regional Office of RBI at Patna recently issued instructions to all the banks under its jurisdiction to expedite disbursements.

(b) and (c) Complaints received by the Government from any part of the country including the State of Bihar relating to delays in sanctioning/disbursements of loans

etc., under PMRY are taken up with the concerned bank for remedial action.

Bagiya Restaurant

774. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE :
SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to file a defamation case against the private company which was given licence to operate the Bagiya restaurant at Ashok Yatri Niwas in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of other restaurants leased out by ITDC in the Capital;

(d) the criteria laid down for the allotment of restaurants by the ITDC and whether the violations of rules have been made in the allotment of such restaurants; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and whether responsibility has been fixed for violation of rules in allotment of such restaurants and action taken for such violations?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The Legal Cell of ITDC is examining the matter.

(c) A Statement is attached.

(d) and (e) The basic criteria laid down for the allotment of the restaurant are :-

(i) Highest Technically valid bid.

(ii) Expertise and experience of the licensee in the required field.

(iii) Financial soundness of the licensee.

The licensee is also required to fulfil the various terms and conditions as per the tender document.

ITDC is examining whether the normal procedure was duly followed in the matter of allotment of licences of restaurants.

However, in the case of Bagia restaurant, it has been recommended to the concerned Ministry that the CBI may be instructed to conduct a formal investigation with a view to find out whether certain irregularities were committed in the matter and if so, the nature thereof and the persons responsible therefor.

STATEMENT

**Details of Restaurants Leased out in Delhi based ITDC Hotels other than Bar-Be-Que
(Bagia Restaurant) at Ashok Yatri Niwas, New Delhi**

Name of the Hotel	Name of the Restt. Leased out.	Name of the Licensee
Ashok Hotel	(1) Jewel of the East (Chinese Restaurant)	M/s Klass Associates
Lodhi Hotel	(2) Wanchai Chinese Restaurant	M/s Wanchai Caterers
	(3) Sagar Ratna (South Indian-Vegetarian Restt.)	M/s Sagar Food Home
Hotel Janpath	(4) Food Plaza (Fast Food Restt.)	M/s Kwaliti Caterers
Ashok Yatri Niwas	(5) Coconut Grove (South Indian-Non Vegetarian Restt.)	M/s K. S. Kumar & Co.

[Translation]

Criteria for Opening Bank Branches

775. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some specific norms and guidelines are required to be followed for opening a bank branch; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) Under the extant policy of Reserve Bank of India it is left to the judgement of individual banks to identify potential centre/villages for opening of additional branches in the respective service areas of their rural branches. Fresh proposals for opening of additional rural branches at centres/villages falling within the service area of the applicant banks and which are duly recommended by the concerned State Government are considered by Reserve Bank of India. Due weightage is given to the special needs of backward/hilly/tribal/sparsely populated area. With regard to semi-urban centres, on the basis of suggestions received from banks that some degree of freedom should be given to them, it was decided to allot a certain fixed quota to the banks for opening their branches at semi-urban centres of their choice on an all-India basis. In respect of urban metropolitan centres, steps were initiated in early 1990 for identifying potential localities of opening branches in the unbanked/underbanked pockets of these area and

subsequently the identified centres were allotted to various banks. Fresh proposals for opening branches at urban/metropolitan centres are considered by Reserve Bank of India on merits.

[English]

Defrauding of SBI, Bangalore

776. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a plot to defraud the State Bank of India in Bangalore city to the tune of Rs. 93 crores was unearthed recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of persons arrested;

(c) the outcome of the inquiry conducted and action taken against those held responsible?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) State Bank of India (SBI) have reported that one person, posing himself as Shri Vijay Mutha of a Chartered Accountant firm at Ahmedabad accompanied by two persons claiming to be representatives of M/s. Raghu Acrospace Ltd. and M/s. D.S. Industrial Corporation (P) Ltd. called on the General Manager (Operations), State Bank of India at their Local Head Office (LHO), Bangalore to discuss credit facilities for a firm—M/s. Southend

Technologies, Bangalore. They produced a post dated cheque for Rs. 93 crores from the Department of Defence Research & Development, Bangalore. Due to suspicious circumstances, the General Manager Contracted the drawers and drawee branch to verify the genuineness of the cheque. On enquiry, it was found that no such cheque was issued by the Department of Defence Research & Development, Bangalore and they had reported the loss of the said cheque to SBI's Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) Branch. This was also confirmed by the ADE Branch. The Police, who were contacted over telephone, came to the LHO, SBI and apprehended the culprits. An FIR has been lodged by the Bank. According to the information available with SBI, so far 10 persons have been arrested by the police.

[Translation]

Export Growth

777. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's share of export in international market is very low;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of its actual share; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) India's exports amounted to 0.6% of total world exports during 1993. (Source : World Economy and India's Place in it; October 1994). Initially India's economic policies were geared towards imports substitution. Since 1991 India has decided to accelerate the country's transition to an internationally oriented economy.

(c) Recognising that international trade is a key component of global economic activity today, the Government have taken a number of steps to encourage and maintain strong export growth. India's trade policy was liberalised in July '91 to respond to the opportunities and challenges posed by the domestic and international developments. The trade policy has aimed at creating a free environment for trade, strengthening the export promotion structure, removing procedural irritants through simplification and streamlining of procedures, in creating export production, improving efficiency and sharpening competitive edge, facilitating input availability, focussing on quality and technological upgradation besides introducing and strengthening schemes for export promotion. Efforts have been made to provide cheaper export credit and provide tax exemption on export profits. Export promotion is a continuous process and steps are taken to boost exports in consultation with trade, industry and concerned institutions.

Air Auto Car

778. DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government or some private agencies propose to start "Air Auto Car" shortly; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Scandal in Kashinath Seth Bank

779. DR. P.R. GANGWAR :
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the points of enquiry being conducted into the working of Kashinath Seth Bank, Shahjahanpur, U.P. and the present status of the enquiry;

(b) whether the employees of the Nationalised Banks in UP went on a one day strike on June 30, 1995 against the decision of closure of the said bank;

(c) whether the Government propose to allow the bank to commence its business shortly;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the matter in which the bank employees and the account holders are likely to be accommodated?

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

(a) Reserve Bank of India conducted a regular inspection of Kashi Nath Seth Bank Limited (KNSBL) and detected serious irregularities, specially in the field of portfolio investment and unauthorised withdrawal of money.

(b) It is reported that a section of the employees of some of the nationalised banks in Uttar Pradesh went on one day's strike on 30th June, 1995.

(c) to (e) The bank has been put under moratorium from the close of business on 30.6.1995 to 30.9.1995 against which a writ petition has been filed in the Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court. The matter is subjudice.

[English]

Inflation Rate

780. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is considerable decline in the inflation rate in the recent months; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last six months?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The annual inflation rate with respect to last six months (based on Wholesale Price Index with base 1981-82) is shown below :

Week ending	Annual inflation rate (%)
January, 95	12.2
February	11.4
March	10.4
April	9.8
May	8.8 (P)
June	8.3 (P)
July 15	7.7 (P)

P = Provisional

Wages for the Unskilled Labour

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

(a) Whether the Government have revised the rates of wages for trained/unskilled labourers and daily wage workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the welfare schemes launched by the Government for their welfare on the occasion of May day this year?

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

(a) and (b) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both Central as well as State Governments are the appropriate governments for the fixation/revision of minimum rates of wages for the scheduled employments falling under their respective jurisdictions. The Central Government is responsible for the fixation/revision of minimum rates of wages in respect of 40 scheduled employments broadly classified into agriculture construction, mining and railway sectors. As per the provisions of the Minimum Wages act, 1948, the Central Government has been fixing minimum rates of wages according to the categories of skill and employment. The minimum rates of wages for employment in Agriculture were last revised on 12.8.1992 and minimum wages in the remaining 39 scheduled employments were last revised on 12.7.94. A Statement indicating the minimum rates of wages for the 40 scheduled employments in the central sphere categorised into four sectors is annexed.

(c) The Government has not announced any new welfare scheme on the occasion of May Day this year.

STATEMENT
Minimum Rates of Wages and Special Allowances Revised with effect from 1.4.95

Category of Worker	Basic Wage (in Rs.)	Revise Spl. All. (in Rs.)	Total Wage (in Rs.)	Basic Wage (in Rs.)	Revise Spl. All. (in Rs.)	Total Wage (in Rs.)	Basic Wage (in Rs.)	Revise Spl. (in Rs.)	Total Wage (in Rs.)
I. Construction									
	Area "A"			Area "B"			Area "C"		
Unskilled	36.00	3.68	39.68	34.00	3.68	37.68	28.00	3.02	31.02
Semi-skilled/Unskilled Supervisory	43.00	4.35	47.35	41.00	4.35	45.35	34.00	3.68	37.68
Skilled	57.00	5.35	62.35	51.00	5.35	56.35	43.00	4.68	47.68
Highly Skilled	65.00	6.70	71.70	63.00	6.70	69.70	51.00	5.35	56.35
Clerical	57.00	5.35	62.35	51.00	5.35	56.35	43.00	4.68	47.68
II. Agriculture									
	Area "A"			Area "B"			Area "C"		
Unskilled	33.00	20.62	53.62	28.00	20.62	48.62	26.00	20.62	46.62
Semi-skilled/Unskilled Supervisory	41.00	20.62	61.62	35.00	20.62	62.29	29.00	20.62	49.62
Skilled/Clerical	48.00	20.62	68.62	41.00	20.62	61.62	34.00	20.62	54.62
Highly Skilled	58.00	20.62	78.62	50.00	20.62	70.62	41.00	20.62	61.62
III. Loading/Unloading and ASH PIT Cleaning in Railway									
	Area "A"			Area "B"			Area "C"		
Unskilled	42.00	4.42	46.42	33.00	3.48	36.48	29.00	3.08	32.08

iv. mining

Category of worker	Above Ground			Below Ground		
Unskilled	28.00	3.02	31.02	34.00	3.68	37.68
Semi-Skilled/ Unskilled Supervisory	34.00	3.68	37.68	41.00	4.35	45.35
Skilled	41.00	4.35	45.35	50.00	5.35	55.35
Clerical	41.00	4.35	42.35			
Highly Skilled	50.00	5.35	55.35	60.00	6.36	66.36

Note : Areas A includes : 4 Metropolitan Cities & Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Nagpur, Lucknow and Kanpur.

B includes : 54 cities mainly with a population of 1 lakh.

C includes : All other areas.

Child Labour

782. **SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI** : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to the "Progress of the Nations Report-1995" prepared by the UNICEF, in India between 5 percent and 30 per cent of the children, under the age of 16, are engaged in child labour;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to rehabilitate them?

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

(a) and (b) UNICEF in their progress of the Nations Report, 1995 have observed that between 5% and 30% of children under the age of 16 are estimated to fall under the definition of child labour.

According to 1981 Census, 4.26% of children in the country are working children.

(c) National Child Labour Policy, 1987 has three action plans to rehabilitate child labour i.e. (i) a legislative action plan; (ii) focussing of general development programmes for benefiting children wherever possible; and (iii) project-based action plan in areas of high concentration of child labour engaged in wage/quasi-wage employment.

At present, 12 National Child Labour Projects are under implementation in 8 States covering approximately 16,000 children. A major activity undertaken under the National Child Labour Projects is establishment of special schools to provide basic needs like non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition, etc., to the children withdrawn from employment. Voluntary agencies are being financially assisted to the extent of 75% for taking up welfare projects for working children under the Grants-in-Aid Scheme.

In addition to the above, the National Authority for Elimination of Child Labour has also identified 100 districts which have the highest incidence of child labour in the country. It has been decided that projects to eliminate child labour in hazardous occupations will be started as per the *National Child Labour Project Scheme* in these districts. A Workshop of these 100 District Collectors is scheduled to take place in New Delhi on 13-14 September, 1995. The concerned Collectors have been requested to prepare project proposals in their respective districts based on the National Child Labour Project Scheme. An allocation of Rs. 34.4 crores has been made for the current financial year to undertake projects for children withdrawn from work.

Export of Carpets

783. **SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK** :
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL :
SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether U.S. is insisting on rugmark for import of carpets from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to increase the export of carpets?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, some Private Member Bills are pending in the U.S. Senate and House of Representative seeking amendments in the U.S. Laws for imposition of a ban on import of goods manufactured with the use of child labour.

(c) The Carpet Export Promotion Council has introduced a 'Kaleen' label for carpets to be exported from the country as a hallmark of commitment for eradication of child labour from the Indian Carpet Industry and contribution towards welfare of carpet weavers.

(d) The steps taken by the Govt. to increase export of carpets includes sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams abroad, participation in international fairs and exhibitions, organisation of buyer-seller meets, overseas publicity and publication of catalogues, conducting of seminars and workshops and organisation of the All India Carpet Trade Fair annually.

Excise Duty on Tobacco Products

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

(a) whether the Government have taken initiatives to stabilise Excise duties on tobacco and agro-based products;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) The excise duty on tobacco and agro-based products has been prescribed after taking into account various relevant considerations. Changes, if any, in these duty rates will depend on prevailing circumstances.

Setting up of Task Force/Steering Committee by ITDC

785. **SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI** :
SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (Deepa) :

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

(a) whether the India Tourism Development Corporation propose to set up nine Task Forces and steering Committee to achieve total quality management work culture and internationalise its style of operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps being taken to improve the functioning of ITDC?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to revise/update existing systems and procedures in line with the management requirements, it has been decided to set up a 7 member Steering Committee and 9 Task Forces each consisting of 5 members, to cover all the functional areas of ITDC.

(c) Improvement in the functioning of ITDC is a continuous process and the following steps are taken in this regard :

- (i) Aggressive marketing efforts,
- (ii) Introduction of special off-season tariff/packages.
- (iii) Modernisation/renovation of hotel properties,
- (iv) Monitoring and control of costs,
- (v) Development of human resource by imparting training etc.

[Translation]

Pilot Training Schools and Institutions

786. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH :
SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up more Pilot Training Schools and Institutions to train commercial pilots;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the existing number of such schools in the country and locations thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to upgrade such training schools in view of technical expertise required for the flying of modern aircraft and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to set up a pool of the trained persons in aviation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) does not arise.

(c) A Statement is attached.

(d) Upgradation of facilities is a continuous process depending upon the requirement/availability of resources. The Director General of Civil Aviation has purchased 12 simulators and distributed among the various flying clubs in the country to upgrade the training standard.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

List of Flying Clubs/Institutes

1. Rajasthan State Flying School, Jaipur
2. Government Flying Training School, Bangalore
3. Bihar Flying Institute, Patna
4. Government Flying Training Institute, Calcutta
5. Government Aviation Training Institute, Bhubaneswar
6. State Civil Aviation, Uttar Pradesh Flying Training Centre (SCAUPFTC), Lucknow
7. Andaman & Nicobar Flying Training Institute, Port Blair
8. Andhra Pradesh Flying Club, Hyderabad
9. Bombay Flying Club, Bombay
10. Gujarat Flying Club, Baroda
11. Madhya Pradesh Flying Club, Indore
12. Madras Flying Club, Ltd., Madras
13. Delhi Flying Club, Delhi
14. Coimbatore Flying Club Ltd., Coimbatore
15. Kerala Aviation Training Centre, Trivandrum
16. Banasthali Vidyapith Gliding & Flying Club, Banasthali
17. Nagpur Flying Club, Nagpur
18. Jamshedpur Co-operative Flying Club Ltd. , Jamshedpur

19. Ludhiana Aviation Club, Ludhiana
20. Amritsar Aviation Club, Amritsar
21. Northern India Flying Club, Jalandhar
22. Ajanta Flying Club, Aurangabad
23. Patiala Flying Club, Patiala
24. Hissar Aviation Club, Hissar
25. Kamal Aviation Club, Kamal
26. Assam Flying Club Ltd., Guwahati
27. Pinjore Aviation Club, Pinjore
28. Kanpur Branch of SCAUPFTC, Lucknow
29. Faizabad Branch of SCAUPFTC, Lucknow
30. Varanasi Branch of SCAUPFTC, Lucknow
31. Bhopal Branch of Madhya Pradesh Flying Club, Indore
32. Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Fursatganj, UP.

Schools/Institutes in Private Sector

1. Udan Research & Flying Institute, Indore.
2. Bangalore Aeronautic and Technical Services, Bangalore
3. Ahmedabad Aviation Akademi, Ahmedabad
4. Orient Flight School, Pondicherry.

Missing of UTI Certificates

787. SHRI MANJAY LAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the frequent news reports regarding missing of Unit Trust Certificates;

(b) Whether the Government propose to conduct any enquiry in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any plan has been chalked out to find out the embezzlement and bungling amounting to billions of rupees in this institution; 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) UTI has been looking into the matter. UTI sends transferable/tradeable unit certificates to unit holders by registered post. At time certificates are lost in postal transit in which case UTI takes up the matter with the postal authorities. Duplicate certificates are also issued to original unit holders in case of losses. Besides, UTI has introduced checks and controls to detect certificates fraudulently submitted to it for repurchase or transfer.

[English]

Imports

788. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country's imports grew by 45.1 percent during May, 1995;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a large scale increase therein;

(c) the extent of increase in trade deficit during the last quarter as a result thereof; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to keep the imports within affordable limits?

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

(b) Increase in imports could be primarily attributed to the recovery of industrial production and a faster growth of investment compared to domestic saving.

(c) The trade deficit, during April-June 1995, the latest period for which foreign trade data have been released, is estimated at US \$824 million as against US \$198 million during the corresponding period last year.

(d) The Export-Import Policy 1992-97 inter-alia, aims to encourage efficient and internationally competitive import substitution within the liberalised framework of foreign trade. Imports are made as per the requirements of the economy and primarily consist of raw materials, intermediates, components and capital goods required for production and exports besides mass consumption items imported to increase domestic availability and contain the price rise.

Report on Computerisation in Banks

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

(a) the details of the recommendations made by the committee on computerisation in Banks;

(b) whether the Government propose to try network of Automatic Teller Machine on the lines of Citi Bank; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be operative?

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

(a) Some of the recommendations of the Committee on computerisation in banks headed by Dr. C. Rangarajan are under :

- (i) All operations in branches with a voucher load of 750 or more per day should be fully computerised. However, to start with, branches with daily average vouchers of 1500 and above may be fully computerised.
- (ii) Banks should establish connectivity between branches through networking of computers.
- (iii) Regional/Zonal Offices of Banks should be computerised with suitable computer system depending on the need and work-load.
- (iv) Head Offices should be equipped with Mainframe Systems.
- (v) Banknet may be used for several intra-bank and inter-bank applications.
- (vi) ATM Services should be provided by banks.

(b) and (c) To start with the Indian Banks Association (IBA) has made necessary arrangements for setting up the ATM network at Bombay. The network is likely to become operational by March, 1996.

Release of Allocated Amount for Tourism in Kerala

790. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether out of the rupees 287.05 lakhs sanctioned for 9 tourism projects in Kerala during 1994-95; only 113.75 lakh was actually released;

(b) if so, the reasons for not releasing the balance amount;

(c) whether the balance amount is likely to be released during the current financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (e) The Department of Tourism, Government of India sanctioned eleven

projects/scheme amounting to Rs. 307.05 lakhs and released an amount of Rs. 127.25 lakhs for the State of Kerala during 1994-95 for development of tourism in the State. About fifty percent of the sanctioned amount is released to the State Governments as first instalment, subject to availability of funds during that particular financial year to enable them to commence the project work and the balance amount is released as and when the State Governments submits Utilisation Certificates for the amount already released.

Non-plan Expenditure

791. SHRI RAJ NARAIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the non-plan expenditure has shown a rising trend in the administrative ministries and its attached offices during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the instructions issued by the Ministry of effect economy during the last two years;

(d) whether several Ministries have not followed these instructions directly; and

(e) if so, the action being taken by the Government for strict implementation of such instructions in future?

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

(a) and (b) The normal administrative expenditure of Ministries and Departments during the last three years maintained a restrained growth; the increases are generally restricted to normal growth (increment etc.) grant of additional instalment of dearness allowance, interim relief increases resulting from creation of new posts, wherever inescapable.

(c) to (e) Keeping the Non-Plan expenditure under control is a continuous process and instructions in this regard are issued from time to time. The instructions include reduction in posts, ban on accommodation in hotel suites while on tour, reduction in petrol consumption, restriction on OTA, entertainment and decorative lighting and electricity, restriction on purchase of vehicles etc. Restrictions are also imposed on reappropriation of savings for meeting additional expenditure. Financial Advisers attached to different Ministries/Departments are required to ensure that the economy instructions are strictly followed.

Payment of Bonus Act, 1965

792. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA :
SHRI A. CHARLES :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have recently amended the payment of Bonus Act, 1965;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the amendments are likely to be implemented with retrospective effect;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of employees likely to be benefited?

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

(a) to (e) An ordinance was promulgated on 9.7.95 for enhancing the eligibility limit for payment to bonus from Rs. 2500/- to Rs. 3500/- per mensem and the calculation ceiling from Rs. 1600/- to Rs. 2500/- per mensem, by amending Section 2(13) and Section 12 of the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965. The Ordinance would take effect from 1.4.1993. It is estimated that additionally 9 lakh employees in the Central Public Sector Enterprises and 24 lakh employees in the private sector would get included within the purview of the Payment of Bonus Act, as amended.

Australian Investments in India

793. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Australia for setting up trade relation with India;

(b) if so, the details of areas identified thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed to make Australian investments in the Country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) No such proposal has been received. However, the two countries are carrying on trade with each other.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Operational Flexibility in Commercial Banks

794. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has stressed upon the need for providing more operational flexibility to commercial banks and investments institutions in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reactions of the Government to the suggestions made by the World Bank in this regard?

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.

[Translation]

Bank Officials Being Investigated by CBI

795. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of bank officials being investigated by Central Bureau of Investigation in connection with the inquiry into securities scam;

(b) whether any charge-sheet has been filed against them; and

(c) if so, the details of the action taken against them so far?

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

(a) to (c) CBI have reported that 107 bank officials were being investigated by the CBI in connection with irregularities in securities transactions. Charge-sheet has been filed against 47 officials in different courts. None of the cases has been decided so far.

[English]

Deposits By NRIs

796. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether two third of the total Non-Resident Indians deposits in India are in the share market; and

(b) if not, the assessment made by the Government about the extent and proportion of NRI deposits in India in the shares markets?

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

(a) and (b) Total Foreign Currency Deposits by Non-resident Indian (NRIs) under various Bank Deposit Schemes till 31.3.94 amounted to US \$15.78 billion. The NRI investments in the secondary market under Portfolio Scheme represents only a miniscule proportion of the total outstanding deposits.

Credit Flow to Rural Non-Farm Sector

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

(a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has drawn up a strategy to increase credit flow to the rural Non-farm sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to come into effect?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has drawn up a strategy to increase credit flow to Rural Non-Farm Sector (RNFS), covering small, tiny, cottage, village and decentralised industries in rural areas. The broad measures adopted relate to the identification and mapping of potential for RNFS and estimation of effective demand for credit; studying the constraints faced by the banks in lending to RNFS and guiding them to overcome the constraints; assessing the need for new and innovative credit instruments and delivery system; supporting and input supply to tiny and village industries through experimental/promotional measures and networking with development and promotional agencies committed to RNFS supporting linkages to this sector.

NABARD provides refinance to augment credit flow to this sector through the banking system. Such refinance is available to banks for financing a wide spectrum of manufacturing, processing and service activities in rural areas.

NABARD has also launched District Rural Industries Project (DRIP) in 5 selected districts, aiming at generating through credit intervention, the environment and infrastructure conducive for increasing production and sustainable income generating opportunities under RNFS.

It is expected that credit flow to RNFS would increase in view of the measures taken.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance by Germany

798. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Germany has agreed to provide financial assistance to India during the year 1995 for the development Projects in rural, small and infrastructural sectors; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) :
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under an agreement signed on 19.6.95 between Government of Germany and Government of India, Government of Germany has agreed

to provide financial assistance to the tune of DM 366.6 Million to Government of India for the year 1995. Out of this amount, DM 241.6 Million will be provided as soft loan on IDA terms and the balance DM 125 Million as grants. The above amount will be provided for the following projects :

Name of the Project	Amount in DM Million	Loan/Grant
1. Rural Water Supply, West Bengal	20.0	Grant
2. HUDCO-VI	50.0	30 Grant+ 20 Loan
3. Basic Health Programme at district level	60.0	Grant
4. Hazardous Waste Disposal, Karnataka	15.0	Loan
5. Residential Schools Rajasthan	15.0	Grant
6. Credit Line to SIDBI	30.0	Loan
7. Non-Farm Credit and Minor Irrigation Programmes	85.0	Loan
8. Import of Fertilisers	45.0	Loan
9. Water Supply, Maharashtra	46.6	Loan
	366.6	

[English]

Restructuring in STC

799. SHRI TARA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation is planning for major restructuring;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the export/import through STC will have any impact due to its restructuring; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d) Consequent upon the decanalisation of import and export of a number of items hitherto canalised through STC, the Govt. have been reviewing the need to re-orient STC in a manner consistent with the liberalised economy and a competitive environment. As a part of expanding its trade

activities, particularly in the non-canalised sector, STC is in the process of a major diversification programme aiming to achieve an annual turnover of Rs. 5,000 crores within the next five years by adopting the following strategies :

- Increased emphasis on direct buying & selling;
- Strengthening overseas marketing network;
- Increased trade with CIS countries;
- Entering into joint ventures;
- Undertaking OGL imports;
- Expanding domestic trading.

Safety Standard of Private Airlines

800. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up norms to improve safety standard of private airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of inspections conducted by the safety audit team of Director General Civil Aviation during the the last two months and the action taken where deficiencies were observed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The private airlines are governed by the same guidelines/rules as are applicable to National Carriers. Steps are continuously taken by the Director General of Civil Aviation/(DGCA) for enhancing the level of safety for all operators including private airlines. The important steps taken are safety audit of airlines, proficiency and standardisation checks of pilots by Flight Inspectors appointed by DGCA, random monitoring of flight recorders, frequent surveillance checks, to ensure that the maintenance work is carried out as per laid down procedures, checking of maintenance facilities of the operators, organising safety seminars to create safety awareness amongst the operators, etc.

(c) During the last two months (June and July, 1995), the Safety Audit Team of DGCA have carried out safety audit of M/s East West Airlines, Further steps would be taken on receipt of the report.

Setting up of Hotels in Collaboration with Russia

801. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some

hotels in the country in collaboration with Russia;

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

(c) the details of the Indo-Russia joint venture agreement made in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The protocol in the field of tourism cooperation signed between the two countries on 30th June, 1994, envisages cooperation between the Indian and Russian tourist associations, organisations, enterprises and companies participating in the development of international tourism and implementation of joint entrepreneurships to provide tourist services as well as capital investment in the field of tourism, and sharing of experience in the field of hotel management and other types of tourist accommodation.

Proposal to Set up Tourist Complexes in Haryana

802. SHRI JANGBIR SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government received proposals from the Government of Haryana for setting up tourist complexes at Hansi and Lohani near Bhiwani as well as at other places of Haryana during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the decision taken thereon;

(c) the time likely to be taken for their establishment; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (d) No proposal for construction of a tourist complex at Lohani near Bhiwani was received from the State Government of Haryana. However, a proposal for setting-up, a tourist complex at Hansi was received and financial assistance of Rs. 24.78 lakhs was sanctioned and an amount of Rs. 10.00 lakhs has been released to start the work on this project during the year 1994-95.

Regarding projects/schemes sanctioned at other places during 1993-94 and 1994-95 the details are given in the attached Statement. For the year 1995-96 no proposal has been received from the State Government of Haryana.

The State Governments /UTs are required to complete the projects within a period of eighteen months.

STATEMENT**Projects/Schemes Sanctioned
During 1992-93, 1993-94**

Sl No	Name of the Project	Amount sanctioned (Rs in lakhs)
Haryana		
1	Construction of budget accommodation at War Memorial, Kala-Amb, Panipat	6 17
2	Fast Food Centre at Skylark Tourist Complex panipat	3 60
3	Construction of four rooms and hall at Panipat	21 64
4	Construction of tourist complex at Surkhab Sirsa	23 87
5	Tourist Reception Centre at Surajkund	23 69
6	Para sailing and para gliding equipment for Pinjore	7 00
7	Surajkund Crafts Mela	15 00
8	Kurukshetra Festival	4 00
9	Film on Haryana Tourism	1 00
Total		105 97

1993-94

1	Tourist complex at Mallah	25 97
2	Tourist Complex at Tohana	24 78
3	Tourist Complex at Hathnikund	26 46
4	Yatnika at Mansa Devi	23 73
5	Yatnika at Pehwa	23 73
6	Tourist Complex at Jind	24 80
7	Budget Accommodation at Pinjore	11 28
8	Tourist Complex at Dabwali	26 46
9	House Craft for Dam Dama Lake	12 44
10	Publicity support	5 00
11	Kurukshetra festival	3 58
12	Surajkund Craft Mela	14 98
Total		223 21

Projects/Schemes Sanctioned During 1994-95

Sl No	Name of the project/scheme	Amount sanctioned (Rs in lakhs)
Haryana		
1	Tourist Complex at Morni (Dist Ambala)	22 45
2	Fast Food Centre at Pipli	14 20
3	Tourist Reception Centre at Rai	28 75
4	Fast Food Centre at Tilyar	17 81
5	Tourist Complex at Hansi	24 78
6	Tourist Complex at Tikkar Tal	24 78
7	Tourist Reception Centre at Hissar	22 52
8	Tourist Lodge at Ottu	18 69
9	Surajkund Craft Mela-1994	14 98
Total		188 96

Development of Pilgrim Centre in Kerala

803 **Prof. Savithri Lakshmanan** : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have identified the Pilgrim Centres in Kerala for development during the current financial year,

(b) if so, whether the allocation has been made for the development activities,

(c) if so the details thereof and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (d) The State Government of Kerala have not identified any pilgrim centre for development during the current financial year. The Committee on pilgrim Tourism earlier appointed by the Department of Tourism, Govt of India had identified Guruvayur for development and the Department of Tourism, Govt of India had sanctioned an amount of Rs 49.50 lakhs for the construction of a Tourist Lodge at Guruvayur during the year 1992-93. The Deptt of Tourism Govt of India has sanctioned projects/schemes for the development of infrastructural facilities at other pilgrim places such as Kalady, Varkala and Malayattoor as per the details given below

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the project/scheme	Year of sanction	Amount sanctioned
1.	Yatri Niwas at Malayattoor	1994-95	34.26
2.	Tourist Complex at Kaladay	1992-93	63.08
3.	Resort at Varkala	1988-89	95.00

Financing of Nationalised Banks

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

(a) whether the World Bank has proposed to finance some of the nationalised banks in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the terms and conditions of loan and the details of the bank likely to be financed; and

(d) the extent to which this assistance is likely to get the bank out of the red?

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

(a) The World Bank has approved a Financial Sector Development loan of \$ 700 million.

(b) and (c) The loan consists of three components,

(i) A Capital Restructuring Component of \$ 350 million seeks to assist Government in making Tier-II capital contribution to six nationalised banks in order to enable them to achieve the capital adequacy norms stipulated by RBI. Rs. 924.58 crores has been released to Allahabad Bank, Bank of India, Dena Bank, Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank and Syndicate Bank in March '95.

(ii) The modernisation and Institutional development component of \$ 150 million aims at building the financial strength and longterm competitiveness of these six banks and would cover activities such as automation, computerisation etc.,

(iii) a Backstop Facility component of \$ 200 million aims at providing nationalised banks and all Indian public financial Institution liquidity assurance to assist in an orderly

development of the foreign currency term lending market.

(d) Essentially this loan supports the Government's efforts at implementing financial sector reforms including the restructuring of certain public sector banks.

[Translation]

Setting up of Airport at Ankleshwar

805. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat had submitted any proposal for construction of airport at Ankleshwar; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Strikes in Indian Airlines

806. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to look into the employer-employee relationship in the Indian Airlines so as to find a durable solution to the strikes and other disturbances in this organisation; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken to improve the labour relations in the Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) There is already an existing machinery for consultation with Staff Unions for re-dressal of grievances to maintain healthy industrial relations.

Flights between Delhi-Ahmedabad-Baroda

807. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that inspite of heavy traffic limited flights are being operated between Delhi-Ahmedabad-Baroda;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce more flights between Delhi and Gujarat;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Indian Airlines is at present operating 17 services per week on Delhi-Ahmedabad sector of which 7 services also connect Baroda. The sector is also linked by private scheduled operators with 20 services per week on Delhi-Ahmedabad sector and 7 services per week on Ahmedabad-Baroda sector.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Due to constraints of operating crew, Indian Airlines is, at present, not in a position to increase its services to stations in the State of Gujarat.

International Airport at Baroda/Rajkot

808. SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an international airport at Baroda or Rajkot with a view to reduce the congestion of the Ahmedabad international airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No congestion has been reported at Ahmedabad airport. Besides, no airline operator has plans to introduce international flights to/from Baroda or Rajkot airports.

[Translation]

Setting up of Industries by Singapore Industrialists

809. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have invited the industrialists of Singapore for setting up projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Singapore Government in this regard?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A number of areas have been identified for cooperation between India and Singapore. The cooperation would be in the areas of Tourism, Power, Port & Shipping, Science & Technology, etc. Individual projects under these areas are at various stages of approval.

[English]

Demands of Journalists

810. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the working Journalists have demanded comprehensive amendments in the working Journalists Act, to fix retirement age as 60 years, protection against arbitrary transfers and supersession and ban on contract employment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) The Government has been receiving representations regarding ban on contract employment, etc. At present, there is no proposal to amend the Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955 in this regard.

Purchase of Textiles

811. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have issued any instructions to their departments/Ministries to purchase their textiles requirements from NTC/BIC; and

(b) if so, the steps his Ministry has taken to pursue this matter to ensure adherence to these instructions?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Government issued instructions to all Ministries/Departments of Government of India extending the policy of purchase on single tender basis from NTC/BIC for a period upto 31st March, 1995. As per this policy supply price of NTC/BIC is determined on Cost Plus basis. Further extension of the policy is under consideration.

(b) whenever any Department has deviated from this purchase policy, the matter has been taken up with the concerned Department for remedial measure and adherence to the instructions.

Current Account Deficit

812. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of current account deficit in relation to Gross Domestic Product in terms of quantum and percentage;

(b) the tax revenue in terms of quantum and percentage in its relations to non-tax revenue of the Union Budget;

(c) whether the Government have attained the borrowing target laid in the current budget in terms of quantum and percentage fully; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) The deficit in the current account of balance of payments is estimated at about US\$1.7 billion during 1994-95 representing about 0.6 percent of Gross Domestic Product.

(b) The tax revenue (net to Centre) during 1994-95 is estimated at Rs. 64988 crore and it is budgeted at Rs. 74374 crore during 1995-96. As a percentage of non-tax revenue, tax revenue works out to 273.3 percent in 1994-95 and 281.6 percent in 1995-96.

(c) and (d) The gross borrowings raised by the Central Government during the current financial year upto July 28, 1995 was Rs. 10869.43 crore or 26.64 percent of the targeted amount of Rs. 40805.70 crore for the year 1995-96.

Export Performance

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

(a) the total percentage increase in export during the first quarter of 1995-96 compared to corresponding period of the year 1994-95;

(b) whether there has been substantial increase in export of certain items; and

(c) if so, the details and the items identified therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Exports have registered 27.68% increase in US Dollar terms (27.85% in Rupees terms) during the first quarter of 1995-96 compared to the corresponding period of 1994-95.

(b) and (c) As per the latest available disaggregate data which relate to April-May, 1995, the major products / groups which have registered substantial increase (30% and above in US Dollar terms) are Tea (38.2%), Agricultural and allied products (35.5%), Ores & Minerals (30.6%), Chemicals related products (30.9%), Engineering goods (30.2%), Electronic goods (87.8%) and Textiles (40%).

Policy Package for Rural Industrialisation

814. SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN : will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the NABARD has prepared a paper on the policy package for rural industrialisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c) NABARD has prepared a paper with a view to providing a pointed policy focus on Rural Non-Farm Sector (RNFS) with emphasis on sub-sectors and highlighting the need for adequate coordination among the various agencies connected with the promotion of rural industries. The paper basically is intended to generate discussion among various agencies on the policy in regard to the rural industries sector based on the view/feedback received from the agencies concerned, NABARD would be convening workshops at Zonal/Regional level, to discuss the issues involved.

Core Group for Exim Policy

815. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a core group to deal with Export-Import policies and procedures;

(b) if so, the details thereof particularly its composition and the terms of reference; and

(c) the time by which this group is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A core Group has been constituted on 3.7.95 vide order No. 1 (PRU)/92-97/95. A copy of the order constituting the Core Group and the terms of reference is attached as Statement.

STATEMENT

No. 1 (PRU)/92-97/95
Government of India
Ministry of Commerce,
Directorate General of Foreign Trade
Policy Research Unit.

New Delhi, dated the 3rd July, 1995.

