

LOK SABHA DEBATES **(English Version)**

Thirteenth Session
(Tenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XLI contains Nos. 31 to 40)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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(English Version)

....

Monday, May 22, 1995/ Jyeshtha 1, 1917.

..

Col./Line

For

Read

14/15,

Shri Lal Babu Rai

Shri Lal Babu Rai

²⁹
66/18

(Shri Salman Khurshid), External Affairs

(Shri Salman Khurshid);

73/6 (from below)

78/12 (from below)

87/3 (from below)

122/17

in

of

210/7

of

of

243/1

Shri Chitta Basu

Shri Chitta Basu

259/1

for

of

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LOK SABHA

Monday, May 22, 1995/ Jyaistha 1, 1917 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Rural Electrification

+
*641. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages not electrified so far, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have made any study recently to assess the Power requirements in rural areas;

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

(d) the funds allocated for this purpose during 1994-95, State-wise;

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to provide electricity to all the villages in the country; and

(f) the target fixed for rural electrification in the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (f). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) There are 84,750 villages yet to be electrified as on 31.03.1995. State-wise details of such villages is at *Annexure-I*

(b) and (c). A separate survey has not been made to assess the power requirements in the rural areas. However, in the 14th Power Survey Report, which covers the requirements of electricity projected at the national level published in March, 1991 by the Central Electricity Authority, an estimate has been made of the energy consumption for pumpsets, tubewells and lift irrigation schemes for each State and Union Territory upto 1994-95. The projections made in this regard, State-wise are at *Annexure-II*.

(d) The State-wise details of funds allocated for rural electrification work in 1994-95 is at *Annexure-III*.

(e) The majority of the remaining unelectrified villages are located in remote, inaccessible and difficult areas requiring heavy capital investment for their

electrification. The State Governments and State Electricity Boards have been requested to accord higher priority and prepare necessary action plans for completing electrification of the remaining villages.

(f) A target of 50,000 villages (including 10,000 remote villages to be electrified through Non-conventional Energy Sources) has fixed for electrification during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

ANNEXURE-I

*State-Wise Number Of Villages Yet To Be electrified
As on 31.3.1995*

S.No.	States	Villages to be electrified as on 1.4.1995
1.	Andhra Pradesh	②
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1108
3.	Assam	494
4.	Bihar	19784
5.	Goa	②
6.	Gujarat	②
7.	Haryana	②
8.	Himachal Pradesh	②
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	246
10.	Karnataka	②
11.	Kerala	②
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4114
13.	Maharashtra	②
14.	Manipur	182
15.	Meghalaya	2495
16.	Mizoram	59
17.	Nagaland	13
18.	Orissa	13605 (b)
19.	Punjab	②
20.	Rajasthan	5047
21.	Sikkim	②
22.	Tamil Nadu	②
23.	Tripura	1149
24.	Uttar Pradesh	27546 (a)
25.	West Bengal	8928
Total States		84750
Total UTs		②
Total All India		84750

② Cent percent villages electrified.

(a) As On 1.4.1995

(b) As on 1.3.1995

ANNEXURE-II

Energy requirement for irrigation pumpsets/State tubewells and lift irrigation for the year 1994-95 as projected in the Fourteenth Electric Power Survey

S.No.	State/UT	(MKWh)	
		Pumpsets/ Tubewells	Lift Irrigation
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7514.82	100.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	62.20	0.00
4.	Bihar	2503.00	548.00
5.	Gujarat	7443.11	0.00
6.	Haryana	3765.00	297.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	45.00	0.00
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	168.00	148.00
9.	Karnataka	4792.68	84.20
10.	Kerala	263.67	0.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2555.81	0.00
12.	Maharashtra	8688.09	190.47
13.	Manipur	6.20	0.00
14.	Meghalaya	1.50	0.00
15.	Mizoram	0.09	0.00
16.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00
17.	Orissa	400.00	0.00
18.	Punjab	6583.00	0.00
19.	Rajasthan	4397.00	67.00
20.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00
21.	Tamil Nadu	4384.45	0.00
22.	Tripura	24.22	0.00
23.	Uttar Pradesh	9184.00	640.00
24.	West Bengal	571.25	0.00
25.	Delhi	36.00	0.00
26.	Goa	16.00	0.00
Union Territories			
27.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00
28.	Dadara & Nagar Haveli	0.57	0.00
29.	Daman & Diu	1.27	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	2.20	0.00
31.	Pondicherry	75.84	0.00
32.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00
Total		63485.00	2075.00