Order

Subject Setting up of a core Group

With a view to providing a forum for interaction at a functional level with Trade and Industry Associations, it has been decided to set up a Core Group

2 The Core Group will comprise of

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--------|
| (i) Member (Customs) | - | Member |
| (ii) DGFT | - | Member |
| (iii) Secretary General, C I I | - | Member |
| (iv) Secretary General, FICCI | - | Member |
| (v) Secretary General ASSOCHAM | - | Member |
| (vi) President, FIEO | - | Member |
| (vii) JDGFT (Policy) | - | Member |

3 The Core Group will interact at a functional level with Trade and Industry Associations to identify operational problems requiring to be resolved for export facilitation and promotion. Based on these operational problems, the Group could identify such Policy/Procedural changes as may be deemed necessary. The Core Group shall meet once a month to sort out the routine problems with regard to Policy/Procedures/infrastructural constraints and to give suggestions to improve the current situation.

4 The Core Group may co-opt such additional members as deemed necessary

(S Nigam)

Joint Director General of Foreign Trade

Copy to Members of the Core Group

Excise Duty Evasion in Powerloom Sector

816 SHRI MAHESH KANODIA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether a rampant excise evasion in powerloom sector has been detected,

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to bring to book the culprits and take action against them?

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

(a) to (c) There is no excise duty on unprocessed woven fabrics other than of wool, made on the Powerlooms

In respect of processed fabrics, duties of excise have been noticed to be evaded through clandestine removal, suppression of production misdeclaration of type of fabrics and their value. The details of such cases detected during the last three years are given in the attached Statement

The Department has intensified various checks and preventive activities and has taken deterrent action against tax evaders. Besides the Government have also made few changes in the Central Excise Tariff in the Finance Act, 1995 and which are expected to reduce the scope for disputes and evasion of duty. These include realignment of Chapters on Textiles and Textile articles with the Harmonized Systems of Nomenclature, levy of excise duty at the rate of Rs 10 per kilo on waste and scrap of yarn and prescribing the same rate of duty on yarn made predominantly from synthetic waste and yarn made from staple fibre.

STATEMENT

Number of Cases and amount of Central Excise Duty involved in the evasion of duty on textiles during last three years

Year	No of cases	Amount involved (Rs in lakhs)
1992-93	446	2123.75
1993-94	469	1339.08
1994-95	638	1804.86

[Translation]

Cotton Yarn Mills

817 SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) the number of cooperative cotton yarn mills in Madhya Pradesh,

(b) whether these mills are sufficient to meet the demands of handloom and powerloom industries,

(c) whether there is any proposal to establish new cotton yarn mills in the cooperative sector; and

(d) if so, the number of such mills to be established during the Eighth Five Year Plan and the location thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) There are two Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Spinning Mills in Madhya Pradesh under the Cooperative Sector

(b) Demands of yarn of handloom and powerloom sectors are met out of the production of all the spinning mills over the country whether in the Private, Public and Cooperative Sector.

(c) The Government on its own, does not set up any new cotton yarn mill in the cooperative sector. However, as per information made available by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), they have not received any eligible proposal to establish new cooperative spinning mill in Madhya Pradesh recommended by the State Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Agitation of Pilots of Indian Airlines

818. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pilots of Indian Airlines have started agitation against the seniority of airhostesses;

(b) if so, the number of flights being cancelled and loss suffered on this account;

(c) whether any negotiations have taken place between the Management and agitators in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and agreement reached at?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Indian Commercial Pilots' Association (ICPA) had issued a directive on 5th June, 1995 to all its members asking them not to fly with any cabin crew who was in a grade higher than that of some of the pilots, as it would interfere with the chain of command on board the flight.

The cabin crew belong to a separate cadre and according to the Operation Manual, cabin crew are under the functional control of the command, and in his absence, the co-pilot. Salary earned by an employee is not the deciding factor in operational control of the aircraft.

(b) During the period of agitation from 8th June to 26th June, 95, 48 flights were cancelled. The loss incurred on this account is estimated to be Rs. 42 lakhs.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Following discussions with the Indian Airlines Management and the Chief Labour Commissioner, the ICPA has agreed to keep in abeyance the directives issued by them to the pilots.

[English]

Pension Scheme for Bank Employees

819. SHRI ANNA JOSHI :
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have agreed in principle to start a Pension Scheme for retired employees of Nationalised banks w.e.f. November, 1986;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(a) to (c) The Indian Banks' Association had signed an agreement/settlement with the employees' unions/associations on 29.10.1993 for introduction of pension scheme for retired employees of nationalised banks. The settlement provides bank employees, who were in service as on 1.11.1993, an option between pension and contributory provident fund. Employees joining on or after 1.11.1993 will be eligible only for pension. Pension benefit has also been extended to ex-employees who retired on or after 1.11.1986, provided they surrender the employers' contribution of provident fund together with interest received and a further 6 percent interest on that amount from the date of drawal to the date of refund. The pension will be payable to them w.e.f. 1.11.1993. The scheme will become operational immediately after receipt of the requisite statutory clearances.

Export of Cotton Yarn

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

(a) whether some of the cotton mills associations have urged the Central Government to allow additional export of 50 million kg. of yarn to non-quota countries in order to help textiles mills to overcome the present crisis they are facing;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c) The ceiling for export of cotton yarn is announced after careful consideration of all relevant factors, such as production and domestic demand in respect of raw cotton, production and prices of cotton yarn, requirements of yarn for decentralized handloom sector. The Government is presently not considering any proposal to increase the ceiling announced for the year 1995.

Cancellation of Licence & Lease of Bagiya Restaurant

821. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the licence and lease of Bagiya Restaurant of Ashoka Yatri Niwas has been cancelled following the incident of burning of the body of a murdered woman whose death had occurred in mysterious circumstances;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. ITDC has issued a legal notice on 14th July 95 for termination of the licence agreement and vacating the occupied premises forthwith.

[Translation]

Tata-Singapore Airlines

822. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any final decision in regard to joint venture of Tata-Singapore Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The proposal received from Tata-Singapore airlines to operate a domestic airlines in India has not been approved by the Government.

(c) In order to ensure safety, security and orderly growth of air transport operations, it has not been considered possible, at present, to allow new agencies to start air transport services due to existing infrastructural constraints at the airports.

[English]

Awards to the Autonomous District Councils

823. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring the Autonomous District Councils under the purview of the Finance Commission;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions fixed therefor; 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 10th Finance Commission was constituted by the Presidential order dated 15th June, 1992. The terms of reference of the Commission did not contain any reference to the Autonomous District Councils. The Commission had submitted its report on 26th November, 1994. The Report together with an Explanatory Memorandum on the action taken on the recommendations of the Finance Commission was laid on the table of Parliament of 14th March, 1995. The recommendations as accepted by the Government are valid upto 1999-2000.

[Translation]

Hotels, Motels and Guest Houses in U.P.

824. DR. SAKSHIJI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of hotels, motels and guest houses built with the assistance of Central Government in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the financial assistance given by Union Government in this regard; and

(c) the number of hotels and guest houses built in the State by Union Government during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) The Department of Tourism, Government of India does not undertake any construction work itself, but provides financial assistance to the State Government to construct tourist lodges, wayside amenities, yatri niwasas, cafeterias and some tented accommodation. Financial assistance sanctioned to the State of U.P. for these purposes are :

1992-93	Rs. 37.06 lakhs
1993-94	Rs. 52.04 lakhs
1994-95	Rs. 72.51 lakhs

[English]

Fall in Income of IA And AI

825. SHRI N. DENNIS :
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

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

(a) whether the income of Indian Airlines and Air India has fallen sharply due to emergence of the private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last two years; and

(c) the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no sharp fall in the operating revenues of Air India and Indian Airlines during the last two years. Details are given below :

Year	Operating revenue Air India	Operating revenue Indian Airlines
1992-93	2435.86 crores	1513.12 crores
1993-94	2581.76 crores	1781.89 crores
1994-95 (Provisional)	2961.15 crores	2035.50 crores

However, to meet declining profitability Air India and Indian Airlines are taking steps to face the Competition by improving their product, image and on time performance.

Setting up of New Airports

826. SHRI GURDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new airports during the next five years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) It is proposed to set up new airports at Tura in Meghalaya, Lengpui in Mizoram, Kargil in Jammu & Kashmir and Androth in Lakshadweep with budgetary support from the Union Government.

Opening of Bank Branches in Madhya Pradesh

827. SHRI SURAJ BHANU SOLANKI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branches of nationalised banks which were proposed to be opened in Madhya Pradesh during the last two years as per the target fixed, location wise;

(b) the names of the nationalised banks, the branches of which have since been opened during the above period and the locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) Under the extant policy of Reserve Bank of India, no year-wise targets are fixed for opening of branches. However, the total number of branches opened in Madhya Pradesh by nationalised banks during the

years ended March 1993 and March 1994 was 38 and 19 respectively Bank-wise locations of the same is attached as Statement.

STATEMENT

Bank Branches opened from 1.4.92 to 31.3.93 in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

S. No.	Bank Name	Centre Name
1	2	3
1.	State Bank of India	Bhopal
2.	State Bank of Mysore	Bhopal
3.	Andhra Bank	Bhopal
4.	Union Bank of India	Bhopal
5.	State Bank of India	Bilaspur
6.	Bank of Baroda	Katghora
7.	Union Bank of India	Korba
8.	State Bank of India	Manikpur
9.	Bank of Baroda	Chhindwara
10.	Canara Bank	Bhilainagar
11.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	Bhilainagar
12.	State Bank of India	Durg
13.	State Bank of Indore	Durg
14.	Union Bank of India	Durg
15.	State Bank of India	Khandwa
16.	Bank of Baroda	Guna
17.	State Bank of Patiala	Gwalior
18.	State Bank of India	Indore
19.	State Bank of Patiala	Indore
20.	Central Bank of India	Indore
21.	Dena Bank	Indore
22.	Union Bank of India	Indore
23.	Dena Bank	Jabalpur
24.	State Bank of India	Katni
25.	Bank of Baroda	Mandsaur

1	2	3
26.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	Porsa
27.	State Bank of India	Chivarakota
28.	UCO Bank	Raipur
29.	Union Bank of India	Raipur
30.	State Bank of India	Urla
31.	State Bank of India	Dhandhia
32.	State Bank of India	Simariya Khurd
33.	Bank of Maharashtra	Pailimeta
34.	State Bank of India	Sagar
35.	State Bank of India	Sagar
36.	Bank of Baroda	Satna
37.	Bank of Baroda	Shivpuri
38.	Union Bank of India	Tikamgarh

Bank Branches opened from 1-4-93 to 31-3-94 in the State of Madhya Pradesh

S. No.	Bank name	Centre name
1	2	3
1.	State Bank of Indore	Bhopal
2.	Bank of India	Bhopal
3.	Central Bank of India	Bhopal
4.	Central Bank of India	Bhopal
5.	State Bank of India	Pratappura
6.	State Bank of Indore	Dhamnod
7.	State Bank of Indore	Indore
8.	State Bank of Indore	Indore
9.	State Bank of Travancore	Indore
10.	Canara Bank	Indore
11.	Bank of Maharashtra	Jabalpur
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	Katni

1	2	3
13.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	Dhamtari
14.	State Bank of India	Raipur
15.	Central Bank of India	Sagar
16.	Punjab National Bank	Manendragarh
17.	Bank of India	Ujjain
18.	Canara Bank	Vidisha
19.	Central Bank of India	Vidisha

VRS in JCI

828. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalised voluntary retirement scheme for the workers of Jute Corporation of India Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the scheme is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c) A Voluntary Retirement Scheme based on the guidelines issued by the Department of Public Enterprises for PSUs has been under implementation in JCI for its employees since 1991. The scheme, inter alia, provides terminal payments of PF, cash equivalent of accumulated earned leave, Gratuity, notice pay as per the rules and regulations and 1½ months emoluments for each completed year of service or monthly emolument at the time of retirement multiplied by the balance months of service left before normal date of retirement, whichever is less.

[Translation]

Bonded labour

829. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated or propose to formulate any scheme for abolition of bonded labour system;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time limit fixed for implementation of the said scheme; and

(c) the details of the action proposed to be taken against the persons/institutes for the violation of the rules?

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

(a) to (c) The Bonded Labour System stands abolished w.e.f. 25.10.1975 under Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Ordinance 1975 later replaced by Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. The legislation freed unilaterally all the bonded labourers from bondage with simultaneous liquidation of their debts and made the practice of bondage a cognizable offence punishable by law.

To supplement the efforts of the State Governments in rehabilitating the released bonded labourers the Ministry of Labour launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation of Bonded Labour w.e.f. 1978-79. The ongoing scheme provides rehabilitation assistance upto a ceiling of Rs. 6,250/- per bonded labourer, half of which is given as Central Share. The State Governments have been advised to suitably dovetail this scheme with other poverty alleviation and employment generation schemes for the purpose of effective rehabilitation of identified bonded labourers.

Action is taken against violators under the relevant provisions of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976.

[English]

Disbursement of Funds by Financial Institutions

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

(a) the ideal debt, equity, bonds and other financial instruments ratio for financial institutions for disbursement of funds in private sector units;

(b) whether there is any such ideal ratio for U.T.I.;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have any role in fixing this ratio; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a), (d) and (e) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that the financial institutions adopt flexible approach in regard to debt equity ratio depending on the size of the project, debt servicing capacity of the unit, risk involved in the project and other relevant factors. Though the debt equity ratio ranges between 1.5 : 1 to 2 : 1, large size projects particularly power projects in the private sector have been permitted higher debt equity ratio.

(b) and (c) Unit Trust of India (UTI) has reported that it normally follows the debt equity norms as followed by other developmental financial institutions.

**Negotiations on Financial Services
WITH W.T.O.**

831. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the details of efforts made by the Government in the negotiations on financial service which were expected to be completed by July 28, 1995 under the guidance of World Trade Organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Several rounds of bilateral negotiations were held with major trading partners at Geneva. Government also established contact with concerned authorities in major capitals. These efforts were made in order to secure a larger market access package on the movement of natural persons in return for India's offer on financial services. We also pursue our view point vigorously in the negotiating Groups set up for the purpose under the WTC.

Import Duty on Raw Material for Toys

832. SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of duty to be paid for importing raw materials for manufacture of toys;

(b) the percentage of duty to be paid for import of toys as finished goods;

(c) whether the Government have received any demand for reducing these duties; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

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

(a) Various raw materials used in the manufacture of toys attract different rates of customs duty.

(b) Toys attract peak rate of customs duty of 50% ad valorem. All toys are fully exempted from excise duty, additional duty of customs is not leviable on toys.

(c) and (d) Representations have been received both from the domestic manufacturers of toys for reduction of customs duty on raw materials used in the manufacture of toys and from the importers of toys requesting reduction of customs duty on toys as such. However, the Government is not considering, at presents, any change in the existing duty rates.

Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India

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

(a) whether Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India has approached several foreign financial institutions and multinational agencies including Asian Development Bank for a loan of 50 million dollars;

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

(c) whether IRBI has drawn up some programmes for utilisation of said loan; and

(d) if so, details thereof, State and Union Territory wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) The Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India (IRBI) has reported that it had enquired about availability of credit from Asian Development Bank (ADB). ADB has, however, expressed its inability to entertain the request. IRBI is, however, making efforts to acquire foreign currency resources so that it can also offer foreign currency loans to its borrowers.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

[Translation]

Evasion of Customs Duty by Indian/Foreign Companies

834. SHRI KUNJEE LAL :
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the companies belonging to big industrial houses and joint ventures in collaboration with foreign companies involved in evasion of customs duty and excise duty and the details of figures of duty evasion during the last three years;

(b) the names of the companies against whom the investigation of tax evasion is going on prior to year 1991 and these cases are still pending;

(c) the effective steps proposed to be taken by the Government to curb this practice in order to safeguard the revenue interest of the country;

(d) whether any of these companies is black listed for continuous violation of tax laws; and

(e) If so, the names of such companies?

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

Employment in Diamond Cutting & Polishing Sector

835. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a vast scope to provide employment to the unemployed youths in Diamond cutting and polishing sector particularly in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide more employment in diamond cutting and polishing sector; and

(c) the extent of successes achieved under the Eighth Plan?

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

[English]

Cotton Cultivation

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

(a) whether the Government have received some suggestions to increase per hectare yield of cotton in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c) As per information obtained from Ministry of Agriculture a Task Force has been set up on cotton to review the crop prospects and other related issues.

[Translation]

Fate of Surplus Employees on Computerisation in Banks

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

(a) whether a large number of employees are being declared as surplus after the computerisation of nationalised banks in metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, whether the Government are formulating any scheme to post such employees in rural and suburban branches of banks with a view to improve the working of these banks; and

(c) if not, the manner in which these employees are to be absorbed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c) In terms of the settlement signed on 29.10.1993 by the Indian Banks Association on behalf of the Managements of banks with its workmen unions with regard to computerisation in the banking industry, it has been agreed that the staff rendered surplus on account of

computerisation will be deployed elsewhere in the same city or town. The surplus staff would be adjusted in due course through re-deployment on account of growth in business, retirements, promotions, wastages, etc.

[English]

Loss Incurring Branches of SBI

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

(a) the number of branches of the SBI running in losses with the period of loss during each of the last three years together with the amount of loss incurred by these branches; and

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

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

(a) The requisite information, as reported by State Bank of India (SBI) is given below

	March, 1993	March, 1994	March, 1995
Number of branches of SBI incurring losses.	2421	3416	2906
Amount of loss (Rs. in crores)	74.88	122.05	110.87
Branches in losses for more than three years.	953	1194	1509
Branches in losses for less than 3 years.	1468	2222	1397

(b) SBI has intimated that some of the measures being adopted by it for turning around the loss making branches are increase in business levels, reduction in non-performing assets by better recovery, improvement in business mix, increase in staff productivity and efficiency, control of overheads and relocation of branches.

US Investment in Agricultural Sector

839. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether US firms are interested in bringing equity capital to the agriculture sector in India to meet its production and productivity requirements provided the ground rules in India are transparent and investment friendly;

(b) whether US Ambassador in India has stated that the rules governing investment in the agriculture sector in India should conform to the international practices; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the areas where the changes have to be brought about implying a complete overhaul of agriculture sector in India to invite the investment from abroad?

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

(a) to (c) Foreign investors have from time to time evinced interest in investment in various sectors of the Economy including the Agriculture Sector. The New Industrial Policy of July, 1991 does not, however, contemplate foreign investment in Agriculture.

Implementation of Pollution Norms by ITDC Hotel

840. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "ITDC stand on pollution norms to decide fate of its hotel in Bengal" appearing in the "Financial Express" dated July 7, 1995;

(b) if so, the details of the pollution control measures insisted upon by the West Bengal Pollution Control Board which the ITDC is finding it difficult to comply with; and

(c) the steps taken by the ITDC to solve the problem so that the hotel is not closed at the Calcutta airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The instructions of the West Bengal Pollution Control Board with regard to discharge of affluent/smoke, cleaning of water filter system etc. were complied with by ITDC and a team of the West Bengal Pollution Control Board have subsequently inspected the hotel on 14th July, 1995. Thereafter, the Pollution Control Board has not sent any communication/advice to the Hotel Airport Ashok, Calcutta and the said hotel is operating normally.

Pilots in IA & AI

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

(a) whether Indian Airlines and Air India has sufficient number of experienced Pilots/co-pilots;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not the details of the shortfall in this regard; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to recruit the required number of pilots/co-pilots?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Indian Airlines has a shortage of 83 Commanders 19 for A-300 aircraft, 42 for A-320 aircraft and 22 for B-737 aircraft. Air India has a shortage of 21 Commanders and 21 co-pilots for Boeing 747-200/300 type of aircraft.

(d) To make up the shortfall, both the airlines have geared up the process of recruitment and training of co-pilots/pilots.

Promotion of Tea

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

(a) the total quantity of tea produced during each of the last three years;

(b) the performance of different tea producing States in the production of export quality tea during the above period;

(c) the countries to which tea is being exported at present;

(d) whether there is any decline in the production of tea during the current financial year State-wise;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production during 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Statement indicating State-wise production of tea during 1993-94, 1994-95 & 1995-96 (April-June) is annexed. It is not possible to accurately quantify the share of tea exported from different states in overall exports as in most cases tea is exported in blended form

(c) Indian tea is exported at present to more than 80 countries of the world. Major importers of Indian tea are Russia & CIS countries, U.K., Germany, Poland, U.A.E., Iran, A.R.E., Japan & Saudi Arabia

(d) and (e) There is a decline in production of tea in all the tea producing states of North India during the current financial year as compared to the corresponding period during the previous year. This is mainly due to adverse agro-climatic conditions in these tea producing areas.

(f) In order to increase production, Tea Board has been operating various developmental schemes. The Board has also prepared a perspective Plan to increase production of tea which includes short-term measures such as optimisation of inputs and improved agricultural practices;

medium term measures such as irrigation, drainage, rejuvenation, pruning and infilling; and long term measures such as R & D activity, replanting and extension planting.

STATEMENT

State-wise production of Tea during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 (April-June)

State	Production (in Thousand kgs.)			
	1993 -94 (April- March)	1994 -95 (April- March)	1995 -96 (April- June)	1994 -95 (April- June)
Assam	395,815	403,581	99,395	119,625
West Bengal	160,176	156,563	38,777	48,971
Others	7,585	8,033	1,010	1,087
Total North India	563,576	568,177	139,182	169,683
Tamil Nadu	115,449	104,408	33,819	32,787
Kerala	70,503	60,883	20,287	18,960
Karnataka	4,009	3,920	1,361	1,226
Total South India	189,961	169,211	55,467	52,973
All India	753,537	737,388	194,649	222,656

Mysore Airport

843. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Mysore Airport has become an unutilised airport;

(b) if so, since when the Mysore airport was operating flights and since when it was discontinued

(c) the reasons for the discontinuation of flights from this airport;

(d) the amount spent for maintenance of the above airport during the last three years, yearwise.

(e) whether the Government propose to commercially utilise the above airport, and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM

(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Air services to/from Mysore airport were being operated from April, 1985 till September, 1989. Due to operational and commercial reasons, Vayudoot had to discontinue its services from September, 1989.

(d) Airports Authority of India have not incurred any expenditure during the last three years on the maintenance of this airport.

(e) and (f) Commercial utilisation of the airport depends upon the airlines commencing operations from Mysore.

Development of Civil Aviation in U.P.

844. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV :
SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD :

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

(a) the details of the projects approved for the development of Civil Aviation in Uttar Pradesh during the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(b) the project-wise amount provided to the State by the Union Government for this purpose during the Eighth Five Year Plan, till date; and

(c) the details of development works undertaken/being undertaken in the State during the current Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India have undertaken the following works of various airports in Uttar Pradesh during the 8th Five Year Plan :

- Installation of various equipment for Aeronautical Communication Services at Agra, Allahabad, Dehradun, Gorakhpur, Lucknow and Varanasi.
- Ground and safety services at Dehradun, Gorakhpur, Lucknow and Varanasi.
- Expansion and development of Terminal Building at Agra, Lucknow and Varanasi.
- Widening of taxi track at Agra.
- New Apron & taxi track and resurfacing of runway at Lucknow.

No amount has been allocated by the Union Government to the State Government for development of civil aviation in Uttar Pradesh during the 8th Five Year Plan.

Rice Deal in STC

845. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in 'Financial Express' dated July 19, 1995 under the caption "STC rice deal commission payment exceeds profit";

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government to the observations made therein?

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

(b) and (c) As a part of its efforts at diversification, particularly in the non-canalised sector, STC finalised its first over agreement for export of rice to Government of Bangladesh. The agency commission payable was well within the ceiling prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India. The subsequent increase in the freight charges, discharge port expenses and demurrage, etc. has resulted in a reduction of STC's projected margin. The final position about the profitability of the transaction will be known only after all details of expenses are received and settled.

Privatisation of Airports

846. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government propose to privatise some of the airports; and

(b) If so, the airports identified for privatisation. State-wise?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Settlement of Insurance Claims

847. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4624 on May 5, 1995 regarding insurance Policies and state :

(a) whether the information with regard to the Insurance Policies revived and claims paid thereon by the New India Assurance Co. Ltd. at Delhi during the financial year 1994-95 has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

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

(a) to (c) Assurance given to the House in response to Unstarred Question No. 4624 on 5.5.1995 has been fulfilled on 1.8.1995. The information is, however, reproduced as under :

"GIC has reported that, in one such case, premium cheque could not be realised as the concerned office of the insurance company at New Delhi included the cheque in the local clearing column. The cheque which was actually drawn on a Bank at Bombay was returned by the insurance company's Bank without any memo. The insured was not, however, informed about the same by the insurance company and he was under the impression of having the policy in force. The matter came to light only when the claim was lodged by the insured. The insurance company rectified the position by collecting the premium in question in cash and the claim was settled for Rs. 20,500/-".

Funds Crunch in Nabard

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

- (a) whether the NABARD is facing severe funds crunch;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the main factors responsible therefor;
- (c) the steps being taken to remedy the situation?

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) provides refinance support to base level financial institutions for lending to rural sectors and does experience resource gap. Assistance is being extended to NABARD from the general resources of the Government by way of grant and loan to the extent to Rupees Counterpart Funds relating to external agencies. Share Capital contribution of Rs. 85 crores each during 1995-96 has been sanctioned by Government and is being sanctioned by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) taking the authorised and paid-up capital of NABARD to Rs. 500 crores. Besides, RBI is extending general lines of credit to NABARD and Govt. of India allows market borrowing by NABARD with its guarantee every year to increase its resources.

(c) NABARD has approached Government to increase its authorised capital to Rs. 2000 crores from Rs. 500 crores to augment its resources.

Securities Scam

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "CBI alleges misuse of Rs. 44 crore E.E.P.C., HUDCO funds" appearing in the Economic Times dated March 13, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the total amount the Government have lost due to financial scams during the last three years?

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

(b) CBI have reported that two cases have been registered by them in the matter relating to misuse of funds invested by HUDCO with Allbank Finance Ltd., Calcutta and illegal placement of funds by EEPC with a broker. The investigation of CBI in both these cases has not been completed.

(c) As indicated in the Action Taken Report (AIR) on the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee which enquired into the irregularities in securities and banking transactions laid in the Parliament on 26.7.1994, the problem exposure of banks/Financial Institutions was assessed by the Janakiraman Committee and Inter-Disciplinary Group constituted under the Chairmanship of Custodian at Rs. 4024.45 crores and Rs. 3651.35 crores respectively. In the revised paragraphs of the ATR submitted in the Parliament on 20.12.1994, it was inter-alia indicated that the loss (excluding interest etc.) to the Indian banks/financial institutions on account of notified brokers would not exceed Rs. 320 crores.

[Translation]

Tourist Spots of Historical Importance in U.P.

850. SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received information regarding some new historical places in Uttar Pradesh which could be developed as tourist spots;

(b) whether information has been received in regard to existence of the World's only one 6000 years old Parizet tree in Barabanki district;

(c) if so, whether any proposal has been sent by the Government of Uttar Pradesh for the development of this place as a place of tourist attraction; and

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

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

(b) to (d) The Department of Tourism, Government of India had sought information from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh on the old Parijat Tree existing in Barabanki District. The State Govt. have informed that measures have been taken for the preservation of the Tree and improving the environs around it. Rs. 3 lakhs has been earmarked in the District Plan for the Year 1995-96 to construct the railings to protect the Tree. The State Government has also constituted a local Parijat Management Committee for the development of the area around the Parijat Tree.

[English]

Unemployment Review Committees

851. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKTAESWARLU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted review committees to go into the problem of sectoral Unemployment in the country;

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

(c) the details of the constitution of these review committees?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, it may be mentioned that a Committee (of Ministers) on boosting employment for the Educated Unemployed was set up in November 1991 under the Chairmanship of the Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission and an NDC Committee on Employment was set up in Feb./April 1992 under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister of Assam and consisting of Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Goa & Sikkim and Minister of State for Coal and Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports & Women & Child Development and Member, Planning Commission.

Interim Relief to Journalists

852. SHRI RABI RAY :
SHRI JANARDAN MISRA :
SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a newsitem appearing in the Hindustan Times dated July 6, 1995 under caption "Journalist organisation demand interim relief;"

(b) whether major organisations of newspaper industry have urged the Manisana Wage Board to take a decision on interim relief to be awarded to the journalists;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the newspaper industry has substantially prospered in the post-Bachawat period; and

(e) the decision of the Wage Board in this regard?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Several organisations representing journalists, non-journalists and other newspaper and news agency employees have placed demands for payment of interim relief. The Wage Boards have fixed oral hearings from 22nd to 25th August, 1995 to consider these demands.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Goods

853. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of smuggled goods seized at International Airports during the last three months;

(b) the number of persons arrested in this connection; and

(c) the details of the action taken against them?

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.

Conveyance Allowance to Central Government Employees

854. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide conveyance allowance to the Central Government Employees working in metropolitan cities,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Employment Opportunities

855. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of labour force of the country engaged in agriculture sector and the large scale industry sector, sector-wise;

(b) whether there is any scope for creation of more employment opportunities in the above sectors;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the other steps taken to generate more employment opportunities in the country in order to control the ever increasing unemployment in the country?

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

(a) The percentage of estimated employment in different sectors as on 31-3-1995 is indicated below :

Sl. No.	Industry/Sectors	Employment (in percentage)
1	Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	62.55
2	Mining & Quarrying	0.88
3	Manufacturing	11.27
4	Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	0.36
5	Construction	4.24
6	Trade & Transport	10.92
7	Financing, Insurance, Real Estate & Business Services	0.84
8	Community, Social & Personal Services	8.94

(b) to (d) Employment is a thrust area of the Eighth Plan. The Plan emphasises the need for a high rate of economic growth combined with faster growth of sectors, sub-sectors and areas having relatively high employment potential for enhancing the pace of employment generation. There are special programmes being implemented to provide employment to the unemployed persons in rural and urban areas.

[English]

Fraud in Imported Marble

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Importers carve a Custom-made fraud in imported marble" appearing in the Indian Express dated June 9, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts of the case and action taken by the Government against the persons found responsible in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to prevent such frauds in future?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the news item appearing in the Indian Express dated 9th June, 1995.

(b) and (c) Import of marble against Advance Licences under Duty Exemption Scheme were noticed in the ports of Bombay and Nhava Sheva. Goods were mostly imported against transferred Advance Licences. The imports were therefore replenishment of the inputs already used in the exports. In all cases where there was no evidence of imported marble having been used in the export product, goods were either charged to duty or allowed provisional clearance against bond under the Custom law. In cases where under-valuation was suspected, duty was charged at enhanced value provisionally. Higher export prices were in respect of articles in the nature of artifacts which are costly products of marble and therefore the allegation of over invoicing is not correct. Some of the cases where contraventions have been noticed were adjudicated in terms of the provisions of Customs Act and in other cases action according to law is being taken. The allegation of fraud and collusion with Customs Authorities in the news-item is, therefore, not correct. The total value of import of marbles in the two ports for the period 1992-1995 (upto 31.3.95) is only Rs. 14 crores approximately.

Hence, the allegation of a Rs. 100 crore fraud is also not correct.

Foreign Visits by CMs

857. DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE
MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUVAN CHANDRA
KHANDURI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chief Ministers of several States have made visits of foreign countries for soliciting foreign funds for investment in their respective States; and

(b) if so, the number of MOUs signed by the Chief Ministers with foreign investors and the total investment committed during the current year so far, State-wise?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

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

I.D.F. Commitment for 1995-96

858. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY :
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL :
SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the India Development Forum (IDF) has pledged \$6.8 billion as consortium commitment for 1995-96 at a meeting in Paris on June 29, 1995;

(b) if so, on precise terms fixed alongwith the concessional component of the pledge, country-wise and institution-wise;

(c) whether this aid comprises \$ 1.2 to 1.5 billion aid from Japan, constituting an all time high Japanese assistance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the projects which are likely to be financed through this credit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) :
(a) At the India Development Forum meeting held on 29th & 30th June, 1995 in Paris, the indication of pledges made by multilateral, bilateral and major donor nations was US \$ 6.9 billion.

(b) The country-wise and institution-wise components of the pledges made alongwith the concessional component is as under :

in US dollar (millions)

Country	Total	of which grants or interest free loans
1	2	3
Bilateral		
Bilgium	1.7	1.7
Canada	46.0	46.0
Denmark	40.7	40.7
France	80.0	-
Germany	362.5	189.9
Italy	39.9	0.8
Japan	1,447.6	-
Netherlands	119.2	119.2
Norway	11.6	10.5
Sweden	66.4	44.8

1	2	3
Switzerland	46.1	38.4
United Kingdom	222.3	149.7
United States	171.5	171.3
Sub-total	2,655.5	813.0

Multilateral

ADB	760.0	10.0
EC	167.5	167.5
European Inv. Bank	53.6	-
IBRD/IDA	2,500—2,800	1,200—1,500
IFAD	20.0	20.0
Nordic Inv. Bank	70.0	6.0
UN System	241.9	241.9
IFC	200.0	-
Sub-total	4,013.0—4,313.0	1,645.4—1,945.4
Total :	6668.5—6968.5	2458.4—2758.4

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The amount of pledge indicated by Japan is US \$1.4 billion. The precise details regarding terms and conditions and the projects which are likely to be financed through this credit will be known only after the aid negotiations/agreements are finalised with the donor agency.

Waiving of Outstanding Loans by Banks

859. DR. SHRIMATI K.S. SOUNDARAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the nationalised banks have been allowed to waive a part of their outstanding loans;

(b) if so, the salient features of the policy and the guidelines in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have received suggestions from different sections of the society for the prevention of possible differential relaxations in deciding individual cases of waivers and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) :
(a) and (b) It is a management decision of banks to waive, write or enter into compromise with the borrowers of the bank. The bank's functionaries are expected to take

judicious decisions subject to such safeguards/conditions and reporting as the boards might prescribe. However, banks have been advised by RBI that while approving write-off and compromise proposals, the following aspects should be scrupulously followed by them :

- (i) The authority approving the write-off proposal did not sanction the advance in question in his individual capacity.
- (ii) The sanctioning authority in the case of advances had exercised his powers judiciously, and adhered to the guidelines issued by the bank in the matter of grant of advances and that normal terms and conditions were stipulated.
- (iii) There was no laxity in the conduct and post disbursement supervision of the advances.
- (iv) There was no act of commission or commission on the part of the staff leading to the debt proving irrecoverable; and
- (v) All possible steps to recover the dues have been taken and there are no further prospects of recovering the debt and that writing off or compromise is in the larger interest of the bank.

(c) and (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Bureau of Frauds

860. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA :
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up a special Bureau to look into the financial frauds exclusively;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the Bureau is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) :
(a) to (c) A proposal to set a Special Bureau of Frauds to look into frauds in banks is under consideration of Government.

Panel to Resolve Agitation by Pilots of IA

861. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI :
SHRI BOLLI RAMAIAH :
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL :

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

- (a) whether a panel has been set up to resolve agitation by pilots of Indian Airlines;
- (b) the reasons for the strike and how long this strike continued;
- (c) whether even after reaching at an agreement to resolve the dispute, the pilots of Indian Airlines continued to be on strike;
- (d) on what terms the disputes were resolved; and
- (e) the total loss suffered on this account?

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

(b) Indian Commercial Pilots's Association (ICPA) had issued a directive on 5th June, 1995 to all its members asking them not to fly with any cabin crew who was in a grade higher than that of some of the pilots, as it would interfere with the chain of command on board the flight. The agitation continued from 8th June to 26th June, 1995.

(c) and (d) Following discussions with the Indian Airlines Management and the Chief Labour Commissioner, the Indian Commercial Pilots Association (ICPA) has agreed to keep its directives to the pilots in abeyance. However, some of the members of ICPA are still following certain directives issued by ICPA.

(e) The estimated loss on account of the agitation between 8.6.95 and 26.6.95 is about Rs. 42 lakhs.

[Translation]

Seizure of Drugs

862. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :
SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the number of cases pertaining to drug trafficking is on increase in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of cases pertaining to seizure of drugs amounting to more than 10 lakh rupees during the last three years, State-wise; and
- (d) the number of persons arrested in each of these cases?

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

(a) to (d) No precise valuation of drugs, which are often of indeterminate strength and composition and are liable for destruction, can be made. However, as per the

available information, a Statement showing State-wise total number of cases and persons arrested pertaining to seizure of drugs during the last 3 years, is annexed.

STATEMENT

States	1992		1993		1994	
	No. of cases	Persons arrested	No. of cases	Persons arrested	No. of case	Persons arrested
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	8	20	215	218	383	404
A & N Island	3	3	1	1	3	3
Arunachal Pradesh	13	4	12	12	47	50
Assam	96	127	198	201	116	122
Bihar	373	110	124	126	189	198
Chandigarh	41	35	8	9	12	13
D. N. Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-
Delhi	620	612	588	597	644	679
Goa	20	32	35	36	35	37
Gujarat	19	32	209	212	279	294
Haryana	132	135	151	154	136	143
Himachal Pradesh	63	46	71	72	88	93
J & K	41	44	36	37	41	43
Karnataka	62	53	213	217	130	137
Kerala	161	159	20	22	144	152
Lakshdweep	-	-	-	-	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	96	112	741	752	1052	1110
Maharashtra	860	1022	1388	1404	659	694
Manipur	372	290	323	328	894	941
Meghalaya	34	14	39	40	87	92
Mizoram	162	203	120	122	99	104
Nagaland	94	159	114	116	75	79
Orissa	15	16	91	92	206	217
Pondicherry	6	-	4	4	1	1
Punjab	103	211	319	324	300	316

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rajasthan	113	113	197	203	403	424
Sikkim	1	-	-	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu	3080	2929	2468	2503	2700	2850
Tripura	1	1	15	16	30	32
Uttar Pradesh	6071	6284	5646	5732	5662	5969
West Bengal	91	77	172	173	242	255
Total	12751	12850	13518	13723	14657	15452

[English]

Consumer Financing by Banks

(Rs. in Crores)

863. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite having been allowed to enter into leasing and hire purchase for about a year now, the nationalised banks have not been able to make much headway in consumer finance;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether any new action plan is being considered by nationalised banks to help the consumer finance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

[Translation]

Foreign Loans

864. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the amount of foreign loans received and the interest paid thereon and amount of the loan in percentage paid during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) :
The amount of foreign loans received, interest paid and the interest payment as percentage of loan, amount received on Government and Non-Government account

during the last three years are as under :-

Year	Foreign loan received	Interest paid	Percentage of interest payment to foreign loans received
1992-93	10102	3961	39.21
1993-94	10895	4199	38.54
1994-95	9953	4772	47.94

[English]

Industrial and Infrastructure Bank

865. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Finance Minister had announced in Budget Speech for setting up of an industrial and infrastructure Bank for the North-Eastern region; and

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

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

(a) In his Budget Speech of 1995-96, Finance Minister inter alia announced that with a view to accelerating industrial development, a new North Eastern Development Bank would be established to finance creation, expansion and modernisation of industrial enterprises and infrastructure projects in the region.

(b) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has been assigned the responsibility of setting up of the North Eastern Development Bank (Now registered by

the name of North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Limited). The Corporation would have an authorised capital of Rs. 500 crores and initial paid-up capital of Rs. 100 crores to be contributed by various financial institutions/banks. The Memorandum and Articles of Association for the new Corporation have been finalised. IDBI has also identified a Chief Executive to head the Corporation and also prepared a preliminary list of persons for induction on the board of the Corporation.

CBI Investigation into LIC

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

(a) whether an official study has been carried out in Twenty two divisions of LIC for the year 1992-93 and findings were circulated to all the divisional offices in February, 1995;

(b) if so, the details and conclusions drawn;

(c) whether the CBI has also made investigations and has reported that LIC racket has been going on in Rajasthan and some other divisions of LIC in the country?

(d) if so, the details and mode of operation, evolved therein; and

(e) the action taken against those involved and steps proposed to put a check on such evils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. LIC has reported that a study has been carried out of 'Zero duration lapses' for new policies issued during the year 1992-93 in 22 out of 100 Divisions. The major conclusions arising out of the study are (a) incidence of lapsation of policies is comparatively high where the sum assured ranges between Rs. 5000/- and Rs. 10,000/-; (b) lapsation of policies decreases with increase in age of the policy holder; (c) lapse is more under policies with terms of 30 years or more; (d) the percentage of lapsation is greater in rural areas; (e) lapsation is generally high in low cost policies; (f) the percentage of lapsation after payment of first instalment premium for these 22 Divisions is about 27%.

(c) LIC has reported that CBI has done some investigations in three Branch Offices of LIC in Rajasthan wherein they have come across some irregularities.

(d) LIC has reported that CBI has alleged that policies were booked under non-existent State Government employees under Salary Savings Scheme. Also there were cases of cheques for the premium getting dishonoured.

(e) LIC has reported that the investigation is being

carried out and appropriate action will be initiated against the staff involved in irregularities after the completion of the inquiry.

External Debt Payment Liability

867. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has prepared a document on "India's external Debt Payment Liability";

(b) if so, the main points raised in the document; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In a paper on India's rising external debt repayment liability and imperatives for accelerated export growth, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has made projections on India's external debt burden, debt repayment liability, export and import growth etc.

(c) The Government recognizes the need for increasing the current receipts and non-debt creating capital flows for sustainable debt management. Exports have shown remarkably high performance in recent years because of the congenial policy environment. The incentives provided by the market determined exchange rate have brought about significant improvements in the performance of invisible earnings. The policy in regard to foreign investments has been liberalized and the response has been very encouraging.

Imports have shown very high growth in recent years reflecting the strong revival of domestic industrial production and the export performance linked to exports. In the years to come, imports can be expected to record a growth rate which will be in alignment with the rate of expansion of the economy and show an increased degree of price sensitivity.

The Government is keeping a close watch on the external debt situation with a view to keeping it within prudent limits. The Government and the RBI have taken a number of measures to contain high cost external debt. These include, reduction in the interest rate and phasing out of some high cost and volatile NRI deposit.

Accounts and encouragement to corporate sector to repay high cost external debt. With the introduction a much more open approach to foreign investment, dependence on debt creating flow of capital stands reduced.

The Government have also taken number of steps to

bring about improvement in revenue receipts, to eliminate unessential and low priority expenditures and to reduce dependence on borrowed funds for financing current expenditure.

Seizure of Drugs at IGIA

868. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Indian links established in the drug cartel busted after arrest at Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi on November 12, 1994;

(b) the result of hunt for cartel operators internationally;

(c) whether origin of the heroin could be established;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the steps taken for anti-drug operation involving India?

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

(a) A German national was arrested on 12.11.1994 at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi for carrying 8 kg Heroin in her checked-in baggage. So far no arrests have been made in India in the follow up action.

(b) to (d) As a result of concerted action in Germany and Spain, 9 persons have been arrested, 7 kg of Heroin was seized and several bank accounts have been frozen. Investigations are still in progress. The suspected source of drugs is Pakistan.

(e) Instructions have been issued to all the enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts under the stringent provisions contained in NDPS Act. Training is being imparted to officers to improve their effectiveness. Vehicles and communication equipment have been provided. A part of Indo-Pak border has been fenced. BSF and Coast Guards who are deployed on land and coastal borders have been vested with the powers under the Customs Act to interdict narcotics drugs on the border in addition to the Central and State Government enforcement agencies empowered under the NDPS Act.

National Silk Yarn Bank Scheme

869. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have introduced National Silk Yarn Bank Scheme on Pilot basis for the States which are major consumer of silk yarn in the handloom sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance provided under this scheme since the inception, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c) A Statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Silk Yarn Bank Scheme was introduced during the year 1993-94 on pilot basis in selected States namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Orissa, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and other North Eastern States, with the objectives of making available quality silk yarn to handloom weavers at stable prices. The scheme has also been extended to Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Manipur.

(c) The State-wise assistance provided under this Scheme since its inception is as under :

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. State No.	1993 -94	1994 -95	Total amount
1. Andhra Pradesh	27.00	-	27.00
2. Assam	13.50	33.83	47.33
3. Gujarat	-	4.25	4.25
4. Karnataka	-	42.00	42.00
5. Kerala	-	24.245	24.245
6. Maharashtra	-	23.33	23.33
7. Manipur	-	1.225	1.225
8. Orissa	50.30	53.71	104.01
9. Tamil Nadu	25.00	56.00	81.00
10. Uttar Pradesh	54.00	16.20	70.20
11. West Bengal	24.875	25.21	50.085
12. N.H.D.C.	13.50	-	13.50
Total	208.175	280.00	488.175

Child Labour

870. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the recent enunciation of "social clause theory" by the US and other European countries which have adversely affected Indian exports particularly carpets and other textile goods, the

Government in cooperation and coordination with the State Governments have formulated any 'Action Plan' for elimination of child labour in a phased manner starting with the hazardous industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating inter-alia the number of children involved therein and the estimated expenditure required for their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) The Government of India does not accept the "social clause", which is an unwarranted conditionality on international trade. Government has made its opposition to "social clause" abundantly clear in several forums, including the International Labour Conference and the recently concluded World Summit for Social Development.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister had announced on 15th August, 1994 that 20 lakh children engaged in hazardous vocations will be withdrawn from work and put into schools in the course of next 4-5 years. As a follow-up to this announcement, a National Authority for Elimination of Child Labour (NAECL) has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Union Labour Minister. The NAECL has adopted a plan of action regarding "Identification, Release and Rehabilitation of Child Labour". This plan of action Hon'ble Prime Minister and Union Labour Minister for necessary action. This plan of action covers the range of actions to tackle the child labour problem especially in hazardous occupations. Briefly, it calls for a convergence of services and schemes of the Central and State Governments at the implementing level-the District level to effectively handle the child labour elimination effort. It has been estimated that an amount of Rs. 850 crores would be required to eliminate 20 lakhs child labour from the hazardous occupations by the year 2000. An allocation of Rs. 34.4 crores has been made for the current year to undertake projects for children withdrawn from work.

Decline in Export of Tea

871. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA :
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity with percentage of tea production available for exports in 1981 and 1993;

(b) the reasons for decline in export performance of tea; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost tea production per hectare?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Required information is as follows

Year	Production (in kg)	Exports (in kg)	Exports as % of Production.
1981	560.43	242.07	43.19%
1993	758.06	175.32	23.13%

(b) Reasons for lower quantum of exports are attributable to lower imports by Russia and other CIS countries on account of their internal economic problems; lower imports of tea by Iran, Egypt and Saudi Arabia and competition from other producing countries.

(c) In order to increase production, Tea Board has been operating various developmental schemes. Tea Board has also prepared a perspective plan to increase total production as well as optimisation of inputs and improved agricultural practices; medium term measures such as irrigation, drainage, rejuvenation, pruning and infilling; as well as long term measures such as re-planting and effective R & D intervention.

Export of Electronic Items to Western Europe

872. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether there is a steady increase in the export of electronic items particularly to the Western Europe during each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There has been a steady increase in the export of electronic items. India's export of electronic items and to West European countries during the last three years is as under :

India's export of electronic items

	(Rs. Crores)		
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
	617.08	952.14	1273.31
Growth (%)	-	+ 54.29	+ 33.73

Export to West European countries

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
	118.15	205.74	280.84

Export Oriented Units in the Areas Marked for Small Scale Sectors

873. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to permit export oriented units to enter such areas which were earlier marked for small scale sectors for allocation of funds to States for building infrastructure for Export Oriented Units;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the details of such areas; and

(c) the details of precautions taken for the protection of small scale sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Export-Oriented Units (EOUs) undertake to export their entire production and may be set up for all permissible items including those reserved for Small Scale Industries (SSI). EOUs are provided with a limited access to the domestic market as a safety net against international market fluctuations but this is not expected to significantly affect the domestic industry.

Besides, non-SSI units in the Domestic Tariff area are also permitted to manufacture items reserved for the small scale sector on their undertaking to export 75% of their production.

A centrally sponsored 'Export Promotion Industrial Parks (EPIP) Scheme has been formulated to assist State Governments in establishing infrastructural facilities for export oriented production. So far such Parks have been approved to be set up in Dhandari Kalan (Punjab), Ambamath (Maharashtra) Baddi (HP), Sitapura (Rajasthan), Hoodi (Karnataka), Kakkanad (Kerala), Kundli (Haryana), Surajpur (U.P.), Gummidipoondi (Tamil Nadu), Pashamylaram (A.P.), Savli (Gujarat), Hajipur (Bihar), Durgapur (West Bengal), Bymihat (Meghalaya), and Dewas (M.P.).

Child Labour

874. SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether environmental degradation has ramifications on child labour;

(b) whether the Centre of Concern For Child Labour (CCFCL) has conducted any study in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to tackle the phenomenal growth in the number of child labourers?

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

(b) and (c) As per information received from Centre of Concern for Child Labour, they have conducted a Study of relationship between environment and Child Labour. The Centre of Concern for Child Labour has further reported that the full and final report will be ready after some time.

(d) Government of India has recognised that child labour is due to a large number of factors such as poverty, lack of education, lack of awareness etc. Keeping all this in view, the Government announced the National Policy on Child Labour in August, 1987 to tackle the problem of child labour. National Child Labour Policy has three point action plans to rehabilitate child labour i.e. (i) a legislative action plan; (ii) focussing of general development programmes for benefitting children wherever possible and (iii) project-based action plan in areas of high concentration of child labour engaged in wage/quasi-wage employment.

At present, 12 National Child Labour Projects are under implementation in 8 States covering approximately 16,000 children. A major activity undertaken under the National Child Labour Projects is establishment of special schools to provide basic needs like non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition etc., to the children withdrawn from employment. Voluntary agencies are being financially assisted to the extent of 75% for taking up welfare projects for working children under the Grants-in-Aid Scheme. A major programme has been launched by the Government of India to eliminate child labour estimated at 20 lakhs working in hazardous occupations, by the year 2000. For the current year, the Planning Commission has allotted Rs. 34.4 crores with the assurance of more funds, depending upon performance.

Shortage of Pilots in IA

875. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Indian Airlines Air bus -300 aircraft are not being flown due to shortage of trained pilots; and

(b) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to recruit and train adequate number of suitable and technically qualified pilots for Airbus-300 aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Due to shortage of Commanders, IA is presently unable to make optimum use of the A 300 aircraft on its fleet.

(b) The training of pilots is required to be carried out as per the career pattern, agreed between Indian Commercial Pilots Association (ICPA) and the Management. As per the present career pattern, Commanders on A-320 type of aircraft are to be trained as Commanders on A-300 type of aircraft. At present, Indian Airlines is unable to upgrade A-320 Commanders as A-300 Commanders due to shortage of Commanders on A-320 type of aircraft.

However, in order to maintain the planned schedule, Indian Airlines has offered contractual appointment to A-300 Commanders who have retired during the last two years. In addition, one retired Air India Commander has also been appointed on contract basis.

Trade Deficit

876. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the trade deficit has increased enormously in the recent months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of import and export position at present; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Trade deficit during April-June, 1995 is provisionally estimated at US \$ 824.20 million which is higher than the deficit during the corresponding period last year.

(b) The increased level of deficit could be attributed to an increase in both oil and non-oil imports, the latter comprising raw materials, intermediates, capital goods and export-linked imports; the higher-level of non-oil imports is due to a higher industrial growth and an accelerated export performance.

(c) Details of exports and imports during the first quarter (April-June), 1995-96 and growth thereof are as under :

	US \$ Million	% Growth
Imports	7991.70 (P)	37.5
Exports	7167.50 (P)	27.7

(P : Provisional).

(d) Recognising that international trade is a key component of global economic activity today, the

Government have taken a number of steps to encourage and maintain strong export growth. India's trade policy was liberalised in July '91 to respond to the opportunities and challenges posed by the domestic and international developments. The trade policy is aimed at creating a freer environment for trade, strengthening the export promotion structure, removing procedural irritants through simplification and streamlining of procedures, increasing export production, improving efficiency and sharpening competitive edge, facilitating input availability, focussing on quality and technological upgradation besides introducing and strengthening schemes for export promotion. Efforts have been made to provide cheaper export credit and provide tax exemption on export profits. Export Promotion is a continuous process and steps are taken to boost exports in consultation with trade, industry and concerned institutions.

Expansion of Fleet by Air India

877. SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (Deepa) : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Air India to expand fleet by wet leasing" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated June 24, 1995;

(b) if so, the details of the points mentioned in the news-item and the present position/decision taken to acquire the aircraft; and

(c) the routes on which these aircraft are likely to be deployed?

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

(b) and (c) Air India is taking steps to improve its product, image and on time performance. As regards acquisition of additional aircraft on lease basis, no final decision has been taken so far.

Seized Hashish

878. SHRI SIMON MARANDI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether hashish and some other objectionable items have been seized by customs department from several foreign nationals who were going abroad from Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of such foreign nationals from whom charas, hashish and other objectionable items have been seized since January, 1995 till date;

(c) the details of the seizure made in this regard;

(d) the number of persons arrested and punished in these cases; and

(e) the number of such cases referred to various courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (e) Eleven cases of seizure of Hashish & Heroin from 13 foreign nationals have been booked at IGI Airport, New Delhi from January, 1995 till date. In all, Heroin weighing 8.018 kg. and Hashish weighing 57.513 kg. was seized from them. All the thirteen foreign nationals have been arrested and produced before concerned Courts. Court proceedings are in progress.

[Translation]

Houses for Handloom Weavers

879. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH :
SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government provide assistance to State Governments for construction of houses for handloom weavers;

(b) if so, the assistance provided for the purpose during the last three years and the number of weavers benefited therefrom, State-wise; and

(c) the assistance proposed to be provided during the year 1995-96?

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

(b) The amount of assistance provided to State Governments for Construction of Workshed-cum-Houses and Workshed for/Handloom Weavers during the last 3 years and the number of weavers benefitted therefrom State-wise, areas under :

S. No.	State	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95	
		Amount of assistance provided	No. of Weavers benefited	Amount of assistance provided	No. of weavers benefited	Amount of assistance provided	No. of weavers benefited
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	175.785	2227	159.00	3100
2.	Assam	40.00	1000	8.87	222	143.13	2078
3.	Bihar	37.00	1633	52.00	1300	80.00	2000
4.	Himachal Pradesh	11.20	280	28.00	700	29.49	750
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	5.00	333	3.76	94	3.27	218
6.	Karnataka	60.34	431	32.94	824	80.00	2000
7.	Kerala	28.86	557	70.4797	587	95.10	1137
8.	Madhya Pradesh	19.03	1269	40.00	1000	18.24	456
9.	Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	22.00	550
10.	Manipur	-	-	30.00	750	45.60	1140
11.	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	1.20	30
12.	Mizoram	-	-	4.00	100	10.00	250
13.	Orissa	60.00	1500	40.00	1000	100.00	2500
14.	Rajasthan	-	-	40.16	1004	6.00	150

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15.	Tripura	8.50	400	8.00	200	40.00	1000
16.	Tamil Nadu	121.50	2100	84.00	600	56.00	400
17.	Uttar Pradesh	110.50	3287	182.00	2600	182.00	3050
18.	West Bengal	-	-	-	-	43.97	1200
Total		501.93	12790	799.9947	13208	1115.00	22009

(c) There is a provision of Rs. 12.00 crores under Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme for providing assistance to State Government for construction of Workshed-cum-Houses/Worksheds for Handloom Weavers during the year 1995-96.

Financial Assistance to Banks

880. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the financial assistance provided to Nationalised Banks from the Central budget during each of the last three years, bank-wise;

(b) whether the capital of the concerned nationalised banks does not increase by this process because the financial assistance given to them is taken back in other form by the Government; and

(c) if so, the amount received back by the Union

Government in other form from those banks to whom financial assistance was provided during the last three years?

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

(a) The amounts contributed by Government of India during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 towards recapitalisation of the nationalised banks are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Since the contribution made by the government of India is towards the share capital of the Banks, their paid-up capital will increase.

(c) The contribution made by the Government towards recapitalisation of the banks was simultaneously invested by the banks in Government bonds carrying fixed interest rate except for the sum of Rs. 924.58 crores given in cash to six nationalised banks.

STATEMENT

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 Tier-I	1994-95 Tier-II
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Allahabad Bank	50	90	356.20	101.61
2.	Andhra Bank	40	150	184.32	-
3.	Bank of Baroda	45	400	-	-
4.	Bank of India	110	635	848.38	348.22
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	40	150	334.19	-
6.	Canara Bank	-	365	-	-
7.	Central Bank of India	50	490	632.46	-
8.	Corporation Bank	20	45	-	-
9.	Dena Bank	-	130	6.11	72.28

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Indian Bank	50	220	230.96	180.94
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	50	705	358.60	132.74
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	20	50	-	-
13.	Punjab National Bank	-	415	-	-
14.	Punjab & Sind Bank	20	160	116.03	-
15.	Syndicate Bank	85	680	278.59	88.79
16.	UCO Bank	-	535	515.52	-
17.	Union Bank of India	50	200	-	-
18.	United Bank of India	-	215	538.87	-
19.	Vijaya Bank	25	65	62.31	-
20.	New Bank of India	45	-	-	-
Total		700	5700	4362.54	924.58

[English]

World Bank Aid for Tamil Nadu

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

(a) whether the World Bank has recently approved loans for two development projects in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the names of projects and the amount of loans approved for these projects; and

(c) the time by which work on each of these projects is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The World Bank Board has approved two projects for Tamil Nadu on 20.6.95 namely IInd Madras Water Supply (New Veeranam) and Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project for an amount of US \$ 275.8 million and US \$ 282.9 million respectively.

(c) The loan agreements are yet to be signed. However, since re-troactive financing has been envisaged, the works commenced in both the projects would be eligible for reimbursements as part of the project.

National Child Labour Project

882. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the National Child Labour Projects under implementation in the States particularly in Orissa;

(b) the number of children covered under the project, State-wise;

(c) the details of the major activities undertaken under the projects; and

(d) the amount allocated and utilized during the last two years till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) There are 12 National Child Labour Projects under implementation in 8 States at present. The number of children covered under the Projects, State-wise is as follows :

S. No.	State	District	No. of Children
1	2	3	4
1.	U. P.	Ferozabad	1500
2.		Moradabad	500
3.		Aligarh	500
4.		Mirzapur-Bhadohi	2500
5.	A. P.	Markapur	1000

1	2	3	4
6.		Jaggempet	100
7.	Tamil Nadu	Sivakasi	2350
8.	Madhya Pradesh	Mandsaur	900
9.	Bihar	Garhwa	450
10.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	1000
11.	Maharashtra	Thane	2000
12.	Orissa	Sambalpur	3000

(c) A major activity undertaken under the National Child Labour Project is establishment of special schools to provide basic needs like non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition etc., to the children withdrawn from employment.

(d) Total allocation of funds during 1993-94, 1994-95 are Rs. 3.20 crores and Rs. 3.63 crores respectively. Utilisation figures are not yet available.

Amounts are released to project Societies and NGOs implementing projects under the NCLP Schemes and not to the State Governments.

Introduction of Pass Book Scheme for Exporters.

883. SHRI RAM PRASED SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have introduced pass-book scheme for exporters to simplify the process of exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its benefits; and

(c) the definition of 'international prices' for the credit for exports?

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

(b) Details in this regard are contained in the revised version of the EXIM Policy and the Hand Book of Procedures (Vol. I), as brought out on 31st March and 30th April 1995 respectively. The format of the Pass Book has subsequently been streamlined vide Public Notice No. 301 (PN)/92-97 dated 29th July, 1995. Copies of the EXIM Policy Hand Book of Procedures and the Public Notice are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) The "International Prices" for this purpose would mean the prices of the inputs used in the product exported, as declared by the exporter and accepted by the Asstt. Collector of Customs concerned.

[Translation]

Irregularities in the Public Issue of Essar Oil

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

(a) whether some cases of irregularities in the public issue of Essar Oil Limited have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for redressal of the grievances of the investors and the earliest listing of the company?

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

(a) and (b) Both SEBI and Government had received complaints of irregularities in the public issue of Optionally Fully Convertible Debentures (OFCDs) by M/s Essar Oil Ltd. The main Thrust of the complaints was that there were a number of ineligible applications in the issue. SEBI conducted an investigation into the complaints. Based on the investigation report and independent legal opinion, SEBI has concluded that there were no irregularities in the public issue of OFCDs by the company.

(c) The orders of some of the Stock Exchanges rejecting the listing of the issue by the company have been set aside by SEBI.

[English]

Development of Tourism in Gujarat

885. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government to the Government of Gujarat for the development of tourism during the year 1992-93, 1993-94;

(b) the details of those projects/historical places for which this assistance was provided;

(c) the names of the places which are situated in backward and tribal areas of the State to get such assistance; and

(d) the details of the proposals pending with the Union Government for sanction of financial assistance for the years 1994-95 and 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The Department of Tourism, Government of India sanctioned nine projects/schemes amounting to Rs. 86.66 lakhs for development of tourism in the State of Gujarat during the

year 1992-93 and 1993-94. The details of the projects sanctioned with amount and location are given as follows :

Sl. No. with year of sanction	Name of the project/scheme	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
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1992-93

1.	Camping equipment for Tarnetar	15.90
2.	Publicity support	5.00

1993-94

3.	Tourist complex at Nalsarover	19.68
4.	Cafeteria at Porbandar	14.60
5.	Floodlighting of Somnath Temple	17.46
6.	2 units of spirit type land sailing yacht	4.48
7.	Navratri festival	1.85
8.	Tarnetar festival	2.69
9.	Publicity support	5.00

(c) The places Nalsarover and Tarnetar are located in backward areas of Gujarat State and Somnath is a historical place with religious importance. Porbandar is a historical place.

(d) During the year 1994-95, three projects/schemes amounting to Rs. 21.19 lakhs were sanctioned. The State Government of Gujarat have not submitted any proposal seeking central assistance during 1995-96.

Operation of Private Airlines

886. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :
SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY :
DR. R. MALLU :

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

(a) whether the private airlines have been asked to operate on certain uneconomical routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of such airlines which are operating on such routes;

(c) whether on certain routes the Indian Airlines do not operate its flights because the private airlines are operating on these routes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) In accordance

with the guidelines on route dispersal issued on 1.3.94, all the scheduled domestic operators are required to deploy atleast 10 percent of the capacity deployed on specified trunk routes on routes in the North-Eastern region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep. Of the capacity so deployed atleast 10 per cent has to be within the region itself. The operator has also to deploy atleast 50% of the capacity deployed on specified trunk routes on the non-trunk routes.

(c) and (d) The operations of Indian Airlines are decided by the company on its commercial judgement, keeping in view the traffic demand and availability of operating crew/aircraft.

Modernisation of Textile Industry

887. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated a special plan of action for the promotion of textile industry in cotton growing areas in the country;

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

(c) the provision of funds for 1995-96 for modernisation of textile units in public sector, State-wise and particularly in Gujarat; and

(d) the details of modernisation programmes of textile units?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) The Government has not formulated any specific plan of action for promotion of Textile Industry in cotton growing areas of the country. However, a number of schemes have been formulated and implemented from time to time for promotion of different aspects of cotton/man-made fibre textile industry.

(c) and (d) No funds have so far been earmarked for modernisation of textile units in public sector for the year 1995-96. However, a Turn Around Strategy for NTC Mills including those located in Gujarat has been approved by the Government. The Strategy involves Modernisation of 79 Mills at a cost of Rs. 2005.78 crores. The package will become operative only after the Rehabilitation Scheme is approved by the BIFR.

NTC, Kanpur

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

(a) whether there exists any dispute between the State of Uttar Pradesh and the Central Government in regard to free land properties of NTC in Kanpur;

- (b) if so, the details of the dispute in this regard; and
- (c) the steps taken to resolve the dispute?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c) There is a dispute between the Government of Uttar Pradesh and NTC (U.P.) Ltd. in regard to 10 lease hold plots belonging to Muir Mills, Kanpur. These plots stood transferred to and vested in the Central Government/NTC by the Sick Textile Undertakings (Nationalisation) Act, 1974. However, the State Government issued notices that NTC should vacate the premises and handover possession to Government of Uttar Pradesh or apply for conversion from lease hold to free hold. Aggrieved by the stand taken by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, the National Textile Corporation filed writ petition in the High Court which has issued stay orders against Government of Uttar Pradesh and the matter is sub-judice.

Women Labour

889. SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey on employment of women labour in small scale industries, educational agencies viz. Anganwadi, day care centres, police force, super bazar, and hospitals;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government for education, training and welfare of the women labour;

(d) whether the Government propose to introduce and policy for creating awareness among working women; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Government have not conducted any survey on employment of women labour in different sectors so far.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education) have brought under implementation several programmes for providing special access to education at all levels for women. Objectives of these programmes are universalisation of Elementary Education, vocationalisation of post secondary education and modernisation of polytechnic and higher technical education.

The National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI) Noida (UP) and the ten Regional Vocational Training Institutes (RVTIs) for women in different parts of India impart basic and advanced levels of vocational training to women. Special attention is also given for the modernisation and establishment women's Training Institutes (ITIs) under the

World Bank aided Vocational Training Project. A Women's Cell under the Directorate General of Employment and Training (DGE & T) is also coordinating with the States in the matter of Vocational Training of Women.

Statutory provisions have been made in certain labour laws for organising child-care centres for the benefit of women workers. The Ministry of Labour has launched a scheme to provide grant-in-aid to voluntary organisations to encourage employers to establish creche facilities for women industrial workers. The objective is to ensure that employers do not minimise employment of women on considerations of cost involved in providing creches. The scheme also enables employers/establishments who are not statutorily required to provide the creches to avail of the facilities under the scheme.

(d) and (e) A separate Cell for Women is functioning in the Ministry of Labour to pay special attention to their problems. The Cell is responsible for the formulation of policies that seek to remove the handicaps under which they work, to strengthen their bargaining position, to improve their wages and working conditions, to enhance their skills and open up better employment opportunities for them.

Pension Scheme for EPF Subscribers

890. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE :
SHRI A. CHARLES :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of the Pension Scheme to be introduced for the EPF subscribers; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) :
(a) and (b) A Bill to amend the Employees Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 for enabling the Central Government to frame a pension scheme for the EPF subscribers is still pending before the Rajya Sabha. As the proposal involves amendment of the Act, it is difficult to indicate the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented.

Pension Fund of Insurance Employees

891. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU :
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow the General Insurance Corporation to handle the pension fund of its employees independently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor particularly in view of the fact that some Government organisations like the Reserve Bank of India, the Indian Oil Corporation and the Bombay Port Trust are running their pension funds independently?

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

(a) and (b) No, Sir.

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

Printing of Currency Notes

892. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the printing of currency notes has been stopped since June 2, 1995;

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

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

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Modernisation of Ahmedabad Airport

893. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise the Ahmedabad Airport;

(b) if so, the allocation made for the above work;

(c) whether any time schedule for starting the work and its completion has been fixed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. State-of-the-Art Primary and Secondary Radars are being installed at a cost of Rs. 29.15 crores and its target date of completion is June, 1996. In addition it is proposed to install Airport Speech Recorder at a cost of Rs. 40 lakhs and the project will be ready by December, 1995.

Small Savings

894. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister

of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total small savings collection during 1994-95;

(b) the net collections during the year after the payment of principal and interest;

(c) the percentage of net savings distributed among the States;

(d) the basis for the distribution; and

(e) the amount released, State-wise?

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

(a) The total Small Savings Collection during the financial year 1994-95 (Provisional) was Rs. 35,545.88 crores.

(b) The net collections during financial year 1994-95 (Provisional) was Rs. 15,117.49. crores.

(c) and (d) 75% of the net collections in a State during a calendar year is advanced as long term loan to that State for financing the State Plan.

(e) The amount of loan released during financial year 1994-95, State-wise, is furnished in the enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT

Loans Released to State Governments During 1994-95 Against Net Small Savings Collections

Name of State	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	59130
Arunachal Pradesh	535
Assam	38798
Bihar	24510
Goa	2300
Gujarat	62627
Haryana	23767
Himachal Pradesh	26604
Jammu & Kashmir	9321
Karnataka	74707
Kerala	39323

1	2
Madhya Pradesh	26755
Maharashtra	76673
Manipur	495
Meghalaya	1134
Mizoram	384
Nagaland	178
Orissa	21151
Punjab	41106
Rajasthan	45031
Sikkim	274
Tamil Nadu	56991
Tripura	1611
Uttar Pradesh	164417
West Bengal	135143
Total	932965

Use of Idle Airstrips

895. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to use the idle airstrips lying around or at the places of tourist interest for starting air services with the help of private air companies;

(b) if so, the number of private companies to whom proposal to this effects has been sent; and

(c) the reaction of the private companies in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. While the choice of sectors is left to the commercial judgement of private airlines-preference is given to those airlines which propose to airlink inaccessible stations and places of tourist interest. According to the route dispersal requirements for scheduled operators, a minimum number of services are required to be operated in the North East, Andaman & Nicobar, Jammu and Kashmir and Lakshadweep in proportion to the number of services operated on trunk routes.

Tie up with International Hotel Chain

896. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN :
SHRI. SARAT PATTANAYAK :

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

(a) whether India Tourism Development Corporation proposes to tie up with international hotel chains for marketing and technical management of its six elite hotels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ITDC also propose to expand its existing chain of hotels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An advertisement was released in Jan. 1995 inviting bids from international hotel chains operating globally for marketing and management tie-ups for its six Elite Hotels at prime location at New Delhi, Calcutta, Bangalore, Mysore and Kovalam. Ten hotel chains submitted their bids.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Minimum Wages

897. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) Whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to revise the minimum wages for unorganised workers of industrial sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both the Central as well as State Government are the appropriate Governments for the fixation/revision of minimum rates of wages for the scheduled employments falling under their respective jurisdictions. The Act also stipulates that review/revision of minimum wages in the scheduled employments should be undertaken at intervals not exceeding five years. The Central Government is responsible for the fixation of minimum rates of wages in respect of 40 scheduled employments broadly categorised into Agriculture, Construction, Mining and Railway sectors. The minimum rates of wages for the scheduled employment in Agriculture were last revised on 12.8.92 while the wages in the 39 other scheduled employments relating to Construction, Mining and Railway sectors respectively were revised on 12.7.94.

Flight Projects of Private Airlines

898. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have asked private airlines to present their long-term and short-term flight projects so that the same could be kept in view while formulating schemes for air travel and transportation of goods;

(b) if so, the details of the private airlines to whom such letters have been sent; and

(c) the reaction of private airlines thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) with a view to prepare a well-considered policy for the growth/expansion of air transport services in the country, 6 private scheduled airlines and 15 non-scheduled airlines have recently been requested to furnish their perspective plan in the matter. No operator has furnished a complete plan so far.

[English]

Mahila Pradhan Kshetriya Bachat Yojana

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

(a) whether the Government have started the Mahila Pradhan Kshetriya Bachat Yojana to collect the deposits from every housewife;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of agents appointed in the country therefor particularly in Maharashtra;

(d) whether these agents have submitted certain suggestions to improve to efficiency and operation of the collection;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken to implement these suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) The scheme was introduced w.e.f. 1.4.72 to collect deposits in the 5 year Post Office Recurring Deposit Account from small savers and not only from the house-wives.

(c) The total number of MPKBY agents appointed in the country is 1,19,602 and in Maharashtra their number is 52,043.

(d) and (e) The Agents have made certain suggestions including increase in the rate of agent's commission, reduction in the maturity period of National

Savings Certificate (VIII Issue), introduction of 3 year Recurring Deposit Account and expeditious settlement of commission claims of agents.

(f) For expeditious settlement of agent's commission claims the Regional Directors, National Savings Organisation have been authorised to issue cheques to outstation agents. Other suggestions are under examination.

[Translation]

Cargo Service by Air India

900. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL :
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVI SINGH PATIL :
SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM :

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

(a) whether Air India has introduced a cargo service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the sectors on which this service has been made available;

(d) the number of aeroplanes put in this service and the per-day cargo carrying capacity of these aeroplanes;

(e) the name of international routes on which Government propose to introduce this service and the number of aeroplanes proposed to be inducted in the fleet of cargo service in future;

(f) whether Government propose to introduce this service in the Gulf countries also so as to make available a large market for fruit and vegetable etc. there;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (d) At present, Air India operates cargo services with wet leased DC 8/73F aircraft on the following sectors :

India/USA/India—Twice weekly

India/Europe/India—Once weekly

India/Singapore/India—Twice weekly

These services provide about 200 tons cargo capacity in each direction per week. In addition to this, cargo capacity is also available on Air India's scheduled passenger flights.

(e) Air India has no immediate plans to introduce cargo services on other international routes.

(f) to (h) Air India does not have any plans at present to introduce freighter services to the Gulf Countries for carriage of perishables as the cargo capacity of 750 tons per week available on its passenger services is considered adequate.

[English]

Additional Customs Duty for Electronics and Pharmaceuticals Exporters

901. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVI SINGH PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to exempt exporters in the electronics and pharmaceutical sectors from paying additional customs on import of raw material;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether exporters have been demanding the deletion of para 47 from the Exim policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The representations have been received from different Export Promotion Councils and Trade Organisations including Pharmaceuticals and Electronics, seeking exemption from payment of additional Customs duty and appropriate amendment to Para 47 of the Exim Policy.

(d) and (e) The proposal is under examination of the Government.

[Translation]

Study on Readymade Garment Industry

902. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been conducted regarding after effects of GATT Agreement on readymade garments industry,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main findings of this study?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Limited, Bombay had a study conducted recently on the strategies required to be adopted by the apparel industry to face the challenges on the Post Multi Fibre Arrangement (MFA) era. The main recommendations of the study are as follows :

(i) Government should lift restrictions on firm size, promote consolidation and make investments attractive.

(ii) Import policies, procedures and customs should be reoriented to facilitate international trade.

(iii) Strategic warehouses should be promoted to ensure easy availability of inputs and minimise vulnerability to price fluctuations.

(iv) Large coordinating companies should be created to take advantage of the flexibility in manufacturing and product variety of small producers.

(v) Strategic acquisition of distribution channels and brand names in Europe and Americas should be promoted.

(vi) Centres/Institutes for service system reorientation should be created.

(vii) Banking Sector needs to address the needs of the industry and trade by reorienting administrative policies and procedures to wards quick response.

(viii) Performance rating of exporters and suppliers should be introduced.

(ix) Proper focus on export promotion activities should be given.

(x) Quota allocation policy and procedures should be restructured, aiming at the creation of an efficient apparel manufacturing base.

(xi) Indian ports need to cut down delays in material handling by upgrading systems and in order to attract major shipping lines.

Loss/Profit of Banks in Uttar Pradesh

903. DR. SAKSHIJI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the profit earned or loss suffered by various nationalised and cooperative Banks in Uttar Pradesh during 1993-94, Bank-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to make unsound bank branches profitable?