ANNEXURE-III

Statewise Plan allocation for Rural Electrification during 1994-95

S.No.	States	(Rs. in crores)		
		REC	State Plan	Grand total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	73.73	20.00	93.73
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.50	9.00	14.50
3.	Assam	7.25	6.00	13.25
4.	Bihar	4.75	1.50	6.25
5.	Delhi	1.00	0.00	1.00
6.	Goa	0.25	0.20	0.45
7.	Gujarat	43.82	17.00	60.82
8.	Haryana	14.16	19.00	33.16
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6.00	3.00	9.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	4.00	4.00	8.00
11.	Karnataka	15.00	51.46	66.46
12.	Kerala	8.00	7.00	15.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	53.00	5.00	58.00
14.	Maharashtra	62.54	100.00	162.54
15.	Manipur	10.40	0.45	10.85
16.	Meghalaya	6.25	0.00	6.25
17.	Mizoram	7.70	0.00	7.70
18.	Nagaland	1.50	0.00	1.50
19.	Orissa	25.00	2.00	27.00
20.	Punjab	14.00	20.00	34.00
21.	Rajasthan	64.93	41.00	105.93
22.	Sikkim	1.00	2.00	3.00
23.	Tamil Nadu	52.82	4.50	57.32
24.	Tripura	11.25	2.00	13.25
25.	Uttar Pradesh	108.00	23.00	131.00
26.	West Bengal	21.00	4.00	25.00
27.	Coop/NMH	32.00	0.00	32.00
Sub-total		654.85	342.11	996.96
Grant for Kutirjyoti Programme		5.00		5.00
Grand Total		659.85		1001.96

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : As per the information available, cumulatively about five lakh villages have been electrified, out of which 2,62,000 Harijan villages also have been electrified and out of 1,11,886 tribal villages, 77,000 tribal villages have been electrified.

My pertinent question on this information is that though Government have declared that so many villages have been electrified, but once you visit the villages, you will find that most of the villages are not electrified in appropriate manner.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether when the entire village is electrified, it is declared electrified or if only in one house in a particular village electricity is received, they declare the entire village has been electrified.

I would also like to know what is the part played by the Central Government in this regard because the State Electricity Boards are particularly responsible for the rural electrification. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the Central Government's role in rural electrification. Is it only there to provide grants to State Electricity Boards or are they also monitoring? I would like to know whether the work is done by the Central Government in real terms or not.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : Rural electrification is the State programme and it has to be carried out by the State alone. Rural Finance Corporation gives technical assistance and financial support to some extent.

Regarding the villages electrified, if a line is there and if in a rural village, a house is given one electricity point, then it is considered electrified.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Is it the whole village?

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : No, it is not a whole village. The definition is that a village should be classified as electrified if electricity has been used within its revenue area for any purpose whatsoever.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, though I am not favoured by the hon. Minister through the replies to what I wanted to say, anyhow I am going in for my second supplementary.

The Minister has already agreed that the majority of the remaining unelectrified villages are located in remote, inaccessible and difficult areas requiring heavy capital investment for their electrification. Also, in the last paragraph of the reply, they have set a target of 50,000 villages, including 10,000 remote villages to be electrified through Non-conventional Energy Sources. I would like to state that as far as Non-conventional energy Sources are concerned, only in the developed areas they can work. Through my personal experience in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, I have seen it that where the solar energy system has been introduced, the power is kept in the batteries. Then, once the battery goes out of order, it has to be sent from there to Bangalore for repairing and then, it will come back from Bangalore. In the process, it takes three months' time. By that time, there is no electricity available in the villages. so, in view of that, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has gone through all the pros and cons, whether in these inaccessible areas, whether nothing is available and capital investment is more, what arrangement of electricity he is going to provide for regular electricity supply.