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

(a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that Commercial Banks not prepare State-wise break up of Profits & Loss Accounts. As per the provisions of the Banking Regulation

Act, 1949. Banks required to prepare the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Act, as at the year end for the Bank as a whole. Therefore, information as asked for is not available. Uttar Pradesh State Cooperative Land Development Bank had earned a profit of Rs. 1226 lakh as during 1993-94.

(b) In order to improve their efficiency and profitability has been impressed upon the banks to strengthen their appraisal machinery and exercise close supervision and control over advances. Banks have also been advised to post recovery Officers at branches having sizeable Non-Performing Asset and their recovery progress should be monitored on monthly base.

Export Duty on Raw Material

904. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government do not levy duty on the raw material (concerning export goods) to the tune of sixty percent of the total value of the export;

(b) Whether some cases have come to the notice of the Government that these goods are thrown into sea after purchasing them from India as these goods are probably not profitable in other countries and these goods are exported only for getting sixty per cent exemption in imports of raw material; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

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

(a) Under the Duty Exemption Scheme, inputs used for the export of goods are exempted from payment of all import duties i.e. Basic Customs and Additional duties of Customs. However, in respect of Advance Licences issued after 1st April, 1995, exemption is allowed only from basic Customs duty and Additional duty of Customs is leviable on inputs imported under such licences.

(b) No such case has been brought to our notice.

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

Irregularities In ITDC

905. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether some cases relating to irregularities committed by the official of India Tourism Development Corporation during 1993-94 and 1994-95 till date have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some officers of ITDC face inquiries by CBI for various charges;

(d) if so, the time by which the inquiries are likely to be completed;

(e) the action taken against the guilty officials; and

(f) the steps taken to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Some cases of irregularities committed by the officials of ITDC have come to the notice of Government during the said period. These cases relate to misuse of official position for personal gains, favouritism doing private business, cheating the customers, irregular drawal of medical claims, non recovery of dues, misuse of public money etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It is not possible to indicate a precise time frame within which the enquiries will be completed.

(e) Suitable action is taken against officials who are indicated after enquiry/ranging from issue of Caution letter to termination of service.

(f) Surprise checks/inspections have been increased by Vigilance Department of ITDC and systems being followed by different department have been analysed to plug irregularities.

[English]

Financial Crunch Faced by Air India

906. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

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

(a) whether Air India is facing acute financial crunch;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Air India propose to borrow the millions of dollars from various financial institutions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. At present, Air India has adequate resources to meet its medium/short term liabilities.

(c) and (d) Aircraft acquisition is generally financed through loan arrangements. A financial package for funding the acquisition of two B-747-400 aircraft which are due for

delivery in July/August 1996 is being worked out.

Tourism Promotion in Madhya Pradesh

907. SHRI SURAJ BHANU SOLANKI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals received by the Union Government during the last three years for promotion of tourism in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) the number of proposals approved, rejected or still pending indicating the reasons for rejecting each proposal; and

(c) the financial assistance proposed to be provided by the Union Government to State Government in this regard during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh submitted eight projects/schemes, complete in all respects for central assistance for development of tourism in the State during the last three years. All the proposals have been sanctioned.

(c) During 1994-95, an amount of Rs. 3.10 lakhs was sanctioned as financial assistance for organising Orchha festival in the State.

Computerisation of Income Tax Department

908. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government have started to computerise income tax system in all the cities and towns of the country;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard; and

(c) the time frame fixed for completion of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. 36 Computer Centres are already functioning in all the Income Tax Offices in the country. The Regional Computer Centres have been set up in Delhi, Bombay and Madras for comprehensive computerisation in these three regions.

Import of Currency Paper

909. DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the value and quantity of water marked bank note paper and Ink imported during the last three years and the current year, so far;

(b) the countries from which the above imports have been made;

(c) whether the imports are being made through negotiations or global tenders;

(d) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the criteria, terms and conditions thereof; and

(e) the details of the parties/companies which have been permitted for the above imports during the above period?

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

(a) The value and quantity of water marked bank note paper and Ink imported during the last three years and the current year is as under :

Year	Water marked paper		Ink	
	Quantity (in M. T.)	Value (in Rs.)	Quantity (in M.T.)	Value (in Rupees)
1992-93	256.64	6,11,05,842/-	402.98	22,21,35,338/-
1993-94	2145.58	46,89,17,443/-	68.00	3,38,01,832/-
1994-95	475.96	10,14,74,985/-	48.89	97,62,256/-
1995-96 (upto July)	497.06	14,49,18,426/-	57.04	4,50,61,771/-

(b) While the water marked bank note paper was imported from U.K. the Inks were imported from Switzerland, Germany, Canada and U.K.

(c) and (d) All the imports are made through global tenders only and as per Govt. rules on such matter

(e) The above items were imported from the following parties :

Items	Name of parties
Water marked bank note paper	M/s Portals Ltd., U.K.
Ink	1. M/S Sicpa SA Switzerland 2. M/S Michael Huber, Germany 3. M/S Canadian Bank Note Co Ltd., Canada. 4. M/S B.W. Inks Ltd., U.K.

Loan Target Under IRDP

910. SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI : Will the

Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of the targets fixed and achieved by the public sector banks in the matter of granting loans under the Integrated Rural Development Programme during each of the last three years, State-wise?

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.

Cases Referred to D.R.T.

911. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of cases referred to the Debt Recovery Tribunals, bank-wise and the amount of recovery involved in each case so far;

(b) the progress made, if any, in the recovery of loan so far;

(c) whether a large number of debtors have come forward to settle their dues with the banks on mutually agreed terms after reference of their cases to the Tribunals; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government to such cases?

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

(c) and (d) Compromise proposals are received by banks from time to time from debtors and decisions on this are taken as per the guidelines of the RBI and in accordance with the policy evolved by the Board of Directors of each bank. It has, however, not come to the notice of the Government nor any feedback has been received from the RBI and banks so far that a large number of debtors have come forward to settle their dues with the banks on mutually agreed terms as a result of the setting up of Recovery Tribunals.

[Translation]

Increase in Passenger Traffic on National Carrier

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

(a) whether the number of passengers travelling on Public Sector airlines has increased after the introduction of private airlines;

(b) if so, the number of more passengers travelled on national carrier during the last year as compared to the

number of passengers travelled during the last three years;

(c) whether the loss being suffered by the public sector airlines has declined as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Carriage of international traffic by Air India and Indian Airlines has not been affected by the introduction of private domestic carriers. The total number of passengers carried by Indian Airlines has, however, declined. Details are as follows :

Year	Total number of passengers Carried
1991-92	8.885 Million
1992-93	7.821 "
1993-94	7.891 "
1994-95	7.635 "

(c) and (d) Air India has not incurred any loss during the last 3 years. Indian Airlines has shown a net loss of Rs. 195.16 crores in 1992-93, Rs. 255.46 crores in 1993-94 and Rs. 230.00 crores in 1994-95.

Investment by AI

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

(a) whether Air India invested crores of rupees in City Bank and other financial institutions violating the norms of the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the investigation has been initiated in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken against those found responsible for the same?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (e) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) have registered a case on 28.4.1995 for irregularities in the investments made by Air India in the City Bank and other financial institutions. The investigation report of CBI is awaited.

Export of Fruits

914. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the total quantity and variety of fruits especially mangoes exported especially

from Gujarat and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Statewise

export statistics are not maintained.

The total quantity and value of fruits including mangoes exported for the country as a whole during the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 are as under :

	Qty : In MTS Values : Rs. in Lakhs					
	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95 (April-Dec. 94)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1. Mangoes (Fresh, Sliced or dried)	25943	4614	22947	4422	22958	4077
2. Grape	10801	2179	15932	3393	8002	1922
3. Bananas (fresh or dried)	1353	107	1086	147	786	70
4. Apples	8626	740	5988	667	4988	540
5. Citrus fruits (fresh or dried)	8871	465	6807	426	386	24
6. Pomegranates	1628	212	2623	367	2010	254
7. Sapota	1510	133	2008	214	1741	156
8. Guavas	580	166	319	72	91	12
9. Pineapples	68	9	120	13	110	8
10. Other fresh fruits	15585	1243	16557	1206	2921	172

(Source DGCI & S Calcutta)

Countrywise export figures are available in the Annual Numbers of Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, copies of which are available in the Parliament House Library.

[English]

German House in India

915. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the leading captains of the Bavarian industry have strongly urged the Government to facilitate the setting up of German House in India to accelerate the pace of Indo-German economic relations; and

(b) if so, the details and action 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 industrially progressive German States of Bavaria and Baden-Wuttemberg have proposed to set up

a German House in India. The proposed "German House" envisage, assisting German small and medium enterprises to establish and expand business linkages with Indian companies. The "House" would also provide information and assistance to Indian companies. Government of India have indicated their support to the proposal.

[Translation]

Economic Growth

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

(a) whether the economic growth of the country is likely to be affected adversely due to the growing tendencies of competition and profit earning adopted by nationalised banks by neglecting their social obligations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure fulfilment of their social obligations by banks?

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]

Block Search Assessments

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the news item captioned "Fine tuning of block search assessments on" appearing in The Hindu Business Line, New Delhi, dated May 20, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts of the Matter reported therein; and

(c) the extent upto which this has resulted in ensuring maximum revenue realisation?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item purportedly referred to the procedure to be followed for assessment of search cases under the amended law, which had been discussed in the conference of Chief Commissioners/Directors General held in April, 1995. Subsequently the details of the procedure have been finalised and appropriate instructions have been issued to the field officers. These are to govern the assessments in cases of search conducted on or after 1.7.95.

(c) The "block period" assessment scheme is applicable to the searches to the conducted on or after 1.7.95. Results of revenue realisation are not known since no block period assessment has been completed till date.

Indo-swedish Trade Relation

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

(a) whether the Government propose to expand Indo-Swedish trade relation;

(b) if so, the details of programme drawn-up thereof; and

(c) the details of areas indentified for the expansion of trade relations between both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) It is Government's endeavour to expand bilateral trade with all the trading partners including Sweden. Steps taken for promotion of bilateral trade and economic cooperation include regular meetings of the Indo-Swedish Joint Commission/Joint Business Council besides exchanges of trade delegations, participation in trade fairs, and undertaking market surveys.

(c) Some items with potential for exports to Sweden are processed foods, leather and its manufactures, cotton and silk fabrics/garments, handicrafts, computer software, automotive/electric components, and marine products.

Modernisation of Technique of handloom Weaving

919. SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have introduced any scheme to modernise the technique of handloom weaving;

(b) whether the traditional weavers have been encouraged to apply the modern technique in the handloom sector; and

(c) if so, the aid and assistance given to the traditional handloom weavers of Rajasthan for the above purpose during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) The Weavers Service Centres located throughout the country are, inter alia, engaged in research and development of modern techniques of weaving including training of weavers to adopt such techniques. Besides, the Project Package Scheme and Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme which are currently being implemented by the Government also provide requisite assistance to weavers in this field.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) On the basis of proposals received from the State Government of Rajasthan, a sum of Rs. 110.3325th lakhs has been released to them during the Eighth Five Year Plan under the Project Package Scheme and Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme for Handloom Weavers.

Employment on Compassionate Grounds in GIC

920. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the policy being followed by the GIC and its subsidiaries for providing employment on compassionate grounds in the event of death of its employee while in service;

(b) the number of cases in GIC and its four subsidiaries in which the dependants of the deceased employees had applied for appointment on compassionate grounds during the last one year;

(c) the number of cases out of them disposed of so far;

(d) the reasons for not taking any decision in regard to other cases; and

(e) the time by which these cases are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) As per policy of the General Ins. Corporation of India and its subsidiary Companies, one dependant member of the family of the employee who dies whilst in service, if offered suitable job if he/she fulfils the minimum conditions of academic qualification/age stipulated for the particular job.

(b) to (c) As reported by GIC, a total of 213 applications from the dependants of the deceased employees of GIC/subsidiaries were received during the last one year. Of these, 152 cases have been cleared. The remaining 61 cases will also be settled in due course after obtaining complete information necessary for examination of each case.

[Translation]

Wages Under Jry

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

(a) whether the Government have received some complaints regarding non-payment of fixed wages to the labourers working under Jawahar Rozgar Yojna, a Guaranteed Employment Generating Scheme and executing the work with the help of machines in violation of guidelines in the country especially in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the concerned Ministry, under JRY, and EAS wages to the workers are to be paid at the minimum wage rates fixed by the concerned State. Though no specific reports on non-payment of wages at the minimum wage rates have been received, some of the area officers in their tour reports have highlighted the department from the norms, i.e., in some cases the wages paid are more than minimum wages and in some other cases, non-payment of equal wages to men and women. The concerned States have been requested to remove this anomaly.

[English]

Beedi Workers

922. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have raised funds to

wean away beedi workers from using the beedi sector for employment;

(b) whether the World Health Organisation has offered sufficient funds to the Government to organise unemployment allowance to the 75 lakh beedi workers all over the country; and

(c) if so, the details of financial aid offered by the World Health Organisation?

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

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Loan Recovery System

923. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV :
SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Nationalised banks have since set up the recovery cells at their head offices and fixed the branch-wise target for the recovery of loans;

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

(c) the result achieved therefrom and the extent of improvement in the recovery of loan as on June 30, 1995?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that all the nationalised banks have set up recovery cells at their Head Offices. As regards branch-wise targets, while some of the banks have confirmed having fixed the branch-wise targets, others have indicated that they have advised their controlling offices to fix the branch-wise targets. The performance of banks in this regard has to be reviewed periodically by the Chairmen and Managing Directors of the banks. RBI have also reported that the review of performance of the banks in achieving the targets fixed for the year ended 31.3.95 is in progress.

Concessional Air Tickets for Handicapped

924. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provide special concessional tickets to handicapped persons for air travel;

(b) if so, the extent of concession being provided to them; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to financial constraints, such concessions are not considered feasible.

Scooter Advance to Central Government Employees

925. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government are contemplating to provide scooter advance to all the Central Government Employees without any pay limit;

(b) if so, whether it has also been proposed to raise the amount of scooter advance in view of hike in prices of scooters;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (d) The Central Government employees drawing a basic pay of Rs. 1500/- per month and above, are eligible for the grant of advance for the purchase of a motor cycle/scooter. The amount of advance admissible is Rs. 13,000/- or 8 months basic pay or the anticipated price of the scooter/motor cycle, whichever is the least.

In view of the financial constraints, there is no proposal, at present, to enhance the existing ceilings.

Funds for NTC Mills

926. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR :
SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a funds was created by Industrial Development Bank of India in August 1986 to fulfil the requirement of modernisation of textile mills in the country;

(b) whether another fund was also created during 1986 to 1991 for strengthening the management system of textile mills by providing loans to them;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the funds actually spend for the purpose out of it;

(d) whether despite spending a huge amount, the textile mills under National Textile Corporation have become sick in large number, and suffered losses regularly till 1991-92; and

(e) if so, the reasons there for?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) An amount of Rs. 131.85 crore only was sanctioned from Modernisation Fund for modernisation of 29 NTC mills. The losses of NTC upto 1991-92 were due to old and obsolete machinery, excess man power, low productivity, competition from powerloom sector.

[English]

Check Devised by RBI Against FFMCS

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

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has devised some effective checks against full-fledged money changers to rake in profits from the black market out of basic travel quota for travel outside India; and

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

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

(b) While no instances of sale of foreign exchange issued under Basic Travel Quota in the black market have come to the notice of RBI, it has stipulated certain regulations (attached as statement) to be applied stringently by Full-fledged Money Changers and Authorised Dealers (ADs) while sanctioning foreign exchange under the Basic Travel Quota to Indian residents.

STATEMENT

The regulations covering release of exchange under BTQ are :

(i) The Indian national can avail of exchange under BTQ upto US \$2,000 in a calendar year for private visits abroad.

(ii) The traveller is required to produce to the Full-fledged money changers or authorised dealers an outbound ticket and his passport in original alongwith the application for drawal of exchange under BTQ indicating the proposed places of visit outside the country.

(iii) The FFMCS/AD releasing exchanges is required to verify the passport to check whether the traveller has drawn exchange under BTQ during the current calendar year

and to arrive at the balance if any available to him under his BTQ entitlement.

- (iv) The FFMC/AD should also check the declaration made in application with reference to the outbound ticket produced.
- (v) In case the rupees payment for buying the exchange is equivalent to or more than Rs. 50,000/-, the FFMC/AD releasing exchange should insist on the rupee payment being made by way of the account payee cheque drawn on the bank account of the applicant or by way of a draft supported by a certificate from a draft issuing bank that the payment for the draft has been received by debit to the account. The exchange in the form of cash can be issued only to the extent of US\$ 550 per person except when the proposed visit is to Russia, CIS countries or Iran.

Elimination of Child Labour

928. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched a UN-funded "Integrated Programme for Elimination of Child Labour" (IPEC);

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) the amount received from United Nations under the Scheme and the projects/schemes for which the funds have been sanctioned;

(d) whether the Government have constituted any monitoring agency for implementation of these schemes; and

(e) the number of child labourers covered under the scheme in various States, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) :
(a) to (e) Government of India has been participating in the International Programme for Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) sponsored by International Labour Organisation. Under the programme, assistance is provided to non-governmental organisations for undertaking flexible programmes suiting local requirement. For the two biennia 1992-93 and 1994-95, the allocation for India under IPEC was US\$ 3.65 million (over Rs. 10 crores). Altogether 89 projects with an outlay of Rs. 8.5 crores have been approved and are at different stages of implementation. The implementation of the programme is reviewed by a National Steering Committee consisting of representatives of the Government of India and ILO. The Labour

Secretary, Ministry of Labour is the Chairman of the National Steering Committee.

The total number of children covered under the Scheme, State-wise are as under :

States	Number of Children to be covered
Uttar Pradesh	2189
Orissa	1500
Tamil Nadu	5610
Andhra Pradesh	11715
Bihar	240
Karnataka	1320
West Bengal	18065
Maharashtra	1750
Gujarat	950
Delhi	3900
Madhya Pradesh	500
Rajasthan	5850
Manipur	500
Regional	525
Total	54614

Cotton Prices

929. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of cotton and cotton yarn have been going up for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to ensure that cotton prices do not show an unchecked upward trend;

(c) whether the Government also propose to clamp down on advance licence holders to make them import cotton for yarn exports; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) Prices of cotton and cotton yarn have been following a fluctuating trend over the last three years. However, Government is constantly monitoring the

situation, and to regulate the price and availability of cotton the import of cotton was put under OGL with 'nil' rate of duty, about 30,000 MT of Viscose Staple Fibre at nil rate of duty was permitted to be imported, ceiling on stock of cotton to be held by traders and corporations stands imposed and export of cotton and cotton yarn has been regulated.

(c) and (d) The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) have been imposing a condition in the Advance Licences that the required quantity of cotton should be imported prior to the exports of cotton yarn under the scheme.

World Bank Suggestions Regarding Investment Policy

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

(a) whether World Bank has shown its serious concern over fiscal indiscipline and poor growth on investment by India;

(b) if so, reaction of the Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether any measure has been suggested by the World Bank in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to improve the situation in this regard?

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

(a) The Bank shares the views expressed by the Government of India in its recent Economic Survey that the on-going efforts to strengthen fiscal performance should be continued. The Bank has noted the substantial progress made by India in liberalising its investment policies and supports the attempts by the authorities to encourage even faster growth, especially in the area of infrastructure.

(b) The Government itself is seized of the necessity to reverse the fiscal slippage which occurred in 1993-94 and in 1994-95. The Finance Minister reiterated in his speech to the Parliament on 15th March, 1995, while presenting the Union Budget for 1995-96, the Government's resolve for determined action to ensure the fiscal discipline is further improved in years ahead and announced a target of Central Government fiscal deficit at 5.5 percent of GDP in 1995-96.

(c) and (d) As noted in the GOI's recent Economic Survey, improvements in the overall fiscal performance will help to restore the public sector's capacity to investment. This view is shared by the World Bank also supports the Government's efforts to create a legal and regulatory framework that would facilitate private investment,

especially in the newly liberalised areas of infrastructure.

(e) A number of measures have been announced to facilitate private entry into areas of infrastructure, namely revision of National Mineral Policy, amendment of Mines and Mineral Development Act, amendment of National Highway Act, enactment of New Air Corporation Act, 1994 and National Telecom Policy, 1994 etc.

Welfare Schemes for Unorganised Labour

931. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had called the meeting on May 20, 1995 to consider various issues connected with the welfare of unorganised labour in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held at the meeting; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for its implementation?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Forex Curbs

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

(a) whether the forex curbs has hit Indian Joint ventures, abroad;

(b) whether the Government have tightened the norms for direct foreign investment by Indian companies leaving virtually no room to manoeuvre;

(c) whether a Committee has suggested three steps formula to allow Indian companies to invest abroad to take overs or joint ventures; and

(d) if so, the extent upto which the Government are considering to remove the forex curbs so that Indian joint ventures abroad are not affected?

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

(a) to (d) Proposals for Indian investment overseas are processed under a policy which takes account of various considerations such as the evolving BOP position of the country, the overall benefits to the country in terms of increased export, access to technology, foreign exchange earnings through dividends etc.

CBI investigation into LIC, Rajasthan

933. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether massive irregularities have been detected by CBI in at least five LIC branches in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some other branches are also being investigated by CBI and the officials of these branches are obstructing in providing records and documents;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of LIC policies lapsed after first instalment, amount of commission paid for such policies and the total administrative expenses incurred thereon during the last three years; and

(f) the steps being taken to streamline the functioning of the Life Insurance Corporation?

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

(a) to (d) No, Sir. However the LIC have reported that the CBI is inquiring into some alleged irregularities in Dholpur, Bhiwadi and Jaipur branches under the Jaipur Division and has searched some branch offices as well as residence of some LIC officials and seized some records.

The LIC have no information whether CBI proposes to take investigation of any other branch. The LIC has reported that it is providing necessary assistance to the CBI officials to enable them to carry out their investigations.

(e) The LIC does not collect data pertaining to the policies lapsed after payment of the first instalment of premium. However, only 0.5% of the policies lapsed on mean duration basis (Year of lapse-year of new business) as on 31.3.94.

(f) The functioning of the LIC is reviewed by the Committees appointed by the Government as well as parliamentary Committees from time to time and necessary action, as required, is taken in the light of their recommendations. The Government also appoints a nominee on the Board of LIC. The performance of the LIC is also constantly reviewed with a view to improving efficiency and redress public grievances through the periodic reports furnished by them.

[Translation]

Welfare Scheme for Unorganised Sector

934. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently in the month of May a National Centre for Labour has been constituted in Bangalore for the welfare of Labours working in unorganised sector;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to assist this non-Governmental Labour Organisation for welfare of Labour of unorganised sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) The Government have no official information about the constitution of a National Centre for Labour in Bangalore.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above the question does not arise.

[English]

Debt Burden

935. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has drawn to a press news item captioned "Government heading for a debt trap : Economist" as reported in the 'Statesman' dated July 11, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the Government's fiscal situation is deteriorating day by day;

(c) the total debt on India as on July 1, 1995;

(d) the reasons for surge in debt stocks; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to minimise its expenditure?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir the fiscal deficit in 1995-96 in budgeted at 5.5% of GDP, as compared to 6.7% in 1994-95 (RE) and an average of 8.2% in the second half of the 1980s.

(c) The position can be given as at the year-end and not at the mid point of the year. The total debt and other liabilities of the Government of India outstanding at the end of 1994-95 Revised Estimates amounted to Rs. 632572 crore.

(d) and (e) Government resorts to borrowings whenever the non-debt receipts fall short of the expenditure. Apart from obligatory and committed liabilities

of the Government, like Plan expenditure, interest payments, Defence, food and fertilizer subsidies, internal security, pensions, transfers to States in terms of Finance Commission's award, etc. the growth of other items of expenditure have been generally restrained.

Cotton Stock Limit

936. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to withdraw all the restrictions imposed on the stocks of raw cotton held by mills, ginning and pressing units, trade and others and to enhance the ceiling placed on cotton yarn exports from the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also recommended the RBI to ease the selective credit control places on cotton;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) its likely impact on cotton growers and textile export?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) :—(a) and (b) Cotton Stock limit restrictions are currently imposed only on units under 100% EOU Scheme and EPZ units and on 'persons' including trade, corporations and co-operatives but excluding cotton agriculturists. The Government does not propose to enhance the ceiling placed on cotton yarn exports from the country at this stage.

(c) to (e) Government in the Ministry of Textiles has written to the Reserve Bank of India to exempt Ginning and Pressing industry from the purview of the selective credit control on cotton to give impetus to this industry by ensuring easy flow of credit.

Tampering of Balance Sheet by PNB

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

(a) whether the Punjab National Bank has submitted a tampered balance sheet for the year 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

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

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

(a) to (d) The matter is being examined in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India.

[Translation]

Setting up of Free Trade Zones.

938. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria laid down for creating a free trade zone in the country;

(b) whether the Government have received any requests from the State Government for setting up such zones;

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

(d) whether the Government have cleared any proposal till date;

(e) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and

(f) the time by which the remaining proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The criteria kept in mind while locating a Free Trade Zone/Export Processing Zone include proximity to sea/ airport, availability of basic infrastructural facilities like roads, power and water supply, banking communication facilities and access to social infrastructure such as housing, health and educational facilities.

(b) and (c) The Government of Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Sikkim, Punjab, Haryana, Orissa, Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Kerala have from time to time requested for the establishment in that State of an Export Processing Zone. Some specific locations for setting up of Export Processing Zone suggested by the State Government are Bangalore, Mangalore (Karnataka), Dhandari Kalan (Punjab), Gurgaon (Haryana), Bhubaneswar (Orissa), Marmogoa (Goa), Jaipur (Rajasthan) and Kozhikode (Kerala).

(d) to (f) Seven Export Processing Zones (EPZs) are functioning in the country at Kandla (Gujarat), Bombay (Maharashtra), Noida (Uttar Pradesh), Madras (Tamilnadu), Cochin (Kerala), Falta (West Bengal) and Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh). Keeping in view the availability of funds and the need to optimise infrastructural facilities in the existing Export Processing Zones, there is no proposal at present for the Central Government to set up new Zones in the country. However, Export Processing Zones can now also be established by the State Government or in the joint/private sectors.

[English]

Audit Inspection of UTI Funds By SEBI

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

(a) the approximate amount of funds presently managed under various schemes floated by Unit Trust of India and number of unit holders thereof;

(b) whether there is any independent authority which conducts audit of UTI funds and inspects functioning of its schemes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there have been allegations of serious irregularities against UTI with regard to management, functioning and investment of funds particularly its Mutual Funds under its various schemes;

(e) if so, the details thereof indicating whether any investigations have been conducted into those allegations;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof;

(g) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Securities and Exchange Board of India to undertake inspection and audit of management of funds under various schemes floated by UTI;

(h) if so, the details thereof;

(i) whether Securities and Exchange Board of India is legally empowered to conduct inspection of various schemes of UTI; and

(j) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) As of June 30, 1995, the UTI's investible funds were around Rs. 61,000 crores with 482 lakhs unit holding accounts.

(b) and (c) The functioning of the Unit Trust of India is guided by the UTI Act, 1963 and The UTI General Regulations. As per Section 27 (1) of the UTI Act, the affairs of the Trust shall be audited by one or more auditors duly qualified to act as an Auditor under Section 226 of the Companies Act. The Trust is also required to furnish information under Section 29 of the UTI Act to the RBI or IDBI as and when called upon to do so. Since July, 1994, UTI has been brought under the regulatory jurisdiction of SEBI.

(d) to (f) Questions on the rationable of investments made by UTI have been raised from time to time. UTI has confirmed that its investments are based on commercial

considerations with due regard to prudential norms and subject to the scrutiny of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee.

(g) and (h) SEBI have appointed auditors of M/s Haribhakti & Co. for inspecting six schemes of UTI, namely, Grih Lakshmi Unit Plan, Retirement Benefit Plan, Monthly Income Plan, 1994 (III), Unit Scheme, 1995, Unit Scheme 1964 and Mastergain-1992.

(i) and (j) Since July, 1994 the Trust has come under the regulatory framework of SEBI. Further, SEBI have been empowered by the Securities Laws Amendment Act, 1995 to inspect any books registers and other documents of any intermediary including a mutual fund.

Meeting of Indo-American Commercial Alliance Board

940. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indo-American Commercial Alliance Board has been constituted;

(b) if so, the areas on which two sides have initially agreed to focus at the meeting held on June 19, 1995 in California;

(c) whether commercial alliance is also sponsoring conference on Information Technology opportunities in India; and

(d) if so, how far this alliance will be useful to India and whether it will encompass trade associations as well as large and small business particularly in food processing, cotton (knitted) Yarn, iron ore and other factors?

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

(b) At the meeting of the Board of the Indo-US Commercial Alliance held on 19th June, 1995 at Santa Clara, California, USA, it was agreed to initially focus on four sectors, viz Agri-business, Information technology, power, and transportation infrastructure.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Indo-US Commercial Alliance provides a framework for increased interaction between private sector enterprises in both countries for expanding business relations. The main objective of the Alliance is to encourage interaction between Indian and US enterprises including large, medium and small business, initially in the sectors mentioned in part (b) above. Activities of the Alliance are expected to lead to stronger trade and commercial ties between India and USA.

Ladakh Airport

941. SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction work of Ladakh airport has since been completed;

(b) if so, the amount spent for the purpose;

(c) the time by which this airport is likely to become operative;

(d) whether the inflow of tourists is likely to be increased on this account; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Ladakh region has got Leh airport and an Advance Landing Ground at Kargil. Leh airport is already operational and the Airports Authority of India have spent Rs. 91.28 lakhs upto 30.6.95 towards its development. Advance Landing Ground at Kargil has been levelled and rolled and is ready for trial landings by 30 seater aircraft. There is also a plan to construct a permanent runway pavement and passenger terminal at Kargil which will take about 3 years to complete.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. It is not possible to assess the exact increase in tourist traffic.

Aviation University

942. SHRI S.M. LALJANBASHA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a huge demand in India and abroad for trained personnel in all categories of the aviation industry;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up an Aviation University; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes Sir. There is an increasing demand for trained personnel for all categories in the aviation industry.

(b) and (c) No Sir. Necessary training facilities are being provided by the concerned airlines and training institutions like IGRUA.

Discontinuation of Flights By IA

943. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY :
SHRI V.S. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN :

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

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has withdrawn some of its flights to facilitate the operations by private air-taxi operators; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Although services on certain sectors have been discontinued due to shortage of pilots and poor traffic potential, Indian Airlines has not withdrawn any of its flights to facilitate operations by private airlines.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Child Labour

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

(a) the details of various laws and their time of enactment to prevent child labour which are in force at present in the country;

(b) whether these laws have been reviewed by the Government in the recent past;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of persons found guilty under each of the above laws during the last three years State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Apart from the prohibitory provisions under the various labour laws like the Factories Act, 1948, Mines Act, 1952, Bidi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, child labour is also prohibited in scheduled occupations/processes under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. The enforcement of the provisions of Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 is being monitored by the Central Government. All the State Governments/UTs are also to enforce child related laws.

(b) and (c) These laws are constantly reviewed by the Government and whenever it becomes necessary Acts/laws are amended.

(d) Enforcement figures are maintained under Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 and Factories Act, 1948, State-wise enforcement figures under these Acts for the year 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 are given in the enclosed Statement- I, II and III.

STATEMENT-I

Enforcement of Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 Factories Act, 1948.

Sl. States/UTs No.	No. of Inspections		No. of Violations		No. of Prosecutions		No. of conviction	
	C.L. Act	Fac. Act	C.L. Act	Fac. Act.	C.L. Act.	Fac. Act.	C.L. Act.	Fac. Act.
1. Arunachal Pradesh	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Gujrat	982	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. J & K	267	489	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Kerala	-	11012	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7. Meghalaya	183	22	-	-	-	-	-	-
8. Orissa	16	456	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Punjab	1230	74	-	-	-	345	-	440
10. Rajasthan	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11. Tamil Nadu	-	21054	-	59	21	38	1	29
12. Uttar Pradesh	2982	235	683	22	765	121	273	31
13. Delhi	1094	1863	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	6789	35216	683	81	787	504	274	500

STATEMENT-II

Sl. States/UTs No.	No. of Inspections		No. of Violations		No. of Prosecutions		No. of conviction	
	C.L. Act	Fac. Act	C.L. Act.	Fac. Act.	C.L. Act.	Fac. Act.	C.L. Act.	Fac. Act.
1 2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1992-93								
1. Haryana	-	29	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Himachal Pradesh	75	58	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Kerala	-	4679	-	-	-	39	-	12
4. Madhya Pradesh	12038	10961	-	5	-	695	-	389
5. Maharashtra	-	11374	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Meghalaya	369	76	-	-	-	-	-	-
7. Orissa	7	92	-	-	1	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8.	Punjab	740	37	-	17	-	704	-	446
9.	Rajasthan	174	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
10.	Tamil Nadu	-	12510	-	20	-	20	1	1
11.	Tripura	9	166	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.	Uttar Pradesh	11534	533	1883	83	1867	135	162	26
13.	Delhi	-	323	-	-	-	-	-	-
14.	Chandigarh	74	209	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		25020	41047	1884	125	1869	1593	163	874

STATEMENT-III

Sl. States/UTs No.	No. of Inspections		No. of Violations		No. of Prosecutions		No. of conviction-	
	C.L. Act	Fac. Act	C.L. Act	Fac. Act	C.L. Act	Fac. Act	C.L. Act	Fac. Act
1993-94								
1. Gujarat	2440	7885	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Bihar	1321	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
3. Himachal Pradesh	72	61	-	-	14	15	10	17
4. Haryana	241	143	45	2	-	-	-	-
5. Kerala	-	3820	-	-	-	3	-	-
6. Madhya Pradesh	2588	1437	-	-	-	-	-	-
7. Maharashtra	731	13415	29	37	21	37	-	-
8. Manipur	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Meghalaya	290	191	-	-	-	-	-	-
10. Orissa	95	45	79	2	-	2	-	-
11. Punjab	725	277	1	3	1	219	-	204
12. Rajasthan	181	836	-	-	1	-	-	-
13. Tamil Nadu	-	6612	-	75	-	37	1	5
14. Tripura	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	-
15. Uttar Pradesh	7986	263	1645	29	1271	11	254	8
16. Daman & Diu	15	67	11	12	-	-	-	-
17. Delhi	187	286	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	16861	35378	1814	160	1308	324	264	234

[English]

Raising of Bonus Ceiling

945. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL :
SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have raised the ceiling for payment of bonus to its employees;

(b) the date from which it is applicable; and

(c) the estimated total amount likely to be paid to Government employees on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c) The eligibility ceiling for payment of bonus to Central Government employees was revised from the year 1992-93 in consultation with the Staff Side and, thereafter, there has been no further change in the ceilings for payment of bonus to the Central Government employees.

[Translation]

Introduction of Aircraft in Fleet of Air India

946. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of aeroplanes in the fleet of Air India;

(b) whether there is any proposal to induct some more aeroplanes in the fleet of Air India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the estimated amount likely to be spent thereon; and

(e) the source from which this amount is likely to be mobilised?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (e) At present Air India owns 26 aircraft. The company has signed an agreement with M/s Boeing for acquisition of two more B 747-400 aircraft at an estimated cost of Rs. 1137.70 crores. These aircraft are proposed to be financed through loans/borrowings and are expected to be delivered in July and August 1996.

[English]

Closure of Kanpur Textiles Mill

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

(a) whether Kanpur Textile Mill is running into loss and is likely to be closed; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken to rehabilitate a large number of workers of this Mill?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) The Cawnpore Textiles Ltd. is a cotton subsidiary of the British India Corporation Ltd. The Cawnpore Textiles Ltd. was referred to the BIFR which has declared it as a sick industrial company. The BIFR has passed orders winding up the company. The company has gone in appeal before the AAIFR where the appeal is under consideration. The Government is also considering steps to rehabilitate the unit.

Trade Relation with Egypt

948. SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase bilateral trade between India and Egypt;

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

(c) the extent up to which it is likely to increase our trade with that country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) The Third meeting of the India-Egypt Joint Commission is proposed to be held as soon as possible. The meeting will consider proposals from both sides to increase bilateral trade and economic cooperation. The previous meeting of the Joint Commission was held in 1988.

(c) It is not possible to make such an assessment prior to the Joint Commission meeting.

Funds to NTC Mills From NRF

949. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some funds have been provided from National Renewal Fund for NTC mills during 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount allocated to the NTC units of Gujarat out of it?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 20 crores was released during 1994-95 and an amount of Rs. 37.50 crores made in the budget for 1995-96 for National Textile Corporation mills for meeting the requirements of funds for Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

(c) Out of the above funds, an amount of Rs. 4.98 crores and Rs. 0.75 crores has been allocated to NTC (Guj.) Ltd. during the years 94-95 and 95-96 respectively.

Fiscal Deficit

950. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the actual fiscal as percentage of the GIP, during 1994-95;

(b) the debt service payments, internal and external, as proportion of total tax receipts during the year;

(c) the debt service payments on foreign debts as proportion of additional external assistance and loan during the year;

(d) whether the World Bank has cautioned the Government against the rising fiscal deficit and debt service charges; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to bring the debt situation under control during the current year?

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

(a) The actual fiscal deficit in 1994-95 will be known after the accounts for the year are finally closed. At the Revised Estimates stage it was 6.7% of GIP.

(b) In the Revised Estimates 1994-95 the total provision for debt servicing was Rs. 106258 crore. This represented 163.5% of the Centre's share of the tax revenue in the Revised Estimates. It may, however, be added that interest payment element in the debt service is met from Revenue receipts, which comprises both tax and non-tax revenues, while repayments are met from fresh borrowings.

(c) The provision made in Revised Estimates 1994-95 for servicing external debt on Government account was Rs. 9589 crore. This represented 90.4% of the additional external assistance of Rs. 10602 crore assumed in the Revised Estimates.

(d) In its Country Economic Memorandum the World Bank has commented on the rising fiscal deficit and debt service charges. The World Bank also shares the views of Government of India that the deficit of 5.5% of GDP in the Budget needs to be reduced further to facilitate growth rate of 6.5%.

(e) It is the constant endeavour of the Government to maximise the non-debt receipts and restrain expenditure to minimise the recourse to borrowings.

Credit Flow to Small Scale Industries

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

(a) whether the Government have asked the various banks to implement the seven point action plan for improving the credit flow to small scale industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) In his Budget Speech for 1995-96 FM had inter alia, mentioned that the Government, in consultation with banks had formulated a 'Seven Point Action Plan' for improving flow of credit to small scale industries (SSIs). The Action Plan consists of the following points :

- (1) Time-bound action needs to be taken by banks for setting up of specialised SSI branches in 35 identified districts each with more than 2000 registered SSI units. These branches should have adequate infrastructure and be manned by officials having the necessary background and skills and possessing the right attitude.
- (2) The Banks should review the existing delegation of powers at the branch and regional levels in order to facilitate timely sanction of adequate credit facilities to SSIs.
- (3) The banks should undertake sample surveys of their 'performing' SSI accounts with a view to find out whether they are getting adequate credit.
- (4) Steps to ensure that as far as possible composite loans are sanctioned to SSI entrepreneurs. In case of loans sanctioned by State Financial Corporations (SFCs), banks should appraise projects jointly or simultaneously with SFCs.
- (5) Banks should hold regular meetings with SSI borrowers at the zonal and regional levels with a view to sort out their problems.
- (6) The banks should reorient their training programmes with a view to sensitise bank managers and increase their awareness regarding working of the SSI sector.
- (7) The banks should take steps to review procedural formalities with a view to ensuring that procedures are simplified.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have already instructed public sector banks to take appropriate action

for effective implementation of the points contained in the Action Plan.

Landing Facilities at Calicut Airport

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

(a) whether any allocation has been made for improving landing facilities during bad weather at Calicut Airport in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether work on improving the landing facilities has since been commenced;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of other development works being done at Calicut Airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has installed a new Instrument Landing System at a cost of Rs. 2.50 crores. A new Doppler Very High Frequency Omni Range at a cost of Rs. 1.20 crores is also being installed. The scheduled date of its completion is October, 1995.

The terminal building is being expanded. Besides, AAI has a plan to extend the runway length to 9000 ft.

Trade Relation with Kazakhstan

953. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL :
SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any achievements have been made since the trade agreement between Indo-Kazakhstan become operative;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the trade between the two countries has not been increasing due to inadequate transport facilities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. After the Indo-Kazakh Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement become operative, the trade has picked up considerably.

The economic relationships between the two countries have expanded gradually. There have been exchanges of

visits at the highest levels and Indian companies have not only started exploring this newly emerging and fast growing market, but also have opened their representative offices in Almaty. Apart from this the Government of India has extended credit lines of US \$ 20 million to the Government of Kazakhstan. Some joint ventures are already in operation in Almaty and more are expected to be formed in future. A Trade House has been opened in Almaty. A Joint Business Council has already been set up between the two countries. A Joint Commission has also been formed which meets from time to time to monitor the trade and related matters.

A major thrust in this direction was given when the Kazakh Airlines started operating direct flight between Almaty and New Delhi.

(c) & (d) It is true that lack of viable transit route is an impediment to bilateral trade. To alleviate the problem Government of India had commissioned a multidisciplinary expert's study team to visit Iran and Central Asian republic (CARs) to examine possible transit route to CARs. The team has given the finding that the route to Kazakhstan through Iran can prove to be reliable, faster and economical.

A tripartite MoU has been signed in this connection between India, Iran and Turkmenistan and a tripartite agreement between these countries is under negotiation.

However, the trade between the two countries during 1994-95 has increased to Rs. 39 crores compared to 1993-94 when it was Rs. 15 crores.

Loans to SCs/STs in Madhya Pradesh

954. SHRI SURAJ BHANU SOLANKI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that commercial banks have not properly adhered to the instructions of Reserve Bank of India in the matter of advancing loans to the persons of SC/ST Communities in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the number of cases which have come to the notice of the Government regarding irregularities committed in this regard during the last two years; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the persons found guilty?

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

Balance of Trade with Germany and European Countries

955. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's trade balance with Germany and other European countries have begun to decline rapidly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to maintain the trade balances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir. The adverse balance in India's trade with the European Union has not widened in 1994-95 as compared to the previous year.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Improvement in Functioning of Regional Rural Banks

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

(a) whether the six of the 49 regional rural banks selected for restructuring in the first phase, have made a significant turn-around during 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent of the improvement in their profitability; and

(c) the present status of other 43 regional rural banks and the efforts being made for improvement in their profitability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) 26 banks out of 49 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) selected for restructuring in the first phase have improved their performance during 1994-95. Out of these three RRBs have turned around during the year. The details thereof are given in the attached Statement.

(c) For improving the profitability of RRBs, the Reserve Bank of India has made certain policy relaxations in respect of investment of surplus funds, relocation of branches, offering other services to customers, etc. Further, the implementation of the Developmental Action Plans by RRBs is being closely monitored by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development/Sponsor Banks.

STATEMENT

Provisional Working Result of 49 Rrbs Selected for Restructuring During 1994-95.

Sl. No.	Name of the Regional Rural Banks selected under phase 1 of restructuring	1993 -94 profit/ loss	1994 -95 profit/ loss
1	2	3	4
1.	Bhagirath Gramin Bank	220.00	88.00

1	2	3	4
2.	Sarayu Gramin Bank	37.00	17.00
3.	Sharda Gramin Bank	-165.00	-207.00
4.	Vindhyavasini Gramin Bank	25.00	32.00
5.	Godavari Grameena Bank	22.00	48.00
6.	Bhilwara Ajmer Kshetriya Gramin Bank	-144.00	-78.00
7.	Surat-Bharuch Gramin Bank	-61.00	-41.00
8.	Valsad-Dangs Gramin Bank	-22.00	0.50
9.	Avadh Gramin Bank	128.00	71.00
10.	Farrukhabad Kshetriya Gramin Bank	40.00	75.00
11.	Aurangabad Jalna Gramin Bank	-92.00	-99.00
12.	Thane Gramin Bank	-21.00	23.00
13.	Gopalganj Kshetriya Gramin Bank	-78.00	-90.00
14.	Siwan Kshetriya Gramin Bank	-99.00	-117.00
15.	Kshetriya Gramin Bank Hoshangabad	-234.00	-203.00
16.	South Malabar Gramin Bank	125.00	211.00
17.	Tungabhadra Gramin Bank	65.00	103.00
18.	Durg-Rajnandgaon Gramin Bank	-279.00	-231.00
19.	Kanakadurga Grameena Bank	5.00	25.00
20.	Vallalar Gramya Bank	-16.00	0.30
21.	Jammu Rural Bank	-411.00	-150.00
22.	Bhojpur-Rohtas Gramin Bank	-79.00	-348.00
23.	Himachal Gramin Bank	-213.00	-182.00
24.	Magadh Gramin Bank	-197.00	-352.00
25.	Shekhawati Gramin Bank	-468.00	-342.00
26.	Faridkot Bathinda Kshetriya Gramin Bank	8.00	20.00
27.	Sri Rama Grameena Bank	39.00	45.00
28.	Sri Sathavahana Grameena Bank	-45.00	-103.00
29.	Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank	-28.00	-29.00
30.	Basti Gramin Bank	25.00	44.00

1	2	3	4
31.	Bundelkhand Kshetriya Gramin Bank	-403.00	-306.00
32.	Gorakhpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank	928.00	995.00
33.	Ka Bank Nongkyndong Ri Khasi Jaintia	122.00	95.00
34.	Koraput Panchabati Gramya Bank	-177.00	-145.00
35.	Mizoram Rural Bank	-67.00	-26.00
36.	Nagaland Rural Bank	-15.00	-19.00
37.	Bijapur Grameena Bank	-37.00	13.00
38.	Gurgaon Gramin Bank	-134.00	-202.00
39.	Malaprabha Grameena Bank	11.00	372.00
40.	Prathama Bank	84.00	1.00
41.	Manipur Rural Bank	-97.00	-108.00
42.	Pragjyotish Goanlia Bank	-574.00	-626.00
43.	Bardhaman Gramin Bank	-163.00	-284.00
44.	Cuttack Gramya Bank	-350.00	-2337.00
45.	Howrah Gramin Bank	-48.00	-225.00
46.	Jaipur Nagaur Anchalik Gramin Bank	-189.00	-295.00
47.	Monghyr Kshetriya Gramin Bank	-558.00	-475.00
48.	Rewa Sidhi Gramin Bank	-38.00	-437.00
49.	Samyut Kshetriya Gramin Bank	223.00	251.00

PIGMY Deposit Accounts in Syndicate Bank

957. DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations regarding bungling/fraud in Pigmy Deposit Accounts maintained by the Syndicate Bank branches in Delhi;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government to settle such accounts of the poor depositors and to bring to book the culprits?

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

(a) and (b) Syndicate Bank has received complaints alleging fraud in Pigmy Deposit Accounts maintained with some of its branches at New Delhi. A Statement Is Attached.

(c) Syndicate Bank have already settled some of the claims and instructed their branches to settle the remaining genuine claims also. Departmental action has been initiated by the bank against the officials found negligent and complaints have been lodged with the police also.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of the Branch	Claims Received
1.	Okhla Depot II Extension counter attached to Lajpat Nagar Branch, Delhi.	10
2.	Ajadpur-Delhi	32
3.	Chandni Chowk Delhi.	28
4.	Barakhamba Road New Delhi.	1
5.	Chandni Chowk-Delhi	50
6.	G.B. Road-Delhi	34
7.	Mayapuri-New Delhi	30
8.	Green Park New Delhi.	9
9.	Karol Bagh-New Delhi	12
10.	Fatepur Beri-Delhi	9

Financial Crimes

958. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to establish co-operation with China for combating financial crimes; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps 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) A Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement has been signed between India and China for prevention of evasion of taxes and facilitating exchange of information in this regard. A proposal for co-ordination between India and China on customs matters has also been received.

[Translation]

New Air Strips in Gujarat

959. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to construct more airstrips in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The Airport Authority of India have no proposal, at present, to construct new airstrips in Gujarat.

12.01 hrs.

**FELICITATIONS TO TEAM OF DOCTORS
IN ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL
SCIENCES FOR DOING SUCCESSFUL
HEART-TRANSPLANTATION SURGERY.**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have a few items before me. I am going to give time one after the other. Let us first listen to the Leader of the Opposition.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this House is so much preoccupied with the national and international problems that we do not even take notice of the conl mile stones being achieved in the field of human welfare, in our neighbourhood and around us. I am referring to the successful heart transplant carried out at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, by our doctors. Before this, heart transplant was not carried out in India. Even now people go abroad in large number and spend foreign exchange. The doctors at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences have made this possible in India. Three heart transplants have been carried out in India. The first was on 3rd of A. ust last year. It was a remarkable achievement in the history of our nation's medical science. It was feared how many days the transplanted heart would function whether it would function at all or not? Would it get infected? But that person is healthy even after a year. He is leading a normal life and has raised the hope among others that heart transplantation is possible in India.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, after this some more transplants have been carried out. One was carried out on 8th July, 1995 and the third on 20th July, 1995. All these people are out of danger and alive. As I have said all the initial recipients are leading a normal life. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this remarkable achievement was made possible by our doctors, nurses, technicians and orderlies inspite of the limited facilities and resources. We cannot pay them the handsom matching salary of the private clinics. But we can certainly congratulate them I would request the Government to encourage them. They should be given incentives, so that they can make strides in the field of medical science and take India in the frontline of the nations in this field.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER : Tell the names also.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I apologise. The team was led by Dr. Venugopal. He was assisted by Dr. B. Das, Dr. Balram and Dr. Sampat Kumar. As I have said the team comprised technicians, nurses and orderlies. Such work is possible through team effort only. This team deserves our congratulation. I would like our feeling to be conveyed to the doctors. I wish the Health Minister was present here. The new Health Minister has not congratulated the team so far.* The team has not been given encouragement. At times I feel that medical profession has so much been infected by politics that politicians need less medical care and politics has erept into medical profession. There should not be any politics in medical profession.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : Sir, I wanted to make this announcement on some other occasion but since Mr. Vajpayee has raised it, I must congratulate him for raising this issue.

[Translation]

Shri Vajpayee has raised a very important issue. The entire nation is proud of this achievement and is also proud its doctors. This issue does not relate to my Ministry. He commented that the Health Minister should have been present here. After the third heart transplant by Dr. Venugopal, I felt that the nation needs more such doctors and specially Dr. Venugopal. Then I decided. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : The House should congratulate other doctors all over India. We would like to compliment them... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : On behalf of the Ministry I decided that if Dr. Venugopal wishes to do

further research, specially in America and other places then he would get a first class ticket, courtesy Air India, so that he may feel encouraged.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is very good that this matter was brought to the notice of the House by the Leader of the Opposition and responded in a very appropriate manner by the Civil Aviation Minister joining his word of praise and a very effective way of congratulating it. The entire House is of the view that the doctors have done very well and done pride to the country. We would like to make it a matter of record that we appreciate it very much and congratulate them from the bottom of our hearts and wish them all the best. This will be communicated to the concerned doctors.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI (Maharaj Ganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the donor was a woman.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Of course, ladies constitute the better half.

...(Interruptions)...

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, transplanting a woman's heart in a man made no difference...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He will be an ideal person representing the best in both...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : In my view, it is not the heart transplantation but brain transplantation that makes a difference.

...(Interruptions)...

12.09 hrs.

RE : DISSOLUTION OF LOCAL BODIES IN ORISSA

[English]

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur) : Sir, I want to raise a very important issue. Government of

Orissa, before the expiry of the term, has dissolved the panchayat samitis and panchayats. Sir, you know that before passing of the Constitution Amendment, Orissa was the first State where Panchayat Act was implemented with 30 percent reservation for woman and 30 percent reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This was appreciated at that time and still there are two more years for their term to get completed. But the new Government, which never held panchayat elections during their ten-year tenure, has dissolved it now.

Sir, I would have been happy if there would have been some lacunae and then if the Government had brought forward this Model Bill and passed it in the House. And if it would have dissolved after that, then it would have been a thing to be appreciated. But the approach that has been taken is against the principle of de-centralisation, against the principles which we upheld. The very tendency to rule the country in a particular manner has destroyed the very democratic fabric of the country.

MR. SPEAKER : Please, you have to be very brief.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : Sir, it is a very serious issue. This Government which talks of Panchayati Raj, de-centralisation of administration their party in Orissa is behaving in such a manner which is destroying the very basic fabric of Panchayati democracy. That is what is of serious concern for the whole country. It is because this Parliament had passed the Bill giving the Panchayats the right to rule. Moreover, the huge funds which have been allocated for the rural development of the people, would now be...

MR. SPEAKER : There are many other issues also. We would like to give the chance to others also.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : Sir, this money would be used by the bureaucracy. The Government of India should take note of it. Though it is a State subject, yet, the Congress Party, as a Party, should be ashamed of doing such things.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : I would like to have a clarification on this as to whether the Members to the Panchayati Raj institutions were elected before the recent amendment in the Constitution or they were elected after that.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : They were elected before the amendment to the Constitution was brought in. What does it mean?...(Interruptions)...Orissa was the only State which had mostly implemented the recommendations of the constitutional Amendment Bill.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack) : Sir, the Panchayati Raj Bill was unanimously passed in the Orissa Legislative

Assembly in the year 1992. Accordingly, the elections to these bodies were also held. There was absolutely no complaint about the elections from the then Congress Party, which was in the Opposition then. The elections of 1992 were held smoothly. Of the total 85,000 seats, 40 per cent of the elected representatives to the Gram Panchayats were from the Congress. It is not that only the representatives from the Janta Dal were elected to the different **Gram Panchayats** and **Panchayat Samities**.

But the question is, suddenly the Congress Legislature Party decided and demanded that the **Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samities and Municipalities** should be abolished. It was abolished by a Resolution. Because they had a majority in the Assembly. The term of the Office of the **Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samities** and the Municipalities was upto 1997. How has it happened if there was absolutely no lacunae in the Model Bill which was passed in Parliament? The elections to these bodies were conducted on exactly the same lines as proposed in the Model Bill and the Karnataka Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : You have raised this issue and there are many other points also.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, the point is, with fanfare we brought in this constitution Amendment Bill. The intention of the Parliament was that no bureaucrat should hold office either in a **Gram Panchayat**, or **Panchayat Samiti**, or Municipality. Now, after the dissolution of these bodies, there is absolutely no proposal by the Orissa Government to hold elections to the **Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samities** and the Municipalities. Therefore, for another one or two years, these bodies would be chaired by the bureaucrats instead of the elected representatives. 85,000 institutions were dissolved.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, the hon. Member should know...(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, this is politically motivated.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, according to the Constitution, no **Gram Panchayat**, no **Zila Parishad**, or any local Government body can remain unelected for more than So, the fear of the hon. Member that such bodies would remain unelected for more than one year or two years is not correct.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : The points is, if there was any lacuna in the original Orissa Panchayat Samiti Act or Orissa Municipality Act, then the model Bill could have come in the Assembly. After passing the Bill the dates for the elections could have been fixed and after elections this body could have been dissolved. Without going through that procedure, the Assembly has taken that decision. We condemn this. This Act was passed

unanimously and there was absolutely no complaint for any quarter. Only because of the political reasons, J.B. Patnaik Government has dissolved all these elected bodies.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the constitution Amendment Bill regarding Local Bodies was passed by the Parliament. Its aim was to strengthen democracy at the grassroot level. In several states, local bodies elections were not held. Panchayats were not used to be constituted. Municipalities remained dissolved and the bureaucrats used to rule the roost. As a remedial step, this constitution Amendment was effected. But it was surprising to know that the state, which passed a similar Bill in 1992-modelled on the Bill passed by the parliament held elections on the basis of this bill and the Panchayats were working satisfactorily there when recently another party came to power in the Vidhan Sabha elections and that party dissolved the panchayats. Fresh elections have also not been held. In my view, it is totally wrong and this, in a way, is a blow to democracy. To dissolve these Local Bodies is utterly improper. I fully share the feelings expressed by the honourable members.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I only want to state that the dissolution of the Panchayats in Orissa is a very serious matter. After years of labour we paved the way for the establishment of a four tier system in the country. There was no complaint in the Panchayat elections held there. The legislation which was passed unanimously by that State's Vidhan Sabha was totally ignored by them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to add one more thing. That, although Panchayats and Zila Parishads have been formed yet they have not been given any powers. Through you, I would like to the state that if we wish to decentralise power, the Parliament should give full power to the elected local Bodies. It was totally wrong to dissolve the Panchayats in this way. The Government should find a way out to this problem and should decide that this action was not proper.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, question has been raised regarding the dissolution of the Panchayati Raj Institutions in Orissa. A clarification had been sought by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, as to whether these elections were held before the Constitution Amendment or after. It was stated that the elections were held prior to the Constitution Amendment. The hon. Minister thought that whatever happened was right. I would like to remind you that I was also one of the members of the Parliamentary Committee, constituted to deliberate on the Constitution Amendment. In that (Amendment) a provision was made that the existing Panchayati Raj institutions would not be dissolved before the expiry of their term and this was discussed in the Parliament.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Is it a part of the law?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It is a part of the discussion.

[Translation]

There was unanimity on this and it was repeatedly stated by the Minister that elections to all the Local Bodies would be held within six months. In Bihar and several other states, Panchayat elections have not been held for the last 16-18 years. Elections have not been held even two years after the passing of the Constitution Amendment Bill.

Elected bodies are being dissolved. The Central Government is a mute spectator to that. In such a situation, Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the Panchayati Raj institutions have been accorded Constitutional status, and that the Constitution Amendment Bill was passed unanimously by the Parliament, we would urge you to put a stop to such incidents and the Panchayati Raj institutions be restored in Orissa and elections be held immediately in states where no such elections have been held for the past 16-18 years. Action should be taken against such states which fail to hold elections in time.

[English]

SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK (Bhubaneswar) : The Congress Government in Orissa has abolished the Panchayat system practically because they are accustomed to running the State administration without any local body or Panchayats. Earlier also, the J.B. Patnaik Government ran the administration without having any Panchayat elections. From the day of his election as the Chief Minister in the by-election, a row was created. A row was created that the Panchayat bodies should be abolished and now they have been abolished. As it has been already said, as per the law they are bound to have elections within six months. But that is not the question here because the Panchayat bodies were duly elected. They were duly elected and they have a period of two years more to complete their tenure. So, in such a situation, the way they have done about the local bodies should be condemned, and either the bodies should be restored or a direction should be given to have the elections for Panchayat bodies immediately.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you to speak. There is no need to rise again and again. I have said that I would call the Members turn by turn.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : I am sorry, Sir, for the ignorance of some of the hon. Members who

have raised this issue...(Interruptions)... I have heard all those things. Please let me speak...(Interruptions)...

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : This is not ignorance. Sir, he should not refer to it in this way.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Please listen to me. Sir, I am sorry for the ignorance of some of the hon. Members who raised this issue. By virtue of a Resolution passed in the Assembly, Panchayat and Municipal bodies have been dissolved; it is true. This was an election issue. Orissa recently went to polls...(Interruptions)... Orissa went to polls only in the month of March last. It was very much an issue before the people at the time of election. Because of large scale bungling by the people running the Panchayats in implementing different schemes of the Government of India like Jawahar Rozgar Yojana etc., because of large scale bungling and misappropriation...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : What are you talking?

[Translation]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Please listen...(Interruptions)...

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : What are you talking about?...(Interruptions)...

[Translation]

What are you talking?

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I have a right to complete...(Interruptions)...

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. I think if you can criticise, you shall have to hear criticism also. You cannot stop the Member from talking if he is criticising you.

SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK : No Party can make an election issue against the provisions of the law.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, people have voted the Congress Party to power with the authority to dissolve the Panchayat and Urban bodies. Secondly...

MR. SPEAKER : Why is it necessary to make a second point? You have made your point. Please sit down.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Let me speak, Sir.

Nothing can be far from truth than saying that the Congress Party is not interested in holding elections.

To Say that J.B. Patnaik Government did not conduct

any Panchayat elections during the last ten years viz., from 1980 to 1990 is an insult to the truth. I am prepared to quit this House if it is found true. Let Mr. Choudhury and others come forward and prove this. The Panchayat elections were held between 1980 and 1990.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Why did you not conduct Panchayat elections from 1984 and 1989?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You have made very good points. Now, you please sit down. You allow others also to speak.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : The present Chief Minister was also the Chief Minister during that decade viz., 1980 to 1990 when elections were held.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : At that time, you gave a statement condemning Shri J.B. Patnaik. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Elections were held in 1992 viz., prior to the amendment of Constitution here. There is a lot of variance in the Orissa Act and the amended Central Act with regard to reservation and so on. So, this step was necessary to dissolve the Panchayats there. They were thoroughly corrupt. I am sure, now, hon. Shri Advani will change his opinion, if he consults the people there...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a full-fledged debate.

...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : As you now, within six months of the dissolution, the elections will have to be conducted. The Orissa Government are committed to it. They are taking steps to hold the elections well in time. That is why by showing respect to the people's verdict and people's opinion, they have been dissolved. What has been alleged here is only politically motivated. The people, by and large, are happy with this action of the Orissa Government.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, a principled issue has been raised here. We do not know whether it was in their Election Manifesto to dissolve all the Panchayats in the State or not. If that is the principle of Constitutional behaviour, then, Sir, I would like to say that when the Congress Party promised to provide one crore jobs every year and would also reduce the increase in price level to the 1990 price level, on that basis only the people have voted them to power. The Finance Minister of India came here and said that the Election Manifesto is not to be observed because it was said only during the elections. So, what is their attitude? It is being propounded on the floor of Parliament of India that if somebody raises an election issue, then all Constitution behaviour has to be ignored. The Constitution has warranted that there have to be Panchayats; there has to be decentralised administration. Now, he suddenly says from the Congress Party that they can ignore everything. They can ignore

Constitution because of alleged corruption.

And secondly, they are justifying the total dissolution of all Panchayats whether on the basis of bungling or misappropriation or corruption. Sir, is this the method of doing it? How many Congress Panchayats are there which you have admitted to be guilty of misappropriation; bungling and corruption also? Are these things said on the floor of Parliament and then get away from them? Therefore, this Party has no right to remain there. They should go immediately.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Violence was resorted to. Many people lost their lives.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, only Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee's statement will go on record and nobody else's.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, I thank you for allowing me to raise this issue. Last year due to the death of shrimp siblings in sea and in inland culture centres in West Bengal and Orissa, several crores of rupees were lost by the growers, investors and the exporters and our country suffered a loss of several million dollars in foreign exchange earnings. But the Indian Institute of Marine Research located in Cochin did very little to suggest the remedies. This year also the same thing may happen as because till today nothing has been suggested by the Institute. Something must be done very urgently. Moreover, now-a-days as marine products are far exceeding in West Bengal and Orissa than those of Kerala, the producers and exporters in these States find it quite difficult to reach Cochin in case of emergencies. Therefore the Central Headquarters of the Institute...

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, you do not shift the Ocean Research Institute from the coastline to Delhi.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, my suggestion is to shift the headquarters and have field work offices in Kerala and West Bengal so that coordination can be there...*(Interruptions)* Otherwise, it is becoming very very difficult. Jakhar Ji is here. He can give the directions...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is not necessary for you to defend this.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : That is why I request Jakhar Ji to do something about this.

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the house towards the happening in Bosnia on which all the nations of the world have expressed their concern. But, with great regret one has to say that the nation which is the leader of

the non-aligned movement, which propounded the principles of Panchsheel and which made a mark in Bandung Conference has not expressed its view on this matter. Today United Nations has failed. More than two lakh people have been expelled from there, after the deployment of the armed forces. But India is a mute spectator. I do not know as to what is the foreign policy of the Government and what is its attitude towards this. I want the House to pass a resolution reminding the United Nations that it has become ineffective. The Nations of the world are themselves saying that United Nations has become an ineffective and redundant organisation. I would like our Foreign Minister to make a statement on this issue regarding our Government's policy in this regard.

12.34 hrs.

RE : ENRON POWER PROJECT IN MAHARASHTRA

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH (Parbhani) : Sir, I would like to draw your attention to an important issue. Yesterday the Maharashtra State Legislative Council took a decision on the Power project with capacity of generating 2015 megawatt and it would have started generation of 695 megawatt power by 1997 with which we expected to meet the shortage of electricity in Maharashtra. In 1993-94, there was a 1381 megawatt power deficit in Maharashtra and the energy requirement of Maharashtra by 2000 A.D. is 71 billion kilowatt. This power project was scrapped in a deliberately and in sentimental way. I appeal to you to appoint a fresh Committee on it and consider none the consequential setback and effect on foreign investors who are planning to set up projects here. They will refrain from investing money here and it will be a loss to Maharashtra and the country. They advance a plea that it will affect the marine life. The sea water is different from the water of a well. The reason given is that it is hot and the river fish die in it. The other reason given is that of its effect on environment. I would like to ask as to why do not they formulate another environmental scheme? In the absence of power, the farmers' pumps are not functioning. Electricity is not available in the rural areas for consecutive 3-4 days. The bread earning of a farmer depends mainly on water and electricity. Therefore, I request you to take up the matter afresh and set things right by constituting a Committee.

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane) : Mr. Minister, why don't you speak on it? You should say something on this issue.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I would bring to your notice that he

has given me a notice saying that he wants to make a statement. I am allowing the Members to speak and then he will reply or he will make the statement.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of pleasure for the House and the country that the Government of Maharashtra has scrapped the agreement reached between the Enron company and the Maharashtra State Electricity Board after all round deliberations. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra has given three main reasons for this decision which were not mentioned by the earlier speaker. According to Joshi ji, it was against the interests of Maharashtra. against the environmental aspects and thirdly, there was much of cost padding.

I would like to apprise the House of another important reason. Like Enron, another foreign company came to Orissa and entered into an agreement with the then government. Today, it is the Congress Government there in the state. I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister of Power that the Chief Minister of Orissa has gone on record saying that a padding of Rs. 250 crore was involved in it. That was the AE company of America. It had refused to abide by that contract. I would like to know what is this happening here? This House cannot be a mute spectator and tolerate all this.

Enron is a multinational company. They claim and the print-media has also reported that they have doled out Rs. 60 crore to educate the Indians. Through you, I would like to ask the Government as to exactly under what head was Rs. 60 crore spent by Enron before entering into the contract? Who were the beneficiaries? Many multinational companies will come to invest in India and will channelise the outflow of our money into their respective countries and will also corrupt the Indian intelligentsia and the public. Shall we remain a mute spectator to all this? Therefore, I would urge upon the Government of Maharashtra to remain steadfast on its stand and on the reasons advanced by it that led to scrapping of this project. That is in the interest of the country, Maharashtra and the people.

[English]

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur) : I have also given a notice on the same subject. We are very happy that the Enron project has finally been scrapped. We think that before the elections in Maharashtra. There was a people's movement against this project there, and this people's movement during the elections took such a form that the Government that was newly elected in Maharashtra had to take a note of that people's movement. They have taken note of it and, therefore, we are very happy. We would also like to know two things. Firstly, two questions arise out of this.

One is, that there are other similar power projects where also there are conditions of counter-guarantee and we also find that the State Electricity Boards are being bypassed.

They are being loaded with certain conditionalities which would be detrimental to the interests of the States. We would like to know whether there is going to be a review of all similar projects.

Secondly, we would like to know whether there has been an illicit transaction of money involved in these projects. We would like to know whether the Central Government would conduct an inquiry into the conditionalities of these projects and whether any padding has been there, whether any illicit transaction of money has been there.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Has Shri Salve submitted his resignation?

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA : Sir, there is also the question that certain multi-national corporations are threatening India. They are saying that if the Enron Project is scrapped then they would not invest in India. That is most unfair. That kind of arm-twisting by the multi-nationals is something entirely deplorable and we would like to say that wherever there are any agreements with multi-nationals, those agreements would be on our conditions and not on their conditions.

MR. SPEAKER : I think this will turn into a full-fledged debate because many people are wanting to speak on this. I do not know what is the legal position, whether we can discuss it or not and what kind of information is available and who is likely to reply to all this.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important issue and warrants a full-fledged discussion.

MR. SPEAKER : All right.

...(Interruptions)...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Then you do not talk only to me.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that it does not look proper to debate in the House the decision taken by the Government of Maharashtra. It will be in the fitness of things if a discussion is held on the reaction of the Central Government on the decision taken by the Government of Maharashtra.

So far as the question of decision of the Government of Maharashtra is concerned, it has been widely hailed throughout the country as a very judicious decision despite the fact that some people might have any ideology based policy differences with that Government. Therefore, I was expecting the hon. Minister of Power to clarify the approach and response of the Central Government before the House which will subsequently be debated but it is deplorable that a Member of Shiv Sena, now defected to that side, had to initiate the discussion on behalf of the treasury branches...(Interruptions). That is not the right approach. I would have appreciated if he or any other prominent person had made his point on it...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You should take your seats when I am on my legs.

I understand that some well-informed senior Members also want to speak on this issue. I will definitely grant them one minute each but, please, we will be leading ourselves to nowhere if we discuss it in an unstructured manner.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera) : You may conduct a discussion on it separately but take up issues right now.

MR. SPEAKER : All right.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa) : Let the hon. Minister make a statement first...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I will not be able to say anything if you all rise to speak simultaneously.

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY : Let the statement come.

MR. SPEAKER : Let us do it in a structured manner and if the hon. senior Members in the House think that it would be a proper thing, let us have a statement and I do not think that there would be questions on the statement. But if you think that some sort of a discussion is necessary, we will discuss in the Leaders' meeting and the Business Advisory Committee meeting and find out how it can be done. Or, if you insist, that I may allow one or two Members. Then you may say, "No, no."

...(Interruptions)...

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, Please.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what has been said about me has gone on record. Kindly expunge it from the record at least.

MR. SPEAKER : How can it be expunged. It will remain on record.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE) : Sir, before I make a statement, I want to submit to you that I will be ready for discussion any time in any form that you may be pleased to decide.

MR. SPEAKER : The only thing is where is the time available and how to do it. I think there are important issues and we should find time for them. The only thing is, less important issues should not be pushed into the House for discussion so that we can find time for important issues. This applies to all Members.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : But so far as the Government is concerned, I want to submit that we are ready and the motives which have been imputed are very very unfair. We do not want any agency. I do not want any agent for me... (Interruptions).

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

[English]

(i) Repudiation of Phase-I and cancellation of Phase-II of the Dabhol Power Project By Government of Maharashtra.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE) : Sir I beg to lay on the table a statement regarding repudiation of Phase-I and cancellation of Phase-II of the Dabhol Power Project by Government of Maharashtra.

A fax message was received yesterday by the Minister of Power from Secretary (Energy), Government of Maharashtra purporting to be the statement made by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra in the State Legislature in respect of the Enron Power Project at Dabhol in Maharashtra. The statement has been made in Marathi. The long statement in its totality requires analysis in depth which is being carried out. The statement refers to the decision taken by the Government of Maharashtra to repudiate the contract and to stop the work at site in respect of first phase of the Dabhol project and to exercise its option to cancel 2nd phase of the project, which decision, as stated in the statement, appears to have been taken on the following five main considerations :

- (i) No competitive bidding was resorted to before awarding the project to M/s Dabhol Power Corporation (DPC);
- (ii) The transactions with DPC were clouded in

secrecy and there was no apparent transparency about them;

- (iii) There was no serious concern for environmental factors;
- (iv) The project was approved at an unrealistic capital cost; and
- (v) The tariff allowed was an escalating one which was against the interests of the State and consumers.

The above five grounds appear to be substantially similar to the ones raised in writ petitions filed in Bombay and Delhi High Courts and the Supreme Court of India which had upheld the validity of the contracts entered into with M/s DPC. While the matter is essentially between the Govt. of Maharashtra, its Electricity Board and M/s DPC, the Central Government is directly concerned to the extent of its liabilities under the counter-guarantees given in favour of M/s DPC and generally about the possible fall out of the decision of the Maharashtra Government on the investment climate in India. The implications of the decision taken by the Government of Maharashtra referred to in the statement including the legal implications of the counter-guarantee require and are under examination, in detail.

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, ... (Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Only Maj. Gen. Khanduri's statement will go on record.

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards making Uttaranchal a separate state.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 12th of August, just a week hence, it will be four years since the Government of Uttar Pradesh had sent a proposal to the Central Government for creating a separate state comprising of 8 districts of Uttaranchal. So far, the Central Government has taken no action on this proposal. Thereafter, another Government in Uttar Pradesh sent one more similar proposal of formation of a separate state.

* Not recorded

Sl. No.	State Name	No. of Scheme	Project Cost	Loan Amount	Loan Released
6.	Madhya Pradesh	1	795.27	200.00	0.00
7.	Maharashtra	5	25526.04	11183.44	4475.76
8.	Orissa	5	10752.6[A]	7179.50	2376.31
9.	Punjab	45	4456.43	3098.76	1538.85
10.	Rajasthan	32	10782.92	7583.42	2021.22
11.	Tamil Nadu	5	9759.17	2133.75	1605.24
12.	West Bengal	7	10797.84	5109.00	2442.00
Scheme Type Total		132	91426.75	48712.22	18160.00

STATEMENT III

LIC Assistance for Water Supply and Sewerage Schemes

Sl.No.	State	Allocation		
		1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.12	3.92	4.46
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	1.19	1.19
3.	Assam	0.44	0.57	0.57
4.	Bihar	-	-	-
5.	Goa	5.53	6.07	4.29
6.	Gujarat	19.23	24.25	26.59
7.	Haryana	-	1.35	1.35
8.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6.07	6.65	6.65
10.	Karnataka	5.68	4.89	6.71
11.	Kerala	10.00	15.76	18.06
12.	Madhya Pradesh	18.98	21.56	23.42

Sl.No.	State	Allocation		
		1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
13.	Maharashtra	42.28	43.23	35.94
14.	Manipur	0.97	1.15	1.15
15.	Meghalaya	-	0.20	-
16.	Mizoram	1.67	2.10	2.55
17.	Nagaland	2.28	2.90	2.90
18.	Orissa	5.01	5.60	11.23
19.	Panjab	19.20	21.22	21.22
20.	Rajasthan	4.87	5.33	6.72
21.	Sikkim	-	-	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	32.10	38.75	43.59
23.	Tripura	-	0.85	0.85
24.	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-
25.	West Bengal	4.45	8.67	8.67
Total		181.88	216.21	228.11

[English]

Moidu Bridge in Kerala

161. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which work has progressed on the repair of the Moidu Bridge between Tellichery and Cannanore on NH-17 in Kerala;

(b) the allocation of funds made for this project;

(c) whether the work is being executed by the Kerala State Authorities/experts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) About 50% of the repair work of the Moidu Bridge has been completed;

(b) A sum of Rs. 20.63 Lakh is earmarked for this project;

(c) and (d). The repairs are being executed by the Kerala P.W.D. through Kerala Electrical and Allied Engineering Co. Ltd. which is a Government of Kerala Undertaking;

(e) The work is likely to be completed by September, 1995.