Then there is another point in regard to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. I have seen in Annexure-III that no money has been earmarked for this year in respect of the Union Territories. They have said this. Only the States have been provided money. What is the reason for this? Why has the grant not been provided to the Union Territories also? That is number one.

MR. SPEAKER : By putting too many questions, you do not get the reply.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : With one sentence, I complete my question. In the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the work is done by the casual labourers. People of ten years and 12 years of age are working. I would like to know from the Minister whether he has received the proposal for creation of 1200 posts in Group 'D' category. If it is so, what action has been taken in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER : Well, this is all a jumble, going in all directions. I do not know how to get the reply.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : Sir, this solar Photovoltaic Programme is a new Programme. We have only taken it up on a trial basis. As the hon. Member has put it, there are problems and difficulties when that instrument has to be repaired. I think with proper training and with the advance of time in the development of this technology, we will be able to give better results.

About the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the allocation is finalised by the Planning Commission. So, I do not have anything to comment on that.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : All these are also finalised by the Planning Commission.

[Translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, even after 47 years of India's independence, 85,750 villages have not been electrified so far. India is a country of villages. The Government neither have any intention nor a sound policy about the rural electrification. Whenever this issue is raised, the responsibility is shifted to the State Governments.

MR. SPEAKER : According to the constitutional provision, this question cannot be asked as to who is responsible for rural electrification.

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to point out that the villages already electrified remain without electricity for weeks together as a result of which the farmers and the general public face a lot of difficulty. Mr. Speaker, Sir, initially, the target of power generation was set at 30,000 megawatts during the Eighth Five Year Plan but later on, it was scaled down to 20,000 megawatts. I would like to know the reasons for it and what impact it would have on the rural electrification?

[English]

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : The electricity is in the Concurrent List. So it is the responsibility of the States to generate and transfer the electricity.

MR. SPEAKER : Now Madam, on this, I would be on the side of the Member. As far as electrifying the villages is concerned, it is the responsibility of the State Government. But as far as production of the entire electricity for the nation is concerned, you have a bigger role to play.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : Yes, Sir, I accept that. But due to financial constraints, the target of 30,000 MW had to be reduced and it has now come to 20,000 MW. We are trying to cope up with this.

Regarding the question of Andaman and Nicobar, I have got the figures now. In Andaman and Nicobar, there are 491 villages and they are all electrified. So there is no provision made for this year.

[Translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : The target of power generation has been reduced to 20,000 megawatts. Would it not adversely affect the target of rural electrification?

MR. SPEAKER : He wants to know whether the reduction in the power generation will affect the rural electrification?

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : What steps are being taken for mobilising the financial resources? Power is being produced from waste material in many countries of the world. The power from the waste material is cheaper and convenient. Whether the Government of India also propose to consider on this aspect?

MR. SPEAKER : It is a non-conventional energy source.

[English]

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : This is also a new technology and we are trying to introduce this in our country. But as far as I know, the power from the waste is costlier than that from the conventional energy sources. That is why, there are some problems.

MR. SPEAKER : We are doing it also for the gas-based power electricity.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I am very grateful to you for your saying that you agree with the hon. Member. That is correct. One of the Ministers has said that it is the responsibility of the State Governments to provide electrification in the rural areas. Then the Minister has said that this subject is in the Concurrent List. You will appreciate that the Central Government has got a Corporation through which they can even help the States. Though it is the duty of the State Government, yet there is the problem of constraint of

money with the State Governments. Some States have already completed the target of full electrification like Maharashtra. But some States have not completed the target fully. They have completed about 70 to 80 per cent of the target. you will be surprised to know that according to the Government Report, the target has been achieved in every State. But in my State, in my constituency, which is adjacent to Calcutta, I have not seen the villages being electrified. That is why, I want to know from the hon. Minister which are the States in which rural electrification has not improved at all. Will the Minister take up the matter with the State Government so that he can finance the State Government for electrifying the areas as early as possible?