Potable/Drinking Water in Goa

162. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of towns facing inadequacy of potable/ drinking water in Goa as identified by the expert team and the number of persons affected adversely as a result thereof;

(b) the total quantum of funds provided to the Union Government of Goa for providing drinking water facilities during the past three years and number of works completed/ under progress and the number of persons benefitted;

(c) the total allocation of funds available, granted/released for ongoing and new drinking water schemes during the current year and arrangements made for efficient and timely execution of the same; and

(d) whether performance of the scheme have been critically reviewed/evaluated and the findings thereof and steps taken for effective implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) to (d). Water Supply is a State subject. Schemes for providing drinking water supply in Urban areas are formulated, executed and monitored by the State PHE Departments and Water Boards. The performance of the schemes are not monitored by the Central Government, except the Centrally and externally funded projects.

The outlays provided for urban water supply in Goa under the State Plan and the expenditure reported by the State Government during the last three years is as under :

(Rs. in crores)		
Annual	Outlay	Expenditure
1992-93	10.24	10.74
1993-94	13.06	19.94
1994-95	15.04	15.19
1995-96	16.71	
	(provisional)	

In addition, Central share of Rs. 16.38 lakhs was released in two instalments during 1993-94 and 1994-95 to the Government of Goa under the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme for implementation of two water supply schemes for the towns of Calangute and Reismagos.

Extradition Treaty with South Asian Countries

163. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the countries in South Asia with whom India has "Extradition Treaty" in operation, country-wise;

(b) the names of countries in South Asia with whom the Government propose to sign "Extradition Treaty"; and

(c) the extent to which the treaty would be advantageous to the country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) India has Extradition Treaty in operation with Nepal and Bhutan only.

(b) The Government is not proposing signing Extradition Treaty with any other South Asian country.

(c) The existence of Extradition Treaty facilitates extradition of fugitive criminals between the two countries.

Extradition of Prabhakaran

164. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sent any communication to Sri Lanka in regard to extradition of Prabhakaran;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Sri Lanka are processing the communication;

(d) if so, the progress made so far in this regard;

(e) whether the Government have received any response from the Government of Sri Lanka; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government of India, through the High Commission of India in Sri Lanka, on June 3, 1995, formally handed over to the Government of Sri Lanka three separate requests, along with supporting documents for the apprehension and extradition of (i) V. Prabhakaran, leader of the LTTE; (ii) Pottu Omman @ Sivasankar, Chief of Intelligence of the LTTE; and (iii) Akila @ Akila, Akka, Deputy Chief of the Women's Intelligence Wing of the LTTE, accused in case no. RC 9(S)91/SCB-Madras (C.C. No. 11/1992) relating to the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India and others at Sriperumbudur near Madras on 21.5.1991 to stand trial in the Designated Court-I at Poonamallee, Madras.

supplied to Gujarat and the Union Government should cooperate in ameliorating the sufferings of farmers of Gujarat. This is my request to Mr. Minister.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Firozabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise an important issue pertaining to democracy and draw the attention of the Government towards what is happening with regard to Photo-identity card in the entire Western Uttar Pradesh. The Government authorities do not give any information to this effect to farmers in the rural areas that photo identity cards are being prepared. A large number of irregularities are being committed by Government employees. So I want to urge upon the Government through you to direct the Uttar Pradesh Government to give necessary instructions to the concerned authorities that photo-identity card booth opened in the area of village Panchayat...(Interruptions). It does not matter Government of which party is there? This is an issue of democracy. One polling booth consists of ten or eleven homlets. I want to say that farmers and agricultural labourers must get their identity cards. Only then, democracy can be strengthened otherwise, they would not be in a position to exercise their franchise in the coming elections. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious issue. The Government must consider this issue very seriously.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Sir, it is Shri Bhuvaneshwar Prasad Mehta...Shir Syed Shahabuddin ji...

...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will not call your name.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I want to draw your attention as well as that of the entire House and the Government towards one important issue in a few words only. We had passed a law in 1991 in this House itself that the 15 August 1947 position of all of our Shrines will be maintained and we had also envisaged in that very law that not only the violation of the law is prohibited but also that any abetment or incitement to this effect will also attract penalty. I feel very sorry to say that one party of our country is posing challenges to this law time and again. I go through newspaper daily only to find that time and again it is being said that they would demolish Gyanvapi Mosque and Shahi Idgah at all costs. I do understand that the Government has taken some precautionary protective measures but they have not taken note of the situation in a full perspective. They have not taken the legal steps which they should have taken and I understand that executive instructions should be issued to the State Governments under article 355 that violation of law would not be allowed at all and these who want to whip up people's sentiments by carrying a campaign should be put under restrictions I feel happy that a meeting of national

integration council was called but as far as I know no decision was taken in that meeting. I understand that if we want to prevent the reoccurrence of Ayodhya episode, then we will have to pay attention towards this issue with our main and might. This is the duty of the Government and the Government will have to discharge its duty.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will sit up to 1.30 p.m. Kindly cooperate with me.

[Translation]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Sir, I want to draw your attention towards the dharna going to be staged by lakhs of rural bank employees on 21st in Delhi and the advertisement released to this effect. These employees want that the Government should implement the decision taken by the Government following the recommendations of Reddy Commission that they too will get their salary at par with the employees of other commercial banks. Mr. Finance Minister had accepted it in 1991. That was given afterwards but the agreement signed with other employees has deprived them of their due. Sir, India lives in villages. The employees of rural bank harness their time and energy for their service to people. So to deprive them of their due is dangerous. So my request is that the Dharna being staged by them in protest...

India lives in villages, The employees of rural banks serve the people in a committed manner by working hard. My request is that Mr. Finance Minister must come forward to assure them that they will be paid suitable salary. A Indian rural bank will be set up to under take development work so as to improve their standard of life and to help the farmers in villages...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It will not go on record. There should be discipline in the House. I am very sorry.

...(Interruptions)...

[Translation]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : Mr. Finance Minister must reply, do something, this is my request. This is very important issue, lakhs of employees are sitting on Dharna there in protest.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You cannot expect any reply during zero hour.

* Not recorded

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDEW RAM (Palamau) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the National Industrial Tribunal, set up at the behest of Supreme court, has given its directives to the Government of India on 30th April, 1990 that regional rural Bank's employees and officers should be given salaries at par with that of those working in commercial banks. The Government of India had given its directive on 22nd February, 1991 to implement the award. Accordingly the facilities suggested upto the 5th pay agreement have been provided to the regional rural banks. The 6th pay agreement has already been concluded on 14th February, 1995 in the banking industry, which has already been implemented, but the Government of India has not given its directives for the regional rural banks. So employees from all over the country are staging demonstrations against it. They will be on a nation-wide strike on 22nd August.

The Government of India had given the excuse of deficit before the National Industrial Tribunal, but this excuse was overruled. This banks was running in loss at the time of implementation of the Award. Now, it is not appropriate to take recourse to the same excuse again. At present, 11 out of 27 Public Sector Banks are running in loss. The sixth agreement has been implemented there also. So, this logic is not tenable in the case of regional rural banks. Mr. Finance Minister is requested to make a pointed statement.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Sir, Ramdew ji you are not supposed to read out your speech during the Zero Hour. You may read it when you are raising a matter under the rule 377 but not now.

...(Interruptions)...

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay-North) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bombay's population has gone up to one crore-20 lakhs and 60 lakh people live in J.J. Colonies they live very precarious life. The new Government of Shiv Sena and B.J.P. has been elected to power in Maharashtra. They have decided to provide security to those people only whose name figured in the Voter's list and who had dwellings in their names, by the end of January, 1995. And the Government of Maharashtra has given civic facilities to these who dwell in slums located on the Private Government or Bombay Municipality's land. But the Central Government has not given No-Objection Certificate for providing this kind of facilities. That is how about 20 lakh people are still being denied facilities. The Government of Maharashtra has formulated a dynamic scheme for 40 lakh hut dwellers, which seeks to provide amenities to those living on the Central Government's land. So the Central Government is urged upon... Therefore, I demand that the Central Government should issue No-Objection Certificates to the residents of the slums, living on public lands, to enable them to participate in this scheme. Life in Mumbai is by and by becoming difficult. The cost of houses is skyrocketing. Under this scheme, they would be able to own a house. The

government should make a statement as to what it intends to do regarding this.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a very important issue during the Zero Hour. The Director General of Forests, has said that ecological imbalance has been created due to the needs of the poor and the greed of the rich. Twenty per cent rich people of the world exploit more than three fourths of the resources. Consequently, the livelihood of the poor is affected as they are dependent on it. In such a situation, we would urge the Government to amend the Forest Conservation Act in such a manner, that the poor are benefited. The present Act benefits the rich only...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister toward the difficulties and administrative problems faced by the people in the Life Insurance Corporation regional offices in Bihar. I have myself drawn the attention of the hon. Finance Minister towards the fact that large number of people in Bihar have taken Life Insurance Policies. It was demanded to establish a regional office in Bihar but despite all the formalities having been completed it is not being opened there. The nearest regional office is in Calcutta. Due to this, industrial development is not taking place. If the regional office is opened industrial development would pick-up and large number of people would be benefitted. Further, the people will not have to face administrative difficulties. But, even after repeated requests, regional office has not been opened yet. It has resulted in hardship to the people in Bihar.

Therefore, through you, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to look into this problem and justice may be done to the people of Bihar.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Bombay South Central) : Mr. Speaker, Sir...*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, that is not the subject. Is it this subject that you have given notice of?

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : No.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have to speak on shifting the Regional Design and Technical Development Centre for Handicrafts. You are misusing the chance. I am very sorry. Your chance is lost. Now, I call Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, ... (Interruptions)***

* Not recorded

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The entire thing is not going on record.

...(interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can raise it next time.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the decision of the Government to privatise the Newsprint Mill, situated at Nepanagar in Madhya Pradesh. Due to this, there is resentment among the labour force. The Nepanagar newsprint mill is making profit. Thousands of workers are engaged there. But the Government's decision to privatise the mill is against the wishes of the workers. It has agitated them. Thousands of workers are protesting there. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the fact that the mill's production has been good and it is making profit. But, due to the wrong policy of the Government, the mill was exposed to competition, resulting in the present situation. It is my submission that financial assistance should be extended to this mill to make it more viable and not to privatise it. I also submit that the hon. Minister should make a statement on this.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is severe shortage of LPG in Bihar. The people are required to wait for 2-3 months to get a gas cylinder. In the meanwhile, Indian Oil Corporation has issued a circular according to which each consumer will get 143 kg of LPG per year i.e. 11.5 kg LPG each month. It means one cylinder in 40 days. This is not proper. Those who have gas connections, do not have alternative arrangement which results in great inconvenience to them. On the one hand, the Government's endeavours to provide LPG connection to each village, but on the other there is shortage of LPG and the consumers are not being supplied it regularly. There is vast reserve of gas in the country that it has to be flared up. Such news appear regularly in local dailies and Hindustan Times. I request the Government to do away with the ceiling of 11.5 kg per month and according to the need, each consumer should be given on cylinder in 20 days. Therefore, the state's and the consumer's quota should be fixed accordingly.

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR (Faridkot) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a very important issue. About two years ago a devastating earthquake struck the districts of Latur and Osmanabad, in Maharashtra, resulting in widespread damage in which several thousand people were rendered homeless. At that time the Maharashtra Government had announced that houses

would be provided to 18,500 persons. But, even after two years, not a single house has been provided. On the other hand, about 11,000 houses have been provided by the non-Governmental Organisations. Villagers of Gulha and Saotur have said that their huts could withstand thousands of earthquakes but, the houses constructed by the Government will not be able to withstand a single earthquake. The then Chief Minister, Shri Sharad Pawar had visited the earthquake hit site and had promised to provide houses to all the people till Dussehra. But, even after three Dussehras, the people have not been provided houses. The present Government in Maharashtra is giving no attention to this matter. My submission is that the Government should rehabilitate the earthquake victims.

SHRI RAM KASPSE (Thane) : Much attention has been paid to the earthquake. The Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra had personally visited there.

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR : Sir, only such reports have trickled in.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : You are levelling false charges.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No more discussion.

...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am very sorry. I will take very serious notice of these things. Why should you unnecessarily interfere? You should maintain discipline in the House I am very sorry.

...(Interruptions)...

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Allahabad University is a famous university of India. There are already 60 seats for MBA. The administration there has auctioned 30 seats at the rate of Rs. 1.5 lakh per seat without any orders from any decision making forum of the university or the Government. 15 seats have been reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the backwards and the remaining 15 seats have been kept for general category. My submission to the Government is that keeping 15 seats for the general category is against the decision of the Supreme Court since the Supreme Court has given the verdict that half of the seats in an institute will be kept reserved on the basis of merit. The students are agitated there. The Government should take some steps to pacify the student's movement and efforts should be made to get the decision of the Supreme Court implemented regarding the general category seats...(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as per the Eighth schedule of the Constitution, there are 18 recognised languages in our country. I am sorry to say that discussion on this topic is held in the House time and again but no attention has been paid towards it. The University Grants Commission has clearly said that the Indian languages will not be implemented in Higher education in our country. Nothing can be more shameful than this. Prior to it, there was no reference of Indian languages anywhere in the 12 examinations held by the UPSC...(Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK (PHULBANI) : After this speech, papers can be laid on the Table of the House, Sir.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : If you have allowed me to speak, you should see that there is order in the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : They are very hungry.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : But, this matter is very important.

[Translation]

The names of those persons who are staging a dhama on the issue of inclusion of Indian languages in the UPSC examinations, will appear in the Guinness Book of World Records. Nothing more can be shameful than non-inclusion of Indian languages in the examination of UPSC. It has been provided in Article 343 of the Constitution that :

[English]

"343 (1). The official language of the Union shall be Hindi in Devanagari script."

[Translation]

We have not talked about Hindi only but all recognised Indian languages. The purpose of the Constitution was that with the passage of time Indian Languages will become the medium of all examinations conducted by UPSC, but today the suggestion of the Education Ministry has been set aside. University Grants Commission has clearly said that Indian languages cannot be used in higher education, since it will harm the unity and integrity of the country. I am at a loss to understand on what basis, UGC has said so. The Indian Official Language Act was passed and under Section 3(3) of this Act both Hindi and English were implemented uniformly. Shri Rabi Rai ji and all of us

including the leaders of the Congress Party had participated in the dharna. The former President Gyani Jail Singh is no more. The Government should make it clear whether the Indian languages will be implemented in higher education or not and whether these languages will be given due place in the examinations of Union Public Service Commission or not? Will the Indian Languages continue to be mocked at in such a way? The English have left this country but English still dominates here. My submission to the Central Government is that it should take up this issue seriously and the House should be informed that Indian languages will be given proper place in higher education. The Indian Languages should be given the same place as is given to English in UPSC.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned for lunch to meet again at 2.35 p.m.

13.35 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for
Lunch till Thirty Five Minutes past Fourteen
of the Clock.*

14.42 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Forty Two
Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am sorry, Dr. Jakhar and Shri Chidambaram also, if you had given me some indication earlier, I would have called you for laying your Papers at that time. Now, we will take up Papers to be laid on the table and you can do it now.

Notification Under Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : On behalf of Shri P.A. Sangma, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. S.O. 967 (Hindi and English versions) Published in Gazette of India dated the 20th March, 1995 seeking to add one more item to the First Schedule to the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, under sub-section (3) of section 40 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7968/95]

Notification Under Spices Board Act, 1986.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Spices Board (Registration of Exporters) (Amendment) Regulations, 1995 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F. No. MD/L & R/01/92-94 in Gazette of India dated the 29th April, 1995, Under section 40 of the Spices Board Act, 1986.

[Placed In Library. See No. LT 7969/95]

Notifications Under Public Debt Act, 1944, Government Saving Bank Act, 1873, etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : On behalf of Shri M.V. Chandrashekhara Murthy : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A Copy of the Public Debt (Amendment) Rules, 1995 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 469 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd June, 1995, under sub-section (3) of section 28 the Public Debt Act, 1944.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 7970/95]

- (2) A copy of the Post Office Recurring Deposit (Amendment) Rules, 1995 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.R.S. 413 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th May, 1995, under sub-section (3) of section 15 of the Government Savings Bank Act, 1873.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 7971/95]

- (3) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 467 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th May, 1995 notifying that the subscriptions made to the Public Provident Fund and balances at the credit of the subscribers shall bear interest at the rate of Twelve per cent per annum during the year 1995-96, issued under section 5 of the Public Provident Fund Act, 1968.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 7972/95]

- (4) A copy of the Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1994 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No G.S.R. 815 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th November, 1994, under sub-section (3) of section 36 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 7973/95]

- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962—

- (i) G.S.R. 490 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th June, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing the norms of wastage admissible in the manufacture of gold, silver and platinum jewellery articles, in the 100 percent Export Oriented Units located in specified Export Processing Zones and the Special Export Oriented Complex, Jhandewalan, New Delhi.

- (ii) G.S.R. 491 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th June, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to remove the restrictions on the imports of gold of 0.999 fineness and office equipments to prescribe norms of wastage admissible in the manufacture of gold, silver and platinum jewellery articles and to provide for the manner of recovery of gold from scrap, dust or sweepings of gold, in 100 percent Export Oriented Units.

- (iii) G.S.R. 498 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th June, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to relax to conditions of customs duty free import of office equipment, spare and consumables thereof by units under the 100 percent Export Oriented Undertakings Scheme by removing the requirement of a recommendation/approval of the Board of Approvals for such import.

- (iv) G.S.R. 539 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th July, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the facility of dutyfree imports to units operating under customs bond procedures, for the purposes of carrying out testing, calibration or maintenance (including servicing) of articles meant for re-export.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 7974/95]

- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944—

- (i) G.S.R. 477 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd June, 1995 together with an

explanatory memorandum regarding exemption from Central Excise duty on clearances of goods manufactured by exporting Units, under the 100 percent Export Oriented Undertaking Scheme.

- (ii) The Central Excise (Tenth Amendment) Rules, 1995 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 549 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th July, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 7975/95]

- (7) A copy of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Procedure for holding inquiry and imposing penalties by adjudicating officer) Rules, 1995 (Hind and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 541 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th July, 1995 under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 7976/95]

14.43 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS—Contd.

(ii) Price Policy for Kharif Crops

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, The Government have fixed the Minimum Support Price of Paddy (common) of fair average quality at Rs. 360/- per quintal for the year 1995-96 season. This marks an increase of Rs. 20/- per quintal over the price of Rs. 340/- fixed for 1994-95 crop. The price for Fine and Superfine variety of Paddy has been fixed at Rs. 375/- and Rs. 395/- per quintal respectively. This marks an increase of Rs. 15 per quintal over the price of previous season for both the varieties.

The Minimum support price of Coarse cereals (Jowar, Bajra and Ragi) of fair average quality has been fixed at Rs. 300/- per quintal which marks an increase of Rs. 20 per quintal over the price fixed for the previous season. For Maize also, the increase is Rs. 20 per quintal and the Minimum Support Price is Rs. 310/-.

The Minimum Support Price of Kharif Pulses viz., Arhar (Tur), Moong and Urad of fair average quality has been raised by Rs. 40 per quintal over the previous year's price and fixed at Rs. 800/- per quintal.

The Minimum Support Price of Groundnut-in-shell of fair

average quality has been fixed at Rs. 900/- per quintal marking an increase of Rs. 40 per quintal over the price fixed for the last crop.

The Minimum Support Price of Soyabean Yellow has been fixed at Rs. 680/- per quintal marking an increase of Rs. 30 per quintal over the price fixed for 1994-95. Similarly, the Minimum Support Price of Soyabean Black has been fixed at Rs. 600/- per quintal showing an increase of Rs. 30 per quintal over the price fixed for the last season.

At Rs. 950/- per quintal, the Minimum Support Price of Sunflower Seed shows an increase of Rs. 50 per quintal over the previous season.

The Minimum Support Price of F-414/H-777 Cotton has been fixed at Rs. 1150/- per quintal which marks an increase of Rs. 150 per quintal over the previous year. Similarly, at Rs. 1350/- per quintal the Minimum Support Price of H-4 variety also shows an increase of Rs. 150 per quintal over the price fixed for the previous season.

For the first time the Minimum Support Price of Sesamum and Nigerseed has also been fixed at Rs. 850/- and Rs. 700/- per quintal respectively. This will help the farmers to increase production of these crops.

It is expected that these Minimum Support Prices will enthuse the farmers to achieve further increase in production and productivity of these crops.

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : The Support price of soya bean should be raised. In order to increase the production of Soyabean in the Country, the Union Government has done some justice to the soyabean growers. Its support price should have been raised. Last time, the farmers did not get reasonable price for their produce. I would like the Government to reconsider the support price of Soyabean.

14.46 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTING OF THE HOUSE

Tenth Report

[English]

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA (Balasore) : Sir I beg to present the Tenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House.

14.46 1/4 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAY

Sixteenth Report and Minutes

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA (Jhabua) : Sir I beg to present the Sixteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways (1995-96) on 'Requirement Procurement and Utilisation of Wagons by Indian Railways' and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.

14.46 1/2 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

Twentieth Report

[English]

PROF. M. KAMSON (Outer Manipur) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Twentieth Report of the Committee on Home Affairs on the Working of the Union Public Service Commission (U.P.S.C.).

14.47 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing 7th August, 1995 will consist of :

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Consideration and passing of :
 - (a) The Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, 1995.
 - (b) The Sick Textile Undertakings (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 1995.

(c) The Textile Undertakings (Nationalisation) Bill, 1995.

3. Discussion and Voting on :

- (a) Demands for Grants (Jammu & Kashmir) for 1995-96.
- (b) Supplementary Demands for Grants (general) for 1995-96.
- (c) Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 1992-93.

4. Consideration and passing of :

- (a) The Indian Statistical Institute (Amendment) Bill, 1995.
- (b) The National Commission for Minorities (Amendment) Bill, 1995.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMER (Barh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the following items may be included in next week's agenda :

1. Making right to work as fundamental right.
2. Implementation of Employment Guarantee Scheme in every block of the country.

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in next week's agenda :

1. Discussion on the problems of the religious and linguistic minorities in the country.
2. Discussion on the human rights situation in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

1. Introduction of Indian Airlines' flight to Kota, the industrial Capital of Rajasthan where Private Airline service was in operation but was stopped all of a sudden.
2. Putting in order more than half of the telephone connections lying dead out of Five thousand newly installed telephones in Kota City.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included

in next week's agenda :

1. Construction of Bareilly by pass on National Highway-24 (Lucknow-Delhi) keeping in view the great rush of traffic and other requirements.
2. Revival of Coach Repair Factory, located at Izzatnagar on North-Eastern Railway which is on the verge of closure due to non-availability of work orders and setting up of a coach factory at this place.

SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA (Sitapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in next week's agenda :

1. Construction of embankment and bridge on Chahdari Ghat in order to check flood and soil erosion caused by Ghaghra and Sharda rivers in Sitapur district.
2. Necessary steps for effective implementation of telecommunication system in the rural areas of district Sitapur in U.P.

DR. SATYNARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following subjects may be included in next week's agenda :

1. Arms dealers, dealing with foreign arms including U.S. Carbine, A.K. 47 and other dangerous weapons, have been arrested in Ujjain, Indore and Ratlam districts of Madhya Pradesh. Hence, there is a need to take security measures immediately in order to tackle the serious situation arising out of this development.
2. Framing of effective policy and arrangements of funds to make Textile Sector of the country viable. Modernisation and revival of NTC Mills, Hira Mills, MTC Mills, Indore Textiles and closed Vinod, Vimal Mills and employment to all labourers.

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in next week's agenda :

1. Need to give certificate to Bidi labourers for the deposits made in Provident Fund.
2. Need to link all the hills of Rajgir in Bihar with ropeway with the funds received from Japan and other Buddhist countries for the development of Buddhist pilgrim and tourist centres.

[English]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE

(Vijayawada) : Sir, I request the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

1. Brackish water prawn culture is making rapid strides in recent years in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Tamilnadu and other coastal States. I request the Union Government to issue instructions to commercial banks to provide loans to farmers of prawn culture.
2. The Insurance Companies have recently issued instructions to their offices not to extend insurance coverage to the prawn culture ponds. I request the Union Government to issue instructions to extend insurance coverage for the aquaculture ponds.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Sir, I request the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

1. The recognition and inclusion of Rajasthani language in Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
2. The need for a railway station at Jaiteran of Pali district with railway track between Bar and Billada.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : Mr. Dy. Speaker, Sir, the following item may be included in the next week's agenda :

1. The mighty Himalayas adorn the head of the nation...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Bhogendra Jha, only approved text will go on record and nothing else.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

1. Finalisation of agreements between India and Nepal for earliest construction of multipurpose projects like High dam over rivers Koshi, Kamla, Karuali, Pancheshwar, etc.
2. Completion of the Western Koshi canal project including the syphon over river Kamla to provide perennial irrigation to seven-and-a-half lakh acres of land in the districts of Madhubani, Darbhanga and Samastipur in North Bihar.

14.55 hrs.

MATERNITY BENEFIT (AMENDMENT) BILL

As Passed by Rajya Sabha

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, the House shall take up legislative Business-Bill for consideration and passing. Shri P.A. Sangma.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : Sir, on behalf of Shri P.A. Sangma, I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Maternity benefit Act, 1961 as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

As the hon. Members will be aware, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 regulates the employment of women in certain establishments before and after child birth and provides for maternity and certain other benefits. The Act applies in the first instance to factories, mines, plantations, shops or establishments and the circus industry. It can be extended to other establishments by the State Governments. There is no wage limit for coverage under the Act.

With the gradual extension of coverage under the Employees State Insurance Act, which also provides for maternity and certain other benefits, the area of application of the Maternity Benefit Act has shrunk to some extent. The coverage under the ESI Act is, however, at present restricted to factories and certain other specified categories of establishments located in specified areas. The Maternity Benefit Act is, therefore, still applicable to women employees employed in establishments which are not covered by the ESI Act, as also to women employees, employed in establishments covered by the ESI Act, but who are out of its coverage because of the wage limit.

Under the Act, women employees are entitled to maternity benefit at the rate of average daily wages for the period of their actual absence upto 12 weeks due to delivery. In cases of illness arising due to pregnancy etc. they are entitled to additional leave with wages for a period of one month. They are also entitled to six weeks maternity benefit in case of miscarriage. The Act also makes certain provisions to safeguard the interest of pregnant women workers.

The Act was last amended in 1988. In order to motivate and also facilitate women employees to undertake family welfare measures, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had made certain recommendations

for amendment of the Act. Keeping their recommendations in view, it is proposed to carry out certain amendments so as to provide the following additional benefits to women employees :

- (1) Grant of six weeks' leave with wages in the case of medical termination of pregnancy;
- (2) Grant of two weeks' leave with wages to women employees who undergo tubectomy operation;
- (3) Grant of leave with wages for maximum period of one month in the case of illness arising out of MTP or tubectomy.

These are the important amendments proposed through this Bill. The Standing Committee of Parliament on Labour and Welfare have also considered and approved the proposed amendments. I hope the Members will welcome the proposed amendments which are of non-controversial nature. With these words, I commend the Bill for consideration, as passed by Rajya Sabha, of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion Moved :

"That the Bill further to amend the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

15.00 hrs.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the measures proposed by the Government in amending the Maternity Benefit Act.

The salient feature of the Bill, as submitted by the hon. Minister, is to extend the benefit of six weeks leave in the case of medical termination also. But I would like to remind the hon. Minister that the provision reads : "In case of miscarriage or medical termination of pregnancy a woman shall, on production of such proof as may be prescribed, be entitled to leave with wages." This could be a mischievous provision. Many a time we have seen that we have to produce a certificate from a Government hospital or from a hospital recognised by the Government. In such a case there is every likelihood that the eligible women may be deprived of the benefit, which the government would like to extend in case of medical termination. So, in the Rule itself, care must be taken to say that 'proof' means 'a proof by a competent person like a doctor, even if he is a private doctor'. This is my submission.

So far as Tubectomy operation is concerned, a similar difficulty may arise there also. So, the requirement for the production of proof could be prescribed in the Rule itself. A mischief can occur if some restriction or conditional

prescription is made. Care must be taken to see that in reality the benefit is passed on to the genuine case, both in the case of medical termination and tubectomy operation.

I do not know whether Ghatowarji is having the knowledge of the submission which I am going to make now but I am sure Sangmaji knows about it very well. Way back, about some six or seven years ago, in the International Labour Organisation Conference there was a demand for what is called, the paternity benefit. I would be justified in making this suggestion for the reason that in a small family where only husband and wife live and both of them are employed, there would be nobody to attend to women who would be confined either due to miscarriage, medical termination or tubectomy operation. So, somebody is required to look after her at home. All of us know that better care could only be given by her husband. So, he must also be provided with some leave facility so that he can attend to his pregnant wife.

There is justification for this demand for paternity leave. I feel there is very strong justification for such a demand. This demand arose in an International Labour Organisation Conference some seven or eight years back and many of the developed nations have agreed to such a demand. Right now I do not have any proof on hand to show that some provisions are made in any of the enactments made world over. But, at least we can make a beginning. We can incorporate such a provision in the Act. No doubt the conditions which are present in the existing Act would apply, like the benefit could be availed till a mother gives birth to two issues, or for the first issue and then in the case of miscarriage or medical termination, or, of course, till one undergoes Tubectomy operation. So, Sir, these things also could be...

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur) : A father cannot undergo Tubectomy.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : I am referring to the benefit of two weeks leave for women employees who undergo Tubectomy operation. Madam Maliniji knows that even a woman who undergoes tubectomy operation requires somebody to attend to her and care must be provided to her for at least a week or so. My suggestion could kindly be considered by the hon. Minister. He may propose an amendment so that the benefit could be really accrued to the needy and the fruits of the benefit are enjoyed by the employees concerned.

With these words, Sir, I support the measures proposed by the Government and I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The time allotted to the subject is one hour. Now I call upon Dr. Vasant Niwruuti Pawar to speak—Absent.

Shri K. Suresh—Absent.

Shri K.D. Sultanpuri.

[Translations]

SHRI KRISHNA DUTT SULTANPURI (Shimla) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill under discussion in the House.

In the objectives of the Bill, it is particularly mentioned that it will primarily benefit the women working in the organised sector. But, those women who do not work in the organised sector are not going to get benefitted from this Bill. It is stated there in that women has to suffer once she becomes pregnant and forced to undergo operation or abortion for she has a female child in her womb. In such a situation, there is no provision to serve her from this agony.

As far as taking her to a doctor is concerned, I understand that doctors can be consulted in this regard. But there are thousands of women in villages, who die due to starvation and non-availability of drinking water. The Government must think for them as well. The number of women is very less in the organised sector. This benefit must go to all women. The Panchayats or the district councils or the legislative Assembly can be entrusted with this responsibility so as to implement it all over the country.

I must also say that the women who work on daily wage basis in factories, face worst exploitation. We receive various complaints from all over the country in regard to misbehaviour with these women. They are raped and then give birth to babies. Since nobody is there to look after them, many of such girls commit suicide by consuming poison.

If a woman is employed on daily wages either in a factory, Bank or any organised sector. She should be provided the benefit of this facility and also issued the card as per Labour laws so that she may have a record of the number of days she worked there. It has been stated in the Bill that she will be entitled to this benefit only if she works for 80 days regularly. My submission is that this facility should also be extended to those women who work on P.W.D. roads or in factories. It has been often seen that in factories, two different registers are maintained—one for daily wages workers and another for regular workers. Only regular Labourers get its benefits whereas the women, daily wages labourers are deprived of this facility. The hon. Minister has presented a good Bill. He might have thought of giving this benefit to all women. Atrocities are committed on women all over the country. Therefore, we should think of them from this angle also. This law should be applicable to all the woman workers, whether they work in offices, or on daily wages or in unorganised sector.

This new law will be beneficial to women who are working in factories or Government institutions. So, very few women would be able to get its benefit. On the other hand, on provision has been made to give its benefit to those women who are employed in unorganised sector. The Government should also think about these women labourers. It has been mentioned in the report of 1991 that out of 40.28 million only 22.69 million woman workers are working in organised sector. Moreover, 87 per cent women work as agriculture labourer or bidi worker or daily wage earners in factories or brick kilns. Provisions should also be made for the welfare of these women labourers. Now, women are also being provided the facility of reservation everywhere. 30 percent reservation has been given to them in Panchayati Raj Institutions. I suggest that census of such women should be carried out. Women labourers in the villages are hardly able to earn their bread and butter. Their land lord gets maximum work done from them and does not grant any leave to them. After delivery, they are asked to report for work within a couple of days. They are compelled to lead such life. Even her husband becomes helpless to protect her interests as he also requires bread to eat. Under such circumstances, she falls into the clutches of such people who exploit her. We should take necessary steps to check this exploitation. This law should be implemented all over the country. Every State should also frame a law so that a pregnant women who gives birth to a baby may be looked after very well. If husband and wife, both are working, they should be granted equal days of leave so that he may look after her well. If the need be deduction of wage can be made from the salary of her husband for the period of leave granted. There are some such husbands who do not spend even a single paisa on their wives. We have to decide all these things. When the issue of sterilisation comes, they compel their wives to undergo sterilisation operation on the pretext that if they themselves underwent sterilisation operation they will have to suffer from backache etc. They do not bother if their wives die during operation. The reality is that vasectomy is an easy operation while during tubectomy a lady may die. I, therefore, think that we should give encouragement to men to undergo vasectomy operation. If one go through the data, one will find that the number of cases of tubectomy have been more than the cases of vasectomy in the entire country and men have tried to escaped from it. Some is the case with the men working as officers or staff members in Government service. Men should come forward to undergo vasectomy. When a women conceives, she undergoes ultrasound test to know the sex of the baby in the womb. And if unfortunately, it is detected that the baby in the womb is a female one, it is got aborted. In Rajasthan, even a female baby is killed after birth....(Interruptions)...

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Sir, in my State, girls are given due place in the society. I think girls

are not given due respect in his State...(Interruptions) but what is happening in Delhi...(Interruptions)

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI (Shimla) : When husband of a women dies, she is taken to cremation ground by beating and she is forced to sit on the funeral pyre of her husband. Such incidents are taking place in Hyderabad even today. If on visits Maharashtra, one will find that the custom of 'Dasi' or 'Devdasi' still exists there. In 'Devdasi' a girl is offered to a deity in the temple. Such things are happening in our country. Thus, atrocities have been committed against women...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are speaking on a different subject. Please speak on this Bill.

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI : I am speaking on this Bill. I am saying that abortion is one of the atrocities committed against women. As far as the incident of Delhi is concerned, police have arrested the accused. He should be punished and hanged to death. I would like to say that any person in the society who commits such crimes, should not be spared and duly punished. In my opinion, the hon. Minister has brought a very good Bill. The Government of India and State Government as well, should implement it at the earliest. The women who are employed in unorganised sector in our country should particularly be given due consideration so that they may also get some benefits. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA : Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak on this Bill. As far as the content of the Bill is concerned, no one can have any objection to that. It consists of extension of maternity benefits to cases of medical termination of pregnancy and also to tubectomy cases.

As we know, in our country, in 1971, the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act came into being and in our country, the situation is such that such terminations become necessary very often, in very painful and tragic circumstances. It is when women are pushed into a certain situation because they do not have any rights over their own bodies that they have required this right of medical termination of pregnancy. It is not as if women have any positive desire for undergoing abortions but it is in certain painful circumstances that it becomes necessary. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act itself is a progressive Act and by extending maternity benefit to such cases, I think we are fulfilling the demand of the women's movement also.

However, when I turn to the Objects and Reasons of this Bill, I find something which is very objectionable there. So I agree with the Bill but I do not agree with the Objects and Reasons for which the Bill is being brought. It is said there :

"In order to motivate women employees to undertake family welfare measures, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had made certain recommendations and it is in tune with such recommendations that these amendments have been brought".

Now I would like to know, since when has the medical termination of pregnancy become a part of family welfare programme. As far as I know, never in the history of our family welfare programme has medical termination of pregnancy been considered as a regular method for family planning. If we look at the MTP Act, we will find that here the circumstances under which medical termination of pregnancy may be sought, have been described, and I just very briefly want to draw your attention to these. It is said that (1) such terminations may be undertaken when continuance of the pregnancy would involve a risk to the life of the pregnant woman or a grave injury to her physical and mental health and (2) where there is a substantial risk that if the child were born, it would suffer from such physical and mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped.

Now in explanation of the first sub-clause, it is said what is meant by mental anguish. I think this is what is being explained. It is said that there are two explanations. One is in cases of rape. Where the woman has been made pregnant as a result of rape, this causes tremendous mental anguish and, therefore, in such cases, it is necessary for her mental health that she should go through this. And explanation (2) is—this is an important clause where any pregnancy occurs as a result of failure of any device or method used by any married woman or her husband for the purpose of limiting the number of children. I know that some people, particularly those people who covertly advocate female foeticide, have sometimes said that here the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act itself gives sanction for using it for family planning methods. But I do not think that is the intention of this explanation at all because it says what sort of a situation we are stipulating here. It is a situation where a woman has been practising some kind of family planning method or other, probably under the advice of the doctor, maybe, the doctor has advised her that she may not have more children, maybe, there are other constraints and so she is practising certain family planning methods.

Where this fails, she may be in grievous danger through her pregnancy and it is in such cases that this failure of family planning method may become an occasion for medical termination of pregnancy. Therefore, in the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act never is such a termination regarded as a regular method of family planning and I think that this—what has been mentioned in these Objects and Reasons—has in it an element of coercion, abortion, seizure, painful and a traumatic experience for a woman. Can we altogether exclude the

possibility, that taking advantage of this bill which has now been brought, more and more women—suppose they have two children, somehow they become pregnant for a third time—are pressurised into abortion in spite of the fact that such an abortion may not be proper for their physical health or may be dangerous to them? So, that element of coercion may come in through this.

I think that some time ago the Labour Ministry had been trying to bring a Bill to limit maternity benefit to two pregnancies. They were trying to take away maternity benefit in the case of a third pregnancy. Because of the opposition of the trade unions and because of the opposition of women's organisations, they could not bring that Bill. Now, if under the cover of measures which are progressive they try to introduce medical termination of pregnancy as a family planning method, then I would warn the Government on behalf of the women's organisations that this would not serve the purpose. In fact, this would be a boomerang, it would defeat that purpose and it would lead to greater dangers, it would lead to greater mental anguish and physical dangers for women.

Therefore, while agreeing with the contents of the Bill, I hope that the Government will not try to push through the Objects and Reasons that it has mentioned through the extension of maternity benefits to cases of medical termination of pregnancy. That is all I want to say.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY (Allahabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir thank you very much for allowing me to speak. I thank hon. Minister for having presented Maternity Benefit Amendment Bill, 1955. But I am not in a position to welcome this bill from core of my heart, because the natal and post natal facilities envisaged for weak mothers, have not been taken care by him in a sympathetic manner. No attention has been paid to what benefits should be provided to women who have suffered during the trauma of delivery. Had any Gynaecologist been consulted before framing the bill, then this bill would have definitely proved a wholesome and substantially beneficial.

The bill provides 6 weeks leave with salary in the case of medical termination of pregnancy, two weeks leave with salary in tubectomy. Further it states that leave for one more month might be granted in case of any complexity. But I want to tell Mr. Minister that when a woman conceives...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can continue next time. We have to take up Private Members' Legislative Business now.

15.29 hrs.

**PAYMENT OF PENSION TO
SENIOR CITIZENS BILL***

[English]

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO (Bapatla) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for payment of pension to all the senior citizens of India and for matters connected therewith.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for payment of pension to all senior citizens of India and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : I introduce the Bill.

15.30 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of Tenth Schedule)

[English]

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO (Bapatla) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : I introduce the Bill.

15.31 hrs.

[English]

UNIFORM EDUCATION BILL*

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO (Bapatla) : I bag to move for leave to introduce to Bill to provide for uniform education throughout the country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for uniform education throughout the country."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : I introduce the Bill.

15.32 hrs.

**DECLARATION OF ASSETS BY MINISTERS AND
MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT BILL***

[English]

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO (Bapatla) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for declaration and public scrutiny of assets of Ministers and Members of Parliament.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for declaration and public scrutiny of assets of Ministers and Members of Parliament."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : I introduce the Bill.

There is a small correction. I would also like to bring it to the notice of the House that clause 5 of the Bill which was to be printed in thick type has not been so printed.

15.33 hrs.

**SUGAR DEVELOPMENT FUND (AMENDMENT)
BILL***

(Insertion of New Section 6A, etc.)

[English]

SHRI UTTAMRAO DEORAO PATIL (Yavatmal) : I bag

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 4-8-95.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 4-8-95.

to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI UTTAMRAO DEORAO PATIL : I introduce the Bill.

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV (Machilipatnam) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the last Session I had moved the Bill and I had started the discussion on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 1992 for providing reservation for the OBCs in Assemblies, Parliament, Council and Rajya Sabha.

Last time, I have placed before this House the reasons for demanding the reservation for the OBCs in the Parliament and Assemblies. While continuing the discussion on the same subject, I will bring to the kind notice of this House the fact as to why after 45 years of Independence the backward classes should be given reservation in the Assemblies and Parliament.

There are several reasons behind this. Whoever has ruled this country during the last forty-seven years, the people of this country have made them the custodians to protect their rights. To develop and distribute the wealth created horizontally, and to implement the Constitutional provisions without violation. They have utterly failed to discharge their duties. This is the reason why today we are demanding the participation of Other Backward Classes in the Assemblies and the Parliament. The Backward Classes and the Muslims are the main tools for creation of wealth in this country. But what has happened is that the wealth thus created during these forty-seven years, has been cornered in a few hands. How it has been cornered is because the custodians of the Constitution, that is, the Assemblies and the Parliament, have violated the Constitutional provisions.

15.36 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA *in the Chair.*]

The democratic system functions on four pillars—Legislature, Executive, Judiciary and Free Press. Dr. Ambedkar, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, while framing the Constitution, thought that these four pillars will function according to the functions assigned to them, but they have failed. Dr. Ambedkar had also visualised that the Opposition and the ruling party will discharge their duties perfectly, in accordance with the Constitutional expectations. But during these forty-seven years, they have joined hands. Unless the Opposition and the ruling party had joined hands, the wealth so created by millions and millions of Other Backward Classes could not be looted by just five percent individuals of this country. The Backward Classes cannot be so easily moulded according to their own wishes. They are not easily purchasable commodities like other urbanites. That is the reason why I say that the Backward Classes should enter into the Parliament and the Assemblies.

There are certain reasons for demanding this. I shall mention some of the reasons. In Russia, it is the mere

15.34 hrs.

PREVENTION OF FEMALE INFANTICIDE BILL*

[English]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to prevent female infanticide.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to prevent female infanticide."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : I introduce the Bill.

15.34 1/2 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL (Insertion of new articles 330A and 330B, etc.)—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall now take up Item no. 10— further consideration of the motion moved by Shri K.P. Reddaiah Yadav.

The time allotted for this is two hours. The time consumed is 14 minutes. One hour and 46 minutes are left now. Shri K.P. Reddaiah Yadav may continue his speech.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 4-8-95.

corruptions and neglect of the basic necessities of the society which led to its disintegration. Now in India also we have been violating the Constitutional Provisions. We have also been forgetting the basic needs of the society. We have been creating so many tensions in the minds of the people by raising unnecessary issues like religion caste, etc. So, we have reached a situation where India also will be disintegrated into twenty-three States or forty States or even one hundred bits of small States. Therefore, to safeguard the interests of the country and to maintain the national integrity, we the Backward Classes and the Muslims, correctly should occupy seats in the Parliament and the Assemblies from where the law-making starts. This is the reason why I say that they should enter into the Parliament and the Assemblies. I challenge anybody who says that the front benches which have been ruling the country for the last forty-seven years, irrespective of their party affiliations, have not joined hands. If they have not joined, the wealth of the country would not have been cornered right from this land to Switzerland. How can it happen?

I want to narrate by giving two three instances as to how these four pillars have violated the Constitution. I mentioned about the connection between the ruling Party and the Opposition. That is one thing. The next is about caste orientation. It has been given to the Indian people that we will function according to the Party line. After some years of Shrimati Indira Gandhi's rule, now the Indian politics are aligning only on caste lines. Shri N.T. Rama Rao in Andhra Pradesh is supported by the most Leftist Party C.P.I. (M). Here the government of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao is there. Shri Jyoti Basu from the most Leftist Party is supporting Shri Narasimha Rao in some cases. The people of this country should clearly understand that the Constitution is not functioning correctly according to the wishes of Dr. Ambedkar, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi. The need of the hour is that the representatives of the Muslims and backward classes who mainly dominate the rural India should occupy the seats in Parliament and Assemblies.

I want to mention about the bureaucracy. The bureaucrats have been given a role. They have got some privileges as per the provision of the Constitution. But what is happening in reality? Are they functioning according to the expectations? We are telling that by giving some small reservation to the Scheduled Castes and the backward classes and the Muslims everything is being given to these weaker sections. But it is not like that. Some bureaucrats working in this country own a factory, a farm house, an account in Switzerland and also have many other activities. Some of them have trade links and have import and export organisations. How is it possible? Is it not the privilege which the Constitution allows them one of the causes? The money involved is unlimited. Now many

bureaucrats and politicians and anti-social elements are having farm houses worth Rs. 20 crore on the outskirts of this Delhi. How is it possible? Which constitutional provision allows them to have such farm houses worth Rs. 20 crore or Rs. 30 crore?

When the Central Government or the State Government did not have budgetary money they say : 'Increase on paise on excise duty and increase two paise on sales tax'. The sales tax will go to the State Government and the excise duty will go to the Central Government. You know that our annual Budget is nearly of Rs. 1,20,000 crore. Out of this Rs. 85,000 crore is directly being paid by the common men of this country. Thirty per cent comes from the common men who pay tax on cloth, sugar cigarettes and bidies which are all consumer items. The amount of Rs. 20,000 crore comes by way of income-tax. Therefore, we should understand that the budgetary contribution comes mainly from the Harijans, Muslims and other common men of this country. The amount of Rs. 20,000 crore comes by way of income-tax.

We should understand that the budgetary provision comes mainly from the Harijans, Muslims and other common men of this country. Even a **rickshaw** puller contributes to the Indian Budget and also to the State Budget. The contributors are the poor fellows of this country. A majority of the contributors are from the rural India who comprise 70 to 80 per cent of the population of this country.

The legislators and bureaucrats who go hand in hand with the cooperation of the judiciary are the owners of the money contributed by the poor people of this rural India.

That is the real fact about the functioning of this Government. Therefore, here we need persons who cannot be purchased by vested interests. The rural India should be represented adequately in the State Legislatures and the Parliament. That is the reason why I am demanding reservation for the Other Backward Classes according to the strength of their population in the country.

Madam, Chairman, the Kaka Kalelkar Commission recommended that the Census should have caste statistics. When these benches are occupied by the sons of the farmers and the population of rural India, then they will distribute patronages and privileges according to the proportionate numerical strength of each caste or the Backward Classes or Muslims etc. This is what Mahatma Gandhi expected. He had not expected that India should grow vertically. He wanted that India should grow horizontally. The wealth should not be distributed like it has been distributed among some people in Bombay,

Calcutta and Delhi. We have failed utterly to protect the constitutional provisions for the last 47 years and we have failed to protect the basic rights of the Backward Classes and the Muslims of this country. We have looted these two sections of our society.

In the case of Harijans also, a bureaucrat or a leader or a Minister might have been provided with all the facilities. But what is the position of the Harijans in rural India? Madam, if you do not mistake me, I can say that 90 per cent of Harijans live only on their daily wages. If one has to go to hospital for one month, then there is no money left with him for food. This is the position of Harijans and the labourers of this country. I agree that in India there are nearly 30 crore people whose life standards are at par with the life standards of the people of America, Canada and Great Britain. But what is the living condition of the remaining 60 crore people of India? Therefore, the need of the hour is that we have to protect the reservoirs like Nagarjuna Sagar, Bhakra Nangal etc., from where water is let out to the field canals. They will take care of the field canals. But we have to see as to how much water has to be let out in the field canals.

The parliamentarians and the legislators of this country have forgotten their primary duty. The bureaucracy is unmindful of the unlimited wealth gathered by some people. Wealth in the hands of a businessman is good for any country, wealth in the hands of a farmer is good for any country and excess money in the hands of an industrialist is good for any country, but wealth in the hands of the bureaucrats or the politicians or the anti-social elements is detrimental to the well-being of the society in any country. The bureaucrats and the politicians, having acquired unlimited wealth, are criminalising the politics. This is the reason for the happenings which we are witnessing today, throughout the country. Without any check or regulations we have let our administration lose whereby the wealth of the country has been garnered by a few bureaucrats, vested interests, businessmen and politicians, not all.

Madam, today we are in danger; the democracy is in danger. Some of the political parties are now being manned and managed by the bureaucrats. It is a fact that every bureaucrat has got at least two MPs or two MLAs or one Minister in the state and at the Centre who are known to him. Therefore, the need of the hour is that the persons with rural background should be allowed to enter here. We have had great people like Shri Kamraj and Shri Devraj Urs who were not highly educated and they had given a clean administration in Madras and Karnataka. They were mainly responsible for the development of both the States industrially, economically and agriculturally. So, one need not go to Oxford for higher education. He can have education here and need not have a command over

language for ruling the country and for giving a clean and honest administration. Dr. Ambedkar had created four pillars and he has created unbreakable walls or separate compartments, namely, legislature, judiciary, executive and free press. Today, what has happened is that these walls have been demolished by the vested interests, the legislators and bureaucracy. Now, there are no checks over another. That is the reason why, today, the bureaucracy and the legislature have joined hands. There is no check; there is no accountability; and there is no control over one another. The judiciary has lost the supervisory or regulatory control because that wall had also been demolished by these two sections.

Out of the four compartments which I have mentioned just now, there is one 'free press'. Today, there is no 'free press' in India but only free journalists are there. They are the main contributors for the success and survival of democracy in India. The press is managed by vested interests. Every man who is running a press is being offered a Lok Sabha seat or a Rajya Sabha seat and he comes here for purchasing the bureaucracy, the legislature and the Ministers. This is the scenario in this country which is continuing for the last 10 years. That is why, we are unable to solve certain problems of this nation. We are just abusing each other. The Communist Party will point an accusing finger at the Congress Party and the Congress Party will point an accusing finger at the BJP and the irony is that they are one and the same. They represent the same class. The voice of the back-benchers is not heard here. Where is the opportunity for the Members who come from rural India to raise the voice of the rural India and the difficulties being faced by their brothers and sisters? If anybody says that whatever I am saying is wrong, then why do not the people of rural India have sufficient drinking water, hospitals, roads, communication and maternity centres? If a Major-General is given the required amount of money, I am sure that he will be able to give all the necessary facilities such as, drinking water, hospitals, educational facilities, etc. in one Five-Year Plan.

The front-benchers including Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav, purposely at the cost of 90 crore people of this country, are taking the time of the House everyday. It is a drama and not more than that. Why are they not going and raising the red flag before the Minister's house or the leader's house? Sir, we have to fight with such Ministers. Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav, you are the architect in bringing the Mandal Commission report and we have been participating in the movement for social justice. What I am telling is that the Left Parties and the Congress Party should discharge their duties according to the expectations of the Constitution by not joining in the get-together parties.

The people of this country should understand the drama being enacted here. When the money of 70 crore people is involved in scams, we are all keeping quiet and exchanging pleasantries. What is this? We have got a foreign debt of Rs. 12,00,000 crore and a *swadeshi* debt of another Rs. 2,00,000 crore. Where has all this money gone? We are all exchanging pleasantries. Are we responsible people? What happened to other countries? What does America think of itself? They have started giving warnings to us. What is this? Therefore, whatever may be our total debts, we have to clear them. We have to do it ourselves. Let us not fight by saying that the ruling party is different and the Opposition party is different. You may think otherwise about me; the leaders of this House may find fault with me because a person from rural area is talking about all these things. But the fact remains the same. You cannot deny it and nobody has got the guts to say that this is wrong. What I am saying is that if you want to solve the problems being faced by this country, then you must act according to the Constitutional provisions. Please do not cheat the public.

Madam Chairperson, in most of the villages the participants in the offences are said to be either the backward classes or the Muslims. I know that and I accept that. In every police station in the country the backward class people are listed as the conspirators, but the real conspirators are the upper castes. They will never be booked. The word 'conspiracy' has been removed from the Oxford Dictionary. Why? The major thing is, please book all the ministers, all the bureaucrats and all the industrialists because they are the conspirators in most of the districts—not all—and the leaders also, including from the Communist Party and the BJP.

If we are accusing each other, we are not going to solve the problem. Let us understand the problem. So, in any police station you will find only the backward classes and the Scheduled Castes. But where are those conspirators who have robbed the country, who have cornered the country? Why no case is registered against them? Who will give the answer for this? Will the American President or the Russian Premier give the answer for this? Who will give the answer? You made us criminals by robbing us, by robbing the wealth created by the hard work of this unfortunate lot of this country, that is, the Muslims and the backward classes. So, who will give the answer for this? You have created the Babri Masjid-Ramjanmabhooni issue just to divert the attention of millions of these people. You have created these things and nothing will come out of it. We have to do something against economic exploitation. *सगलन तो सबक है मगर* by raising the issues like Kashi Vishwanath or Babri Masjid, we are not going to feed the unfortunate lot of this country. We have to maintain the national integrity, we have to maintain the Constitution, the polity and the democratic system of this country. Therefore, we have to leave the

other lapses. The country is passing through a very difficult economic and political situation and there is also economic exploitation. This Parliament has created Revenue Intelligence, the Police, the CBI and the Income-tax, but they were made to sleep. Why? Is it to allow these fellows to corner the wealth? The CBI is not functioning in this country. Therefore, the Muslims and the backward classes, not the urban Muslims or the urban backward classes, but those people who are living in rural India, should come and occupy this place so that they cannot be purchased by the vested interests, the bureaucracy and the Legislature.

16.00 hrs.

Already our hon. Prime Minister, with his foresight and with his experience, has brought and enacted the Panahayat Raj and Nagar Palika Bills in which the backward classes are given 30 per cent reservation and by his wisdom, he has implemented 27 per cent Mandal Commission reservation in Central jobs. We have to be very thankful to our hon. Prime Minister in this connection. Accordingly, the reservations in jobs in Nagar Palikas, municipalities and panchayats have already been given.

Therefore, the reservation in the Assembly, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha should also be extended to the OBCs.

The SCSTs have been given reservation in Government services and educational institutions under the Government of India right from 1950s. OBCs who are also socially and educationally backward like the SCSTs and who also constitute a part of the backward classes, as described in our Constitution, had been deprived of this reservation for a very long time. There is no difference between Scheduled Classes and backward classes. Babasaheb Ambedkar has separated Scheduled Castes because of only one single reason, untouchability. Therefore, we have to give more attention to Scheduled Castes. That is why, he has separated it. That is why, all these constitute Other Backward Classes. Therefore, this is the reason why I have been demanding reservations for OBCs.

The country is progressing well. We have to catch up with the other advanced countries of the West. But there are artisan groups. Normally, most of the backward classes are artisan groups, i.e., dairy farm, toddy, cobblery, Kammari, Kummari and all that. But industrialisation has brought a change to the detriment of the OBCs because all these trades were cornered and being managed for the upper castes. Where is the place for these people? Let the Parliament tell. The Industry of weavers was taken away by the big industrialists of Bombay and nothing is left in the hands of the OBCs and Muslims. Muslims means Muslims of rural India. They are not left with any other daily wages. They have no daily work. They have lost their

self-respect also. If we allow the country to function like this, it will drift towards the worst.

Therefore, to maintain the integrity of the country, to maintain the sovereignty of the country and to distribute the wealth horizontally, we have to bring about a sea-change and the OBCs should be given their due share, according to their numerical number.

With these words, I thank you very much for having given me this opportunity and I request the other senior leaders of the other Parties also to demand the reservation for the OBCs in the Assemblies and Parliament.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh) : Madam Chairperson, I am glad that Shri K.P. Reddaiah Yadav, be moving this non-official Constitution (Amendment) Bill, has again brought before this august House a very major issue of national significance which has been debated several times in this House and still it is being debated in the whole country. I think that the principle of reservation, which is the most important step to reach the goal of social justice and which is also a very significant step for sharing power in the governance of the country, has been very often misunderstood in this country though the Founding Fathers of our Constitution did not misunderstand it. They debated it at length. They were able to see the realities in Indian society in the historical background and also in the historical perspective. Therefore, they made provisions for reservation in the Constitution itself.

Madam, some of the speeches made in the constituent Assembly were very much illuminating and were also very significant in the sense that we were laying down the foundation of our future political as well as administrative structure in our country. I went through one of the speeches. I never expected that Shri K.M. Munshi would so strongly support the issue of reservation. Really, I knew his views and I had a lot of differences with him on some of his views. Only yesterday I was reading his speech made in the Constituent Assembly. On the reservation issue, he said he very strongly supported reservation for those who are socially and educationally backward. He said that reservation provides two things : one, the status in the society because you are able to get certain position in the Administration and also in the Legislative Bodies and second, the power. You get some power once you are in the administrative machinery which governs the country. Therefore, he appealed to the Members of the Constituent Assembly, Particularly those who were opposing reservation, that they should not oppose the reservation principle. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of our country and the architect of our social democracy as well as political democracy was very much upset when reservation was rejected by the highest court of the country. In 1950, it was rejected by the

Supreme Court. Hence, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was very much upset and he thought that this verdict of the Supreme Court had caused a great disappointment in the country and it would hinder building up an egalitarian society in the country. Therefore, I would like to remind you in this House that the first amendment to the Indian Constitution on the issue of reservation was moved by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru removing those anomalies which were created by the Supreme Court Judgement. He said like this : "Those who are not adequately represented in the Government Services, if reservation is given to them, it will not violate the principles of equality; it will not go against our fundamental rights but that is a fundamental right itself." Therefore, the principle of reservation is basically a share in the power, is a strength in the participatory democracy. In the Indian society those who were handicapped socially, economically and educationally, it was a step to bring them upwards and provide them opportunity in the country. Therefore, in our Constitution one section of our society, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, get two kinds of reservation : one, in the Government services and another in the Legislative Bodies, that is, in the Assemblies and Lok Sabha. From my own experience, I must say that had there been no reservation for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes people in these Legislative Bodies.

There was no reservation even in Municipal Boards, in Corporations, in District Board, later on in Zila Parishads and now in Zila Panchayats. There was hardly any Scheduled Caste Member who would become even the Chairman of a block or that of a Municipal Board. It was impossible to get Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to these positions but with making reservations. Therefore, reservations became a national requirement in our society, in our conditions. Now many people did not accept the principle of reservation as an ideology, as a principle. They were opposed to it. Therefore, in spite of the provisions made in our Constitution for reservation, they were not honestly implemented. Even after almost fifty years of our Independence, even today the reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has not gone beyond eleven per cent when the provision has been made for 22.5 per cent reservation in Government service. Even the target of fifty per cent reservation has not been achieved in fifty years. This is the situation because at the top of the administration, the people who are at the helm of affairs are creating hindrances and they are finding ingenious methods to stop the implementation of it. At the same time representation of the backward classes in Government Services is only four percent. Now the question is whether we should have reservation for backward classes in Assemblies and in the Lok Sabha. That is what the Amendment is seeking to achieve.

I will say that this is a very serious proposal. I do not

know whether they will help the backward classes or they will not help them or whether at this stage, when a new kind of consciousness is emerging among the backward classes, the Scheduled Castes and the weaker sections and whether this kind of a provision is going to help or going to create some kind of unnecessary confrontation or a lack of faith or not. That has to be very seriously considered. A beginning has been made for the first time in the independent India when we passed unanimously the Panchayati Raj Bill and made it an Act. And for the first time, in independent India, political reservations have been given to backward classes and to women. Therefore, in all panchayat systems whether it is gram sabha or district panchayat or the Municipal Board or the Corporation, the backward classes along with the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes also have got the political reservation. This is accepted now in principle and it is a reality. Therefore, an important step has already been taken and the reservation has also been provided to women. I would have been happy if through this constitutional amendment, reservation is made for women. I am for it very strongly. Our women are at a very low level, at an insignificantly low level in our legislative bodies or even in our administration. I very strongly plead for it. This is a very good opportunity. I plead with the Government to give a serious thought to it as to how to give greater representation to our people in the Lok Sabha, in the Rajya Sabha, in other legislative bodies, in our administration and in many other institutions. That is one thing which needs a very serious consideration. I request that a serious consideration should be given to this.

Another problem with which I feel very upset is about the social justice. When I talk of social justice, I think, every individual who is denied social justice irrespective of caste, creed and language, has a right to get social justice.

In our country there are social classes, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe is a social class; backward class is a social class; minorities is a social class upper caste is a social class. These are not economic classes according to Marxian theory. These are the social classes in the Indian situation where we have a deep-rooted horrible caste system in our society. On the one hand, I fought for Mandal Commission twenty years continuously and on the other hand I used to say that other sections which are not represented in the administration should be represented. For example minorities, especially I am talking of Muslim minorities. They constitute about 12.3 percent of our population. In the Government services their representation is less than 1.5 percent. Because they are a community, I am told that when Shri Mohan Singh moved the amendments, it was rejected on this basis that the Constitution does not recognise a communal reservation or on a minority basis; therefore, it is not

acceptable. It is not correct. We have made in our Constitution certain provisions to safeguard certain religious rights, institutional rights for our minorities. Some States in our country like Kerala, Tamilnadu and Karnataka have given certain percentage of reservations to Muslims thinking that they also are not represented. Therefore, I am saying that because of many things are there like background, prejudices, etc.—I am not going into all that but their representation is very small. I also demand that there must be some provision that minorities in our country should get reservation at least in administrative bodies. All our good policies, all our ideas and all our programmes are implemented only through the Government machinery and in that machinery when these classes are not represented, there is no participation. They used to say that there is no merit. Merit used to be a great argument. Today in my State, Uttar Pradesh, the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes IAS officers is 125. The number of Backward Class IAS officers is less than a dozen. But, I am glad that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes IAS officers are 125 in number. Today the Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh belongs to Scheduled Caste. Many others are holding high positions in the State. Some of them are very brilliant officers. The argument that the reservation will diminish the merit and the standard will fall down is baseless.

I will say that there are hundred percent Reservations. In Nagaland, Mizoram and Meghalaya where the tribal population is there, hundred per cent reservations are there in the Assembly and in the government services. Therefore, this plea is also not correct that it will imbalance the whole thing.

Government Proposed 10 percent reservation for economically upper caste people also. But, the Supreme court rejected it. The Supreme Court rejected it very rightly because under the constitution there was no provision for economically backward. The provision is there only for socially and educationally backward class. But economically backwards also deserve some reservation. I have been pleading that the Constitution cannot give reservations to economically backward people in the upper caste unless you amend the Constitution in the light of the Supreme Court Judgement. So, reservation demand is growing. I am myself asking reservation for women. I am also pleading reservation for minorities, handicapped, children of freedom fighters and others. How can you distribute it within 50%? 27 percent is already reserved for Backward classes and 22.5 percent is reserved for SC and ST. Therefore, there should be no limit of 50 percent. This limit must be removed. I request that the Government must in this session call a meeting. In the last Leaders' meeting this question was raised but it was postponed because of the fact that there was not much time and we wanted to take a decision on the promotion in the Government services for SC and ST

which was by the verdict of the Supreme Court being eliminated. So, the Government must call an all-party meeting, discuss this issue and bring a Constitution amendment for removing this 50 per cent limit, so that other classes can also get reservation. Among the backward classes there are the most backward people. The position of different communities which are very poor, which are economically and socially as bad as SC and ST their condition is pitiable. Therefore it should be seen that people from those communities also get proper representation in the Government services.

In principle I very strongly support this Bill which needs a serious discussion and serious consideration. All other points which I have brought out also need serious consideration. With these words, in principle, I support the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, our leader has elaborately expressed his concern and that too in an impressive manner. I do not want to repeat them. Reddaiahji has put me in a fix for a while by presenting this bill. I have been supporting the concept of special opportunities for other backward classes ever since the beginning of my political career. I have been advocating for providing representation to backward communities in proportion to their population in services, legislative institutions and at all levels. I do know that the Constitution of India had given representation to Dalits in the Legislative institutions just after the Constitution came into force. As a result, their quota is filled up in the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha. Similarly, their quota has not been filled up in the state services except in the first and second grade of services despite such a long struggle and their population. All the political parties have resolved their commitment to this class. They supported further extension of 10 years provision but when the question of their representation in the legislative councils and Rajya Sabha comes up, they do not provide it in proportion to their population. I do know such leaders who are supporters of upliftment of Dalits and they are indeed supporters from the core of their heart but when the question of giving two seats to backwards in Rajya Sabha comes up, then they forget these dalits and backwards. So far as the question of giving them adequate representation in legislative Councils and Rajya Sabha is concerned, unless and until we make such constitutional provisions, they are not going to provide the seats in the legislative council and Rajya Sabha. This is what I think.

So far as the question of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha is concerned, I am aware of situation prevailing in some states. Our friend Reddaiahjee praised Mr. Prime Minister

in the course of his speech when he was moving this Bill. He is a new entrant to the party so he must show his loyalty to Mr. Prime Minister. But in my view Brahmanism is the only flickering hope for the Congress. So do not praise it. This was the political position in the entire north India. The Congress party was dominating. Not in one or two or three or five states but in the entire north India Congress was in power. Chief Ministers of the same community were in power at that time. This was the gift of the Congress Party but now the situation has dramatically changed....(Interruptions)... First of all a movement to bring about social change was started in Tamil Nadu and in South India. A movement against superstition was also started there which has now ended. One particular caste had a feudal dominance in the politics there which was changed by the Politicians by bringing about social change. This is now clearly evident on the political horizon. The same situation emerged among backward classes in the north India when awareness came among them from 1977 onwards and in today's date power slipped out from the hands of that particular community and went into the hands of backward and middle classes. A new economic and political change was brought about when politics passed into the hands of these castes doing manual work in 1977, then the economy of villages started slowly passing into their hands. We are now witnessing a new scenario of social and political change and we have also been witness to the situation when the people of upper classes or dominating classes won the elections by suppressing the backward classes in the elections to the Gram Sabha, local self-Governments in 1952, 1957 and 1967. But now outcome of two to three recent elections demonstrates the fact that changes are now taking place at local level and lower level. Politics, agricultural management and agriculture itself is coming into the hands of communities which are engaged in manual labour. A new social and economic change is taking place at local level. So I want to say that when you write in your statement of objects and reasons that there backward classes form 60-62 percent of our total population then why not Dalit castes, Minority and backward castes could do politics collectively if we create awareness among them, just as we have seen in the elections of Bihar. We went there to oppose it also delivered speeches against it. I cannot resist accepting the fact from my personal experience that upper classes have been capturing booties, as witnessed in the elections of 1972-1977 and 1973 and winning the elections by not allowing lower level people to win the elections but when these people felt that they too could exercise their franchise, then a new scenario that emerged in the political sphere of these classes, it has now become evident to me. So I want to urge upon Mr. Reddaiahjee that there is a need to create awareness among these classes and when spirit to struggle is born,

then the 62 percent, whose cause you advocate, will be seen sitting in Vidhan Sabhas and Lok Sabha. Now you please try to see the composition of this Lok Sabha and that of constituent assembly. Please look at the caste data what was the position in 1952 and now see figures as to how the composition of the Lok Sabha has changed. If you see these figures, then this would be quite apparent. I have gone through the Bill and it appears that the population... at least the leadership that is going to be emerged from the lower level should not be constricted. With these words, I support what our leader has said on the floor of the House and with the hope that backwards would get special opportunity and they must get opportunity to come ahead.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Madam Chairman, Shri K.P. Reddaiah ji has introduced a Private Member's (Constitution Amendment) Bill, 1993. In this context, I would like to ask a question from the party to which he belongs. That party has been in power in centre for most of the period. Does that party agree with the provisions of such reservation? Have they taken any such policy decision on the basis of which they have allowed their members to introduce such constitution Amendment Bill but the people of country are being kept in the dark about that decision? I request the hon. Minister that while giving statement on this Bill he should also give details of Government's Policy, so that a clear picture of this policy may come out before the people of country.

In this regard, I would like to say through you that the Bhartiya Janta Party has been staunch supporter of social equality, upliftment of downtrodden, redemption of Harijans and social harmony and equality and making efforts to achieve these goals. Political will was not clear in regard to the recommendations of Mandal Commission which caused a turmoil all over the country. In such circumstances, Supreme Court gave its verdict on the issue considering all the aspects of the situation very seriously. It has been mentioned in the court's verdict that in our constitution provisions for providing reservation to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as 15 percent and 7.5 percent respectively have been made on the basis of population. The population of Backward Classes is 52 percent as per the recommendations of the Mandal Commission but the Supreme Court has provided only 27 percent reservation for them in Government Services. Thereafter, issue of creamy layer was raised. In this regard, those members of backward classes should be considered first who are poorer in these categories. All this had been done and even after that Government and our party wanted to provide 10 percent reservation to the economically backward people whether they belonged to higher castes. Supreme Court has given its verdict but even after that it is said that BJP people talk about Uniform Civil Code. If we demand for Uniform

Civil Code for the integration of the country then it is alleged that our party does not want unity. It means that those members who are opposing Uniform Civil Code are not taking even Supreme Court's verdict in the right perspective and they are not worried about national interests. The same question can be asked to them. I, therefore, would like to express my views before this House that our party thinks of everybody's interests and welfare. Our party does not want reservation on the basis of religion only. We do not say that a person should be given reservation if he belongs to Muslim Community. All of us know that untouchability was in practice among Hindus. When our constitution was being framed, the builders of our nation and Baba Saheb Ambedkar who is said to be maker of constitution, himself made provisions for reservation which was only for ten years. Thereafter, it was felt that the overall development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have not taken place. They are not getting appropriate representation in jobs or political field. As a result thereof, it was increased for next ten years and this practice has been still continuing.

Sir, after two years, our country will be celebrating golden jubilee of independence. In such a time we have a question before us as to whether the entire country, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Gujarat to Nagaland, would be able to remain as a strong and prosperous country on the map of the world, with pride? It is said about our country that here a person is able to count the drops of heavy rains, particles of sand of desert and stars in the sky but he is never able to narrate the tales of great personalities of India who have developed the culture of this country and tried to keep this country united socially, culturally, historically and politically upto now. It seems that a Pandora box is being opened in regard to reservation. Mr. Reddaiah has introduced a Bill which is full of contradictions. He has stated that the total population of backward people is 85 percent. I would like to know from him as to whether population of backward people is really 85 percent? At least he should put up actual position, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been provided 15 percent and 7.5 percent reservation respectively. The Supreme Court has announced 27 percent reservation for backward people. We and the entire country also wants that our society should be strong, backward communities should not be exploited, there should be upliftment of downtrodden and all the people in the country should be given equal participation in the power. India should become a strong and prosperous country but today-

"Sungachchhadhvam Samvadhvam, Sam Vo Manasijantam,

Devabhagam Nathapurva, Sanjanana Upaste."

With this our approach is—

"Surve Bhavantu Sukhina, Surve Santu Niramaya.

Surve Bhadrani Pashyantu, Makashchiddukh Bhagbhavet."

If we would have thought about the interests of all and the people who had power in the centre would have made sincere effort for the upliftment of different classes of society, I think, it would not have been necessary to day to bring this legislation. Those people who were in the power, exploited the Scheduled Castes considering them as their Vote Bank. Those who would have been given their share in power and Government services did not get that which should have been given to them. The middle class in our society, which calls itself backward class today was also exploited in the same way. Consequently, they developed a thought as to why they have not been given participation in the power?

Therefore, I would like to say through you that those people are responsible for this situation who have ruled this country for most of the time in 45 years, who have been policy maker and who have created such disparities in the society. We are supporter for whole and integrated humanism. We want development of all the communities in our society. We want all round development, then only we can make progress. Our society, nation is also like a body. If a thorn pierces into our foot then our mind does not think the thorn has pierced into our foot. It immediately orders our eyes to look and we take out the thorn. Then only our whole body feels relief. Similarly, the day when our leaders will feel that the country comes first and then all other things. Bharatmata and its culture comes first and when they will think that our nation should become supreme in the world then only everybody will certainly cooperate in building the nation; in providing equal status to all the people and equal participation in the power to all.

Today population of women is 50 percent in our country. I would like to know from this House whether women are getting their share according to their percentage? The percentage of women in our country is 50. Therefore, it is worth considering that where the talk of reservation, Vote Bank etc. will lead us? Once a foreigner visited India. He travelled in the entire country and when he was about to leave this country, journalists asked him as to what he was his experiences in India. He replied that while travelling in India he met many persons and talked to them. The foreigner said that he asked only one question everyone in India as to who are they? Somebody said that he is "Gujarati, somebody said he is a Punjabi, a Harijan, someone said he is Assamese or some one said he is a Muslim. some one said he is a Hindu, Sikh or Buddhist but nobody said that he is an Indian. We need to ponder over this

such a situation. All the people in the country including Mr. Reddaiah sincerely want that the country should make progress but it is very regretting that we want country's progress in parts. If we divide this country into parts, raise a wall of discrimination, and talk of reservation in the name of village-city, rich and poor, advanced-backward, higher castes-depressed and create agitation among society on these lines, then where this agitation will lead our country to? Today, if a person says after seeing his neighbour being ruined that his own house is safe, it is not good because he himself may be ruined in the same way any time. Therefore, he should help his neighbour. Today, all the political parties should come forward and discuss on this issue and they should do the things which are supreme in the national interest.

We should think over it keeping in view the verdict of Supreme Court and the objective of uniting the society. For us, politics and power are means and not ends. The development of nation is our goal. We should aim for maximum progress of the nation, protection and preservation of ancient culture, making the country self-dependent, alleviation of poverty and providing bread and butter and employment to the people. We all should think over it together. We should strive hard to bring about unity in diversity in our country and make India a rich country once again. I am of the view that collective contemplations will certainly bear fruit and prove beneficial to the country.