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : Yes, Sir. There are 82 per cent of the remaining unelectrified villages. They are concentrated in the four major States—Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal. These States are facing serious financial problems and are not eager to extend their remunerative programme for village electrification. These States are heavily defaulting in paying of the REC dues. That makes it more difficult for the Corporation to release further funds.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Government is giving priority to the private sector in this field. I would like to know the percentage of electricity proposed to be given to the villages out of the power generated in the public as well as in the private sector? Several States, including the State of Gujarat, have stated that 50% of the power generated in these new power schemes will be provided to the rural areas. Whether the private sector would be given special subsidy for encouraging them to generate power from the non-conventional energy sources, including the photo-voltaic or other sources in the rural areas, particularly in the Andaman Islands and North East Areas so that the villages may get the facility soon?

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : The suggestion given by the hon. Member is very good. We would definitely consider it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : May I caution the Minister that it becomes an assurance?

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : But due to financial constraints, we have to limit our programme.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, out of 25 States in the country, some villages in 14 States are yet to be electrified. In Annexure-I, what has been supplied by the hon. Minister in reply is in comparison to Annexure-II where the State-wise allotment has also been shown. Here, you will find, Sir, that these States have completed REC programme. I would like to know in what manner. Whether it starts with villages, if not all

the villages, but the States has completed REC programme and it has been shown in the list but allotment of funds has been shown in respect of those States where it has already been completed. I want to know what are the criteria for allotment of funds to REC scheme in several States. I would like to know whether the Government is considering cases of yet to be electrified villages of several States on priority basis for some allotment, either from loan assistance or from Central Budget.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : Sir, I have already answered that if one point is given, then the village is considered to be electrified. That is decided by the Planning Commission and the selection of the villages also is with the Planning Commission, not with the Department.

MR. SPEAKER : He wants to know the criteria on which the funds are given by the Central Government to the State Governments.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : Thank you, Sir.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : That is decided by the Planning Commission.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : Sir, it has not been properly answered... (Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I find that - it is admitted also by the hon. Minister - Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, among them, have nearly 80 per cent of the total number of unelectrified villages. Bihar has roughly 25 per cent of the total; Orissa has roughly 15 per cent of the total; Uttar Pradesh has about 35 per cent of the total; and West Bengal has about 10 per cent of the total. Now, Sir, I notice a very obvious disparity in the allocation. Bihar is getting against 25 per cent, 0.6 per cent of the allocation; Orissa against 15 per cent of the number of unelectrified villages of the country is getting only 2.7 per cent of the allocation; similarly Uttar Pradesh against about 35 per cent of the total number of unelectrified villages in the country is getting 13 per cent of the allocation; and West Bengal against 10 per cent is getting only 2.5 per cent. My point is that one of the basic objectives of planning is to reduce the level of disparity between one region and the other and even within the same State between one district to the other. That is an accepted objective of the National development planning.

Therefore, Sir, in terms of allocation of resources, which are obviously limited, one has to follow a universal policy - States which have a larger number of unelectrified villages should receive a higher share of Central allocation - so that over a period of time the disparity in the level of rural electrification in the entire country goes down. It is of course true that the States themselves play a role but as you can see, Sir, from the figures given here, that more than two-thirds of the resource allocation comes through the Central Government.

Only one-third is derived from the State Governments. Therefore I would request an indication from the hon. Minister whether they are prepared to re-evaluate and review the allocation policy so that those States which have a larger degree of non-electrification should receive a higher degree of the Central funds that are available.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : The allocation of funds is according to the demands of the States. The State Governments finalise their plan and discuss with the Planning Commission and the allocation is made on that line. Discrepancies are there and there are some States which are not so keen to take it up and continue this programme. So, you will see the figures that year by year their demand is decreasing. That is also a problem with us. We are trying to convince, negotiate with them and discuss with them the problems and issues and find out a solution.