I would like to suggest the considering the entire society as one and keeping in view the verdict of Supreme Court we should work towards establishing a social order and creating a feeling of unity among people.

At the end, I would like to state that the Bill introduced by Shri K.P. Reddaiah Yadav, is ambiguous. The figures given in the Bill are self-contradictory. All these points raised by me need serious consideration.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly)
Madam Chairman, this Bill has been moved by an hon. Member belonging to Congress Party. In this regard, I would like to say that the Ruling Party is fully responsible for the deplorable condition of the country even after 345-47 years of independence. In fact, no problem can be solved unless the rootcause of it is identified. The question is in what manner, we wanted to run the country after independence? My hon. friend Shri Rasa Singh Rawat has spoken a lot in this regard. In fact, the society should have been given a right direction in the very beginning. However, this was not done and the result is that today several classes of the society feel neglected.

If we do not bring unity in the society, we will not be able to give the country a right direction. The attitude

of political parties towards society during the last 47 years is well known to all. They did not think of electing people belonging to Scheduled Caste, against general seats. How many persons belonging to Scheduled Caste and Backward Classes have been elected by them to Rajya Sabha and state Legislative Councils. If they do self-introspection they will lose their stand. There was a need of implementing uniform education system and evolving a common syllabus. The villages lacks basic facilities. Fifty percent of our villages have no primary schools. Will the Government be able to open primary schools in every village of the country in coming years? We should try to bring the people of this class in the national mainstream. However, it can not be done by moving an amendment alone. It should be considered collectively be all of us. If the Members of all parties rise-above caste and creed, only then the country may prosper. It is true that we have divided the country. Now when we have implemented reservation, we are concerned about filling up the backlog. We are not concerned about its proper implementation. We must have positive thinking in this regard. Only then people will feel that we want to do something for them. Elections are due after six months and if we move any Bill at this point of time and tell the voters that we are doing this in their interest, this may prove counter-productive. A message should go from this highest Forum that the country is united and we want to uplift the lower strata of the society.

Today, I was going through a book, copies of which have been distributed among women members. It is stated therein that merely 52 per cent women are literate. How will we be able to bring them in the mainstream? There is more illiteracy among the women and children of backward classes. How will we make them literate? We talk of reservation in the House but we will experience difficulties in future. I would like the Members of all political parties to think over it and after taking right decision, work in the right direction. We should also keep in mind that we do not create a rift in the society through it. If we think in this manner, the country will certainly get a right direction and the question of division will not arise. It is unfortunate that whenever politicians prepare a list of ministers of voters, it is based on castes. They never bother to know their qualities. Later, they say that they have given ticket to a person belonging to such and such caste and therefore, the people should vote for him. However the question is as to what the Government is doing to uplift backward classes? People have adverse opinion about Bhartiya Janta Party but we never select our Members on the basis of caste. At the time of election to Rajya Sabha or Legislative Councils, we select Members in a way different from that of other parties. Other parties elect industrialists to Rajya Sabha but we elect such a person who can prove beneficial to the society. We

should also think as to what is our contribution to the society? What are we doing to uplift every class of the society? I, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR (Motihari) : Madam Chairman, I support the Bill presented by Shri Reddaiah Yadav. The Communist Movement, from the very beginning, has been struggling for casteless society. Today, the fight for social justice has reached its zenith. The Communist Movement never lagged behind in any state in the fight for social justice to all. By implementing it in Bihar, we have shown that we are also in the forefront for this cause. Shri Mohan Singh is not present here. He knows very well that in Bihar several leaders had predicted before elections, that Shri Laloo Yadav will suffer defeat and the movement launched by him will end in fiasco. Though Bhartiya Janta Party always talks of 'National Units' yet it actually undermines the unity. The need of the hour is to give top priority to social justice. Further, reservation quota in Legislative Assemblies, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha should be increased.

In principle, this Bill is good but it needs to be properly worked out. Barring BJP, all other parties are principally agreed to it. Their nationalism is only Hinduism and Brahmanism which is anti-muslim. It will not establish national unity and strengthen the country. Whenever India was in danger, Hindus, Muslims and Christians jointly countered it and they protected the self-respect of the nation. Indian culture is unique and pious like Ganga, Pandit Nehru had warned in the very beginning that attempts to disintegrate the country will never succeed. Here, every one enjoys equal right and the religious rights of every caste are given due respect. The Principle of secularism will succeed and be long lasting.

16.54 hrs.

[SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG in the Chair]

Another important thing mentioned in the Bill is that rural people, be they muslims, backward people or others, are required to be uplifted. I support this point because today one caste enjoys upper hand but other castes like Yadavs, Kushvahas, Munias, Dhanuks, Koris and many other caste, are deprived of the facilities enjoyed by upper caste.

People are awakening and everyone is asking for his right. It should be worked out and then Constitution should be amended. Supreme Court has ruled that reservation should not exceed the limit of 50 percent. As I had said earlier, I am again saying with due regards to the Supreme Court that its decision is not the final one. The Constitution can be amended keeping in view the necessities of the society and the country. Through an amendment, the number of the seats in Lok Sabha and Legislative

Assemblies can be raised in proportion to the number of the Backward Classes. What Reddaiah Sahib is saying, can not be possible. It will have to be pondered over. Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav has rightly raised a national issue. All members and specially those political parties who support this Bill should ponder over it and a consensus should be reached. Merely giving statement in the House will not serve any purpose. I am the Chairman of the Committee which oversees implementation of reservation in our district. In the meeting the collector says that reservation has not been completed as yet. The laws are enacted by the Government but the authorities do not implement them. That is why even today, the reservation quota for the Muslims, Harijans and the Dalits have not been filled up. Can the Government authentically say that it is being filled up? What do the data say? We will be thankful to the Government if in the coming six months i.e. before elections, the reservation quota in jobs for the Muslims, Harijans, Christians, tribals and dalits is filled up. If the Government does so it will be a big achievement otherwise it will stand exposed. The Members sitting this side are dedicated and want that there should be all round development of the society. The backward and the poor have become victims of Brahminism. The dalits, Scheduled Castes and other people are looked at with hatred. It is shameful on the part of those people who appeal in the name of 'Shastras' (scriptures). A few people in the society like the Brahmins Kayastha and Kshatriya have been given high status by such shastras as if they have come directly from heaven. The remaining 80-85 percent people are dalits and the poor. These people have looked at the majority with hatred. They called the Muslims 'Jaun'. Whatever be the literal meaning of this word but it indicated a feeling of hatred. We should hate those people who in the name of 'Shastras' have divided the country and the society as well and today they want to maintain unity. On the one hand, they have divided the society, and on the other hand they say that the nation should be strong and united. The hon. Members of Bhartiya Janata Party will not be able to do anything good. People of our country have realised this fact. Major population of our country should get social, economic, educational and administrative justice. The truth is that awareness about social justice is catching up fast among the people.

[English]

Lenin said that Marxism is truthful because it is the truth. Because it is social truth it has to prevail. That will prevail, I hope.

17.00 hrs.

DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY (Rajahmundry) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill. I welcome the Bill

introduced by Mr. Reddiah Yadav for reservation of seats to the backward classes in Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies. The aim of our constitution, from the beginning, is to have casteless, creedless and a secular society. But after forty-eight years of Independence, we have not achieved anything. Still we are going in for more castes, more religions and so on. What has happened after forty-eight years of Independence? The literacy rate among the Scheduled Castes is only 15 percent, whereas the general average is about 60 percent. Why? in spite of giving all the facilities to the Scheduled Tribes, they are still lagging behind. They are deprived of the benefits given by the Government.

Sir, what is happening is that the so-called rich and neo-rich people are taking advantage of their castes. But the backward classes people, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are still deprived of education, employment, etc. That is why, the backward class people, the Scheduled Caste people and the Scheduled Tribe people should fight for their demands just like they fought for their own reservation. So, I welcome Mr. Reddiah Yadav's Bill.

In Andhra Pradesh, recently, the Panchayat and Nagar Palika elections were held. There, we reserved about 35 percent of the seats for the backward classes and 25 percent of the seats for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. We are very happy about it. The feudalists have been deprived of their command in those villages. We are very happy about it. Previously, there used to be only one Sarpanch who used to rule of 30 or 35 years. Now, that has been broken because of this reservation and the lottery system followed for giving reservations. Now, the creamy layer among the backward classes, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are taking advantage of it. The IAS Officer can send his ward to either Kodaikanal or Ooty or Dehradun or some such place, whereas other people who are working in the field are not able to compete with those officers. That is why the creamy layer should be avoided in reservations.

Now, I will come to reservations in Parliament and Assemblies. There also, neo-rich and rich people should not be given any reservation. That is why, I suggest that at least a total of 50 percent seats should be reserved either for the backward classes or Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes and the remaining 50 per cent should be open for all castes, whether it is Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribe or forward caste or others. This is my suggestion.

With these few words. I welcome Shri Reddiah Yadav's Bill which should be adopted here.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : Mr.

Chairman, Sir, I rise to compliment Mr. Reddiah for the Bill he has presented to us and to support it in a spirit, though I will not go to the extent of saying that I stand by every word of it.

Sir, Mandalisation has taken the country by storm. It is an irreversible process of history. It cannot be turned back. As Mr. V.P. Singh has said, the Mandal satellite is in orbit. I think its radiations will continue to guide the destinies of the nation and promote the social processes that no one can stop from going further. Therefore, we are moving in a particular direction and that direction is determined by certain facts of our social situation. We are—in this great country of ours—not just a plural society, not just a composite society. We are a segmented society. We are a society in which historically many social groups coexist, most of the times peacefully and sometimes also at loggerheads with each other. But the fact remains that they are segmented. Each lives a life of its own, in a particular restricted sphere, in its own domain. There is a लक्ष्मण रेखा around each one of them. There are points of contact but if you look at the social pattern for example endogamy, for example social intercourse, for example fraternisation, you will find that excepting for a small crust at the top the rest of the society leads a highly segmented existence. The process of modernisation has brought, about a degree of homogenisation but that is not complete and that will take a long time to come about. And in fact if you look at the wide world today the process of homogenisation stands reversed today. In America where until a generation ago they spoke about the melting pot, today they have discarded the melting pot. The melting pot was a process towards homogenisation. They have adopted what has been called the mosaic theory in which every social element, every social group which is conscious of its identity, which is identifiable can have the right to preserve its identifiable existence. That is to say today we are at the threshold of what has been called the age of ethnicity. How one would describe ethnicity is a different matter but ethnicity depends on many factors. It depends on language, it depends on race, it depends on religion, it depends on geography, it depends on historical memories, it depends on culture, it depends on descent and it depends on many factors. But the movement a social community becomes conscious of its identity, it becomes an ethnic force. As an ethnic force in the society, that generates its own momentum. And today every ethnic entity in this wide world in the most homogenous of societies which are far more homogenous than us class-wise, economically, educationally, culturally and linguistically, even in such societies such as the Western Europe, you find the new ethnic resurgence. That is a phenomenon that you cannot disregard. That is why in the whole world today you are speaking not only of 'Roti' but you are speaking

of 'Samman' of 'Izzat' of power, of sharing, of participation. Therefore, in this great country of ours, if we wish our country to go forward, we will have to create a situation—whether we like it or not, whatever sacrifice it may entail of the part of some of the privileged classes—in which every social group will feel a sense of participation, a sense of belonging, a sense of self-respect, a sense of sharing power and a sense of having a finger in the levers of power. It can make and unmake things.

[Translation]

We also have a say. He also listens us.

[English]

Today in our **Samaj** there are many social groups whom we have all enfranchised theoretically under the Constitution but we know how independently they exercise their franchise. They are becoming conscious of their power today. They cannot be suppressed any more; they cannot be led away any more and therefore their aspirations will have to be recognised, their rights will have to be preserved and that is why I said that Mandalisation has set the country on a track which is absolutely irreversible, whether we like it or not. Now Sir, we speak about reservation in public employment. Yes, that was one stage. I would say, it was a very preliminary stage. Reservation has many facets. Reservation is not equal to empowerment. Reservation is not equal to participation because the State, as you know, stands on a very wide foundation. It has a Legislature. It has an Executive. It has a Judiciary. It has its educational paraphernalia. It has its social and economic system. And there we have to seek equality and justice in everyone of these spheres. If we omit any particular sphere, then the goal of social justice is not reached it still remains to be achieved, and, therefore, we cannot be content with what we have done. We cannot rest on our oars. The society has to move forward willy-nilly and those of us who are thinking of it must see to it that it moves in the right direction, it moves with the least of friction, it moves with the maximum of co-operation, maximum of understanding, maximum of fraternisation and maximum of goodwill. But it has to move forward and nobody can stop that forward march.

I will have to make one more proposition. There is an interplay between society and law. Both are marching against each other. Sometimes the society is ahead and the law has to catch up with it—and Mr. Salve will appreciate it and sometimes, the law is ahead and the society has to come up to the level and approximate to the standards set by law. And that is the task of leadership. That is the task of a wide-awake society that our legal system which is the underpinning of the State, which is the

foundation on which the State stands must always be progressive in outlook. It must not be static. It cannot afford to be static. It has to be dynamic. It has to see which way the society is moving and it has to take the society forward in that particular direction. Therefore, in this race between society and law, I have a feeling that Mr. Reddaiah's Bill points out the way in which now the Constitution and the law must move forward. Having achieved the first victory, now the time has come for us to go forward and to bring about the process of Mandalisation and to introduce it in every walk of life.

I would like to give you one example. I have studied the pattern of the Legislature in Bihar from 1952 until 1995 and what did I find? Bihar, as you know, is a highly caste conscious society and we cannot wish it away. It is there. They are the higher castes. They are called Brahmins. Bhoomihars, Rajputs and they together, along with the Kayasthas form about 15 percent of the population. All right. In 1952, if we look at the composition of the Assembly, 65 percent of the Members belonged to these four groups but over a period of time, there is a natural process of evolution. Today, the numbers have come down. Today, I think, they are of the order of about 18 or 20 per cent. They are coming to the right level of proportion of representation.

We have given the share to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes—15 percent plus 7.5 percent. The Muslims constitute about 14 percent of the population of Bihar, maybe 15 per cent now—under the latest census it is 15 percent—and I find that their proportion in the Assembly has varied between 1952 and 1995 from about 5 percent to a maximum of 8.5 percent. Yes, they have accepted it. There was no consciousness. But today, the consciousness is emerging as to why. They should remain perpetually under represented, why my vote must count less than the vote of anybody else, why I must suffer partial but permanent and perennial disenfranchisement. This question is coming up.

I come to my friends, the backward classes who have made tremendous progress. But again there is a catch. The backward classes in Bihar, what I would call in the parlance of **Manu Smriti**, the **Shudras**, who were once looked down upon, who had no hand on the levers of power, who did not share authority constitute at least 52 percent, if not 60 percent of the population of Bihar and their proportion in 1952 was of the order of 15 per cent.

Today it has come up to about 50 per cent or a little more, may be 60 percent. But none of these group whether you speak of the Scheduled Castes or you speak of the Scheduled Tribes or you speak of the backward classes, they are artificial constitutional terms. As Shri Salve will appreciate the term 'Scheduled Castes and

Scheduled Tribes' came into operation only under the Act of 1937. They are not natural entities, they are constitutional terms. They are a combination of social discrete groups. Each one of them is identifiable—some big, some small, some are a little higher, some are a little lower. And then, when you look deeper and make a deeper analysis, then what do you find?

I salute the memory of that great man Shri Karpoori Thakur who saw this coming—no other leader of India saw it coming—that among the backward classes there are variations and disparities and those variations also must be attended to. It is not enough to fight **Brahminwad**. It is not enough to bring down the eminence or predominance of the higher costs who have been ruling the roost for thousands of years. But you have to give justice to each one of these groups. So, he created what is called Annexure-I and Annexure-II.

What is the position now? I analysed that also and I found that within the backward class while what I would call these 'higher backwards' are over-represented, the lower backwards are not just under represented; they are not represented at all! Thirty per cent of the population of Bihar is what I would call 'lower backward'. Their percentage in the Legislature from 1952 until 1995 has not exceeded three per cent! They are under-represented to the extent of 90 per cent. Is this justice? Or, is this injustice?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE) : The hon. Member is making an excellent speech, It is not my intention to interrupt him. But since he is analysing the situation so magnificently there is a doubt in my mind. I will be grateful if he reflects upon that. Assuming for a moment, that this sort of a political consciousness has brought about social emancipation in the backward classes, that it is not the 'be-all-and end all', what about the real crux of life and the elimination of poverty? What about the growth, the economic growth of these very people?

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : I fully appreciate the point about economic emancipation. But the fact remains that in our society the distribution is always controlled by those who have the power in their hands. That will come. That is the end result. We want a society in which every human being shall live a life of dignity in which all the goods and resources and the services of the State shall be equitably available to all human beings...(Interruptions).

I cannot go on answering questions. You can ask your question later. Thereofe, I admit your point; and that is there. That is there in the mind of everyone. If I am only three percent in the legislature, while I am 30 percent in the population, what is happening to me ? I am being deprived economically, I am being degraded socially, I am

being deprived educationally, my Tola will not have any school, my Tola will not be given electricity, I will not have access to irrigation and water, I will always remain the hewer of wood and drawer of water.

But when I have power, when I have 30 per cent power in the Panchayat, when I have 30 per cent power in the Assembly, then nobody can deprive me. Then I will get my share. I will get my share in everything, in goods, services and resources of the society and that is where social justice comes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Shahabuddin, the time allotted for the Bill is over. I think we have to extend it by one more hour.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : This is a very important Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do we extend the time by two hours?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. We extend the time by two hours.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : I can give you one example. There are many examples. I purposely do not wish to comment upon the state of my community. But permit me to say one thing. I have analysed the representation of the Muslim community in every single Lok Sabha since 1952 and practically in every Assembly of the ten major States of the highest Muslim concentration. Ten States in India contain roughly 80-85 per cent of the Muslim population of the country and invariably, without a single exception, I have never seen Muslims being over-represented. They are always under-represented.

Today in Bihar we are 15 percent, but there are only 23 Muslim MLAs who constitute only 7 percent, less than half of what we ought to be. Sir, please look at Maharashtra from which you come. Shri Salve comes from the most progressive State of India, the State which attracts the maximum foreign capital, which is industrially most advanced, which sets standards for the rest of the country. He may himself recall the number of Muslim MLAs in the Assembly and I will not name the Leader, a top Leader of the Congress Party, I asked once; 'Why is it that in your State there are so few Muslim MLAs? And Shri Kesri goes on complaining : 'look, in my party there are not enough Muslims to talk about or to bring Muslims problems to our notice'. And that top leader I will not name him here—said : 'the Marathas will not vote for Muslim candidates', I repeat what he said : 'the Marathas will not vote for Muslims candidates.' I repeat what he said : 'the Marathas will not vote for Muslim candidates.' So, Maulana

Azad, the topmost freedom fighter of India, had to seek a Muslim constituency in Rampur or in Mewat and Shahabuddin has to go and fight from Kishanganj. So, this is happening. This is the state of our society. We cannot ignore these facts of life.

So, if social justice is to have any meaning, then we take into account the social consciousness. Social consciousness brings out a sense of social security and equitable sharing of a State authority brings about harmony generates a sense of unity, adds to our integrity, makes us feel like one. But if I am sulking in my corner that the State is unfair to me, that the society is unjust to me, that whatever I do I will not get my share, that somebody will not vote for me, that the Party to which I devote my life will not give me ticket, then what will happen? This is happening and I will come to that point a little later.

Then this will create a certain mood, a certain anguish, a certain agony. It can lead to eruptions in the society and I want the country to avoid that eruption. I am sure that is what Shri Reddaish wants. He wants to avoid that eruption in the society. When there is a discrepancy between the distribution of power and the numbers in a composite society, in a fragmented society, you are bound to have an eruption some time or the other. You may try to do *leepapoti* for some time, you may try to cover it up by paper for some time, you may try to talk about the *mantra* of national unity for some time, you may talk about the enemy standing at the door and the fifth column within for some time and keep up the sense of unity. But when the chips are down, then everybody will say: 'where is my *roti*, where is my *izzat*, where is my *samman*' and that is how a society really develops.

Therefore, let us be true to the Preamble of our Constitution. I do not quote the Preamble. The Preamble speaks about justice, equality and fraternity and that element of 'fraternity' has been missing so far. Nobody has talked about it.

On the question of Justice, we have been talking sometimes about social and economic justice. But we have failed to talk about political justice. Political justice does not mean just one-man- one-vote. That would be true if the society was absolutely homogenous. It does mean a proper representation of every social group that composes our society whether the group defines itself by caste or by race or by religion or by tribe or by region or whatever it is. To my mind, the Nepalīs living in the North-East, Mr. Chairman, also deserve a share. The Bhutias living in some other parts of our country also deserve to have their share. They are distinct units. They have a sense of being identifiable, a sense of being I do not want to use the word 'community' sense

of being a group, and you cannot deny them group consciousness. Therefore, you would say this may lead to atomisation of India, this may lead to fragmentation of the polity, this may weaken us. I say, no. I reject these arguments. A sense of contentment, a sense of equality, a sense of brotherhood, a sense of justice, a sense of fraternisation can only strengthen the fabric of our society and everybody is satisfied that if I make the right effort, I shall get my due, that I will not be denied because my name is X, Y or Z, or because my name indicated that I belong to a particular caste or group. Then his whole heart, his whole spirit, his whole mind, his whole being, will be involved in nothing else but the welfare of the people of India, in the unity of the people of India because he knows one thing that if the country goes down we all go down, there is nothing to distribute, there is nothing to share, there is no power to share. Unless we are one in achieving that power and keeping that power, there will be nothing to be shared. Unless we are one in producing the electricity that we need, where is the power to be distributed—although it may not be done with the help of ENRON?

Now, how does our party system function? After all, our political system is based on the parties. I would challenge each one of you, whichever party you belong to. I have done it for my own party, and I have belonged to various parties in my fifteen years of political life. Just check the list of the candidates and you will find that in every party some group will be over-represented at the cost of all the others. In one party it will be the **Brahmins**, in some parties it will be the **Jats**, in some parties it will be the **Rajputs**, in some party it will be X or Y or Z, and those particular groups think that the party belongs to them. That is how politics runs in our country. After all, what is politics? Politics is the competition for the scarce resources and the political parties, are nothing more than instruments to achieve the purpose of a particular social group. I am sorry, here is my Communist friend. One of my realy criticism of the Communist Party—I hope, he will not mind—in Bihar is that for a long long time, the Communist Movement in Bihar was dominated by one exploiting class—the **Bhoomihars**. Nobody can stop it the others. The **Bhoomihars** could not stop it. Congress Party was dominated by **Brahmins**. Can they stop the non-Brahmins? Chandra Shekhar Ji's party was considered to be the party of the Rajputs. Can the Rajputs keep it on? Can the Janata Dal consider itself to be a party of the Rajputs? Can Laloo Prasad Yadav close the doors of the party of the non-Yadavs? He cannot. It is coming. All I am saying is, do not stand in the way. Do not resist this process. This is a natural evolution. It is coming. Do not despise it. Do not throw dust at it. Do not try to give it a bad name and then try to hang it. Sees to it that every party which calls itself a national party and deserves to be called a national party,

distributes its tickets in a manner that it represents all sections of the society in an equitable, fair and just manner. I went to V.P. Singh one day and I said, start from the bottom. There are groups in Uttar Pradesh. There are social groups, defined social groups, which compose 0.25 per cent of the population. In a House of 425, they are entitled to one seat. They aspire to that one seat because now their children are getting educated. They are getting degrees. They are becoming lawyers, they are becoming engineers and they are becoming civil servants, and they say, why should I not get one seat? I asked one group. They deserved two seats.

[Translation]

I asked, if there is anyone who could be given tickets?

[English]

There is so and so lawyer in Khurja and there is so and so man sitting in Kanpur. Why can your party not give them the ticket? But no. You do not start at the bottom. You do not start the communities or the groups who, according to their population, would demand a very small share of ones, twos and threes; you start from the top, because the top rules. So, you start with the **Brahmins**, the **Rajputs**, the **Bhumi-hars** and other. And by the time you come to the lower end, nothing is left to distribute or little is left to distribute. And this is the mistake that most political parties are making. Parties must reconstitute themselves, must re-think their role in this composite polity of ours as the harbingers of social justice and not as the instruments of dominance of a particular class or a particular caste or a particular community or a particular social group. And then only India will go forward. Then only the Parties will play a national role.

So, the first thing is to check whom do you give the ticket. The second thing is to check who are they; do they have any place in their community or are they more window dressings, paper flowers for decoration in your drawing room.

[Translation]

We have also given ticket to the Muslim. Merely saying that we have given tickets to as many people will not reserve the purpose.

[English]

You look at Singapore. Or you look at Malaysia. They have been able to build a society which works, which functions by absolute justice among the three major communities of Malays, Chinese and Indians. They do not pick up the Indians or the Chinese by the pick of their hand—'we liked Mr. X and, therefore, he will represent the Chinese or he will represent the Indians.' No; he is the Indian representative in his own right; he is the Chinese

representative in his own right. Then only he will be able to satisfy his group who feel that : 'yes, we are represented in the power structure, that we are not just the hand maidens or somebody else and we are not simply being used and exploited'.

And the third thing is : in our system it is the first past the post. We do not have a proportional system. So you have to put them up from a place where they have a reasonable chance of winning. They will have some votes of their community and they should also have the votes of the Party. The votes of the Party and the group put together will put them past the pole if they are really sit to get votes and the party can transfer votes.

But none of these three factors are honestly followed by a single political party in our political system. Either you do not give them the proper number of candidates or you put them up from the wrong place where they are bound to lose or you put up the wrong people who do not represent their groups and do not represent the aspirations the wishes, the desires and the hopes of the community which they are supposed to represent.

This will not do. This will create disturbances in society. Therefore, a time will come when there will be a demand for proportional representation, universal reservation according to the population for every group—whether it is a question of public employment or whether it is a question of private employment or whether it is a question of legislative representation. You must divide the cake—divide the cake honestly, transparently, publicly and in the open view of everybody. Then only everybody knows that justice is being done. And nobody should be given less than his share and nobody should be given more than his share either because if you give somebody more than his share that means he is definitely taking away something from somebody. As Proudhon said what is property but theft? If you accumulate property, what will happen? That is what Gandhiji said—God has created enough to meet every human beings needs and if somebody takes more than what he needs, then obviously he is taking from somebody else's share. This a social truth and this is not just a moral dictum.

I would agree with my friends here who have argued for education. I have always maintained on the floor of this House that if there is one crime which the successive Governments of India committed against the people of India, it was not to implement the Directive Principle of providing universal elementary education upto the age of 14 years for every child of the country. Had we done that, then within the ten years that we had given to ourselves the position would have been different. We did not do so and today we use that as an alibi, as an excuse for

denying their share. Is that fair? That is not fair. Therefore, one thing will not wait for the other.

By all means, let all those who are planning our economy make more resources available for the purpose of education. Let an absolutely uniformly good quality education be available to all our children. In five years' time, in ten years' time we shall change the entire face of India. We shall not have to look for candidates either for the Assemblies or Parliament or for public jobs.

But you would not do that. That was the trick. And I would say one thing more. I hope I am not misunderstood if I say what is all that talk I hear suddenly about women's representation. There is much wider variation, much wider disparity in the level of education and political consciousness among the women of those classes who are at the bottom and those women who are at the top.

So, when reservation is coming in by one door the higher caste, who are well entrenched, are about to lose what they have. So, what they are trying to do is this. There is a famous saying in English which goes : "What you lose on the swing you gain on the round-about." What you lose as a community you will bring in, in the name of women. I am not against women. I wish a time would come when women would be as qualified as men and perhaps, would come in their own right, because women are not a class, women are not a community.

Sir, I have hardly ever seen a woman even in the most progressive, the most advanced and the most educated families of this metropolitan city of Delhi walking beside her husband into the Ashok Hotel. She is walking well a step behind. Have you noticed it Mr. Salve? It may not be your wife, but that is the general pattern which I am talking about. Therefore, merely speaking women, women will not do. But, do justice to all social groups, promote education universally for everybody including women and that must have been absolutely the first priority on the resources of the nation.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I come to my final point.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please make it final.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Yes; this is my final point, I will take only half-a-minute more.

When I speak about group reservation, well you would say : "when there are such minuscule groups, micro groups in our society, how do you distribute their share?" Yes, that is an administrative question. That is why I went to the extent of 0.25 percent in the case of Uttar Pradesh, because 0.25 percent means that if you are employing hundred constables, you shall give at least one constable's

post to that lowest level community. So I would say, you set a limit of one percent of the population and decide that any identifiable social group which has at least one percent population shall have at least one percent share subject to the same qualifications—I do not want any standards to be brought down—but below that, if it is a very small micro group, there are two options.

They can either join with a cognate group with which they feel a greater sense of association—sometimes the smaller groups have a certain brotherly feeling with some bigger group—so either they will do that or these micro groups will coalesce together to form a large enough group which can then get a share in the distribution and reservation. There should be no limits on the maximum. The so-called 50 percent rule is nonsense, because the number of people who are backward by definition, by prescribed parameters, by our nationally defined standards vary from State to State and in the country as a whole, as compared to a State. What I am talking about is that the quota must be determined, firstly with reference to population and secondly with reference to the level of backwardness.

Sir, taking the index of backwardness of our Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes is 100; some other community's index may be 90, some other community's index may be 60 or 20. So, it will not get full weightage for its population. It will get the weightage according to its index of backwardness. Then, two things must be done. The first one was suggested by Mr. Reddiah Yadav that a decennial census should be taken of each social group and weightage should be given based on population. Secondly, every 10 years an inquiry should be conducted into the level of backwardness of each group, so that if the level of backwardness goes down by virtue of the dispensation that we have introduced, then the quota will go down.

I hope—and Mr. Salve's heart will be pleased with this statement, I am sure,—that in the fullness of time a day will dawn when the index of backwardness of all communities will be zero and there shall be no reservation. Then, we shall really have a homogenous society. It is that day I look forward to. It is that dispensation that I dream of. But in the mean time, let us be fair, just and equitable to all our social groups.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD SINGH (Jhanjharpur) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Bill, brought in the House by Shri K.P. Reddiah Yadav but I oppose the way it has been presented.

I would like to say something on the objectives of this Bill. Its historical background is very tragic. Keeping in view the changes in social fabric during 47-48 years of

independence and prior to independence, the need of bringing this Bill has arisen and hon. Member has brought it as private Member Bill in the House.

Sir, social disparity has been prevalent in the country for 5000 years and the society has been dominated by a handful people. They dominated in the field of education, literature, culture, politics and the wealth of the country. I think that this Bill should have been brought after intensive consideration. I would like to touch upon the results of this Bill later on but I would like to tell you about the intention and approach behind bringing this Bill. It has a historical background. A handful people had the control over the society. They had dominated the field of education, culture, literature wealth and the politics of the country. I can firmly say that unless 80-85 per cent people of this country remain in the category of 'Shudra', this country will remain Shudra, socially and educationally in the international panchayat and it will not be able to make progress. That is why, I wanted to give this background.

The word 'Satyameva Jayate' - i.e. 'The Truth alone triumphs' have been inscribed at many spots, on Ashokan pillars as well in our country. It is said and inscribed on every stone of this Parliament House that 'the Truth alone triumphs.' I would like to say that had it been a fact, then 90 percent of our people would not have been living the life of animals even after 47-48 years of independence. The backward, the oppressed who get no respect in society have been marooned to lead a miserable life. We, therefore, shall have to stand by truth. Reddiah Sahib would have resorted to some appeasement policy otherwise the Bill is very good—he will excuse me—he has also referred the name of Shri Narasimha Rao Ji. This is not the question of a particular party but of national significance. Democracy cannot be strengthened unless the four pillars of our nation the Judiciary, the Executive, the Legislature and the Press are strengthened. Similarly, our social infrastructure has been turned into one as was envisaged by 'Manu' with its evil beliefs of rebirth and casteism.

The caste system, the concept of rebirth, fatalism and miracles prevail here. Many people in rural areas even today believe in rebirth, fatalism, miracles, casteism and 'Varna' system etc. How can we have a progressive society unless these evils are eliminated? There has been no change after independence in the thousand year old social structure. There is a permanent gulf between upper and lower classes.

While speaking on this Bill today, let me spell out in clear terms as to who are considered and identified as upper classes in our society. The identification of upper classes is that they "speak more and do little work" whereas the poor people "put in hard work and get disrespect". That is the definition and that is the fact.

One who puts in no labour, does not plough the fields, does not make shoes of the skin of dead cattle, does not touch wood or metal, is not connected with the soil and does not produce foodgrains belongs to the upper class. On the other hand, the poor who works round the clock, plough fields and toils in the sweat of his brow to earn and to live is categorised as one from the lower class. Those who "speak English and do no work are the people of upper class and those who work hard throughout the day and live a contemptuous life belong to the lower class. The Government should, therefore, take a firm resolution in order to take this country to the path of progress, and to constitute an egalitarian and equitable society. But the Government lacks in will power, decision taking and determination, how can it bring about a social change. That is why I referred to Raddaiah Ji's statement. Judging from the post-independence scenario, what is the position of reservation today? After 47 years of independence, the SCs and STs are entitled to 22.5 per cent reservation under the constitution and only 8 percent reserved posts have been filled. What about the leaders of the Congress Party who are seen chanting the name of Gandhi doing? What had been their responsibility so far? Wasn't it their social obligation to fill the quota of SCs and STs. Their reservation is running in backlog now-a-days. The Mandal Commission has made recommendations for the OBC. As a whole only 4 percent reserved posts have been filled in higher echelon of bureaucracy i.e. class one officers. Despite comprising 13 percent of population, the minorities, the Muslims have only 1.5 per cent share in higher grade posts.

On 7th August, 1990 we were sitting on the other side in this very Lok Sabha. The then National Front Government had brought forward a proposal at that time under the leadership of Shri V.P. Singh. It was that historic day 7th August, 1990 when the report of the Mandal Commission, that lay in cold storage for 10 odd years, was implemented and 52 percent reservation provided for socially and educationally backward people under it as per the Constitution. But this sent shockwaves among the BJP people and they resorted to 'Rath Yatra'. There might be other reasons of Rath Yatra but many people could not bear the announcement made by Shri V.P. Singh on 7th August. Some people started saying that this country will disintegrate and burn into ashes. At that time I had said that this move will not break the country though it may break some hearts and the people having weak hearts should strengthen their hearts in the interest of opening the new vistas of social equality and justice. They should broaden their hearts to accommodate the backward people and give them their due share in power, in bureaucracy and to give them respect and dignity. Today, there is much talk of social and economic progress, there is the advent of multinational companies and we have forgotten the

slogans of self-sufficiency and self-reliance given by Mahatma Gandhi. The country is being mortgaged to the foreign companies and I say that we should also embrace 85 percent 'Shudras' of our society. The Government is very eager to invite foreign investments. They are talking of flying high at a height of 3500 feet but nobody is ready to remove the economic disparity of the backward classes living on five feet land ground. If this void of economic disparity continues to broaden, this dissatisfied class will be left with no option other than taking recourse to weilding A.K. 47s. I am linking this issue with the New Economic policy because there is the advent of America Commission to counter Mandal Commission. There will be no jobs for the poor once the foreign companies step in. There will be total mechanisation. We are faced with the problem of unemployment and there is need to create job opportunities in our country. The foreign companies need business and we need employment. Under the new agreement entered with our country there will be no employment opportunities left. Then, who can avail of 27 percent reservation. Therefore, we should remain cautious about the rising economic disparity as a result of which there will be no peace in the country but an atmosphere of violence and terror will loom large and our Government that wields power will be responsible for all that.

There can be an atmosphere of violence if the gulf of economic disparity is not bridged. The hon. Minister is more concerned about their economic progress. But it is not a question of economic progress alone. It is the question of turning the thousand year old contempt into respect and dignity. We will ourselves improve our economic condition once we are given respect. Today, those who work in the fields and are down to earth hard working are oppressed in our society. Casteism has rendered our society shallow. Caste system gave birth to 'Varna' system. Therefore, it is the root of all social maladies and needs to be eradicated. We can come to know how the OBC candidates who qualified the written examination of UPSC were dropped at the interview level on the basis of caste if only an Enquiry Commission is set up. Hence, arose the need of reservation today. It is not a fact that the OBC candidate lacked in talent. A review of the matter will reveal that they secured very good marks in the written examination but were eliminated at the oral test on the basis of their casts. The caste factor should be done away with. Reservation was provided for them because on the criterion of caste. Today, we get elected on our own. May be, Raddaiah Ji is pained because it is not so in South. They should awaken the people there. We were elected to Lok Sabha from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh on our own. When we are in majority then we can grab our share in power also. We do not beg for it. One aspect of this Bill is related to begging to which we do not agree. We want to get our share through struggle and by awakening and educating the society. A healthy society

cannot be formed without struggle. Therefore, we should get our share and our rights through struggles so that this heritage can be passed on to the posterity. It will take long time if I dwell upon the historical bunglings but I would like to mention on thing. Dr. Lohia was probably elected to Lok Sabha in 1962.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, time is up now. You may continue next time.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I will take one minute more and conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are on your feet. You will get time to speak again. You have not concluded.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : All right, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet again on Monday, the 7th August, 1995 at 11 a.m.

18.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven
of the Clock on Monday, August 7,
1995/Sravana 16, 1917 (Saka).*

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