SHRI A. CHARLES : The answer given to this question does not reflect the real problem of shortage of electricity faced either by the villagers or by the people of the State. Kerala is said to be one of the States fully covered. But Kerala is under the acute shortage of electricity. For several months there is load-shedding. Small industries are not getting the electricity. The voltage is so low...

MR. SPEAKER : We are not discussing power generation. We are discussing electrification of villages.

SHRI A. CHARLES : The main question is whether a separate study has been made to assess the power requirement and the answer is, no study has been made. That is very unfortunate. May I know from the hon. Minister whether a real study will be made to assess the power requirements. Technically speaking, a village is electrified means there will be only one point. That is not enough. The actual requirement may be assessed and the Electricity Boards may be coordinated with a time-bound programme be made to remove the shortage of electricity.

MR. SPEAKER : Why is the assessment of the requirement of the electricity for rural electrification not done?

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : With regard to any study having been made for power requirements in the rural areas, we have checked the position with the Planning Commission...

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. We are not accepting this stand.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : The Minister of Non Conventional Energy Sources

MR. SPEAKER : No, Madam. The Power Ministry is expected to find out what is the electricity required for rural electrification.

Yes, the Minister wants to supplement.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE) : I want to supplement what my colleague has said. It is true that the entire rural electrification programme is far from satisfactory. But it has to be appreciated that so far as our role is concerned, it is very marginal. We have some funds allocated to us which we are supposed to give at concessional rate of interest for rural electrification.

MR. SPEAKER : No, Mr. Minister.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : If you want me to answer the question about the study, the study part, unfortunate it may be, but it is true that no specific study of the rural areas has been undertaken by any of these energy bodies above, including the Ministry of Power. That is my submission...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. CHARLES : We want a study.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : If the power is not adequate in Kerala in the rural areas, it is a manifestation of the shortage that is there in the States. Southern Indian States are writhing in shortages also.

MR. SPEAKER : The Members and the House would be well within their rights to understand what is the requirement of the electricity for rural electrification.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : Such a study has not been made.

MR. SPEAKER : Why?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : But we will take it up.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you.

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the amendment in the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, the State Governments cannot undertake electrification of the forest villages. As you know, the forest village are inhibited by the tribal population and the Forest Departments have built stop dams on the rivers and streams at many points but due to non-availability of power, the forest villages are neither able to irrigate their fields nor the lightning in their homes. Whether the Central Government propose to amend the Forest Conservation Act with a view to electrify the forest villages?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think that is a difficulty. If you want to reply, I have no objection.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : I think, there is no difficulty in implementing the suggestion. We will take it up.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : Sir, I am sorry to say that the Government's whole approach about the power generation and electrification of villages is a matter of concern. Mr. Speaker, as you have rightly said, it is the national responsibility of the Planning Commission, the Government of India and the States altogether to see that the rural India gets the required

electricity. Unfortunately after 48 years of Independence, even the survey has not been made. This shows the thinking of the Government. And the Power Department's Report on the only survey that has been conducted has made only a limited reference about the requirement of electricity for pump-sets, tube-wells and lift irrigation. But No survey has been made on the total requirement for rural electrification. I would now ask a very specific question. Taking into account that in certain States more than 50 per cent of the villages are not electrified, - it is not a question of remote or inaccessible areas - and that general rural electrification has not taken place on a large scale, will the Minister give top priority and sit with the State Chief Ministers and the Planning Commission to work out a time-bound programme for rural electrification?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : Sir, so far as the first part of the question is concerned, I have already answered that kind of a study should be undertaken. We will endeavour our best to see that such a study is undertaken.

So far as the second part is concerned, my colleague has already pointed out our serious limitations. We have only routed the funds which come to us from the Government of India and which we borrow. We give it to the States. And if the States do not return the money to us, moneys are not available with us. I am not trying to palm off the blame on the States, but I am pointing out the basic institutional difficulties which we are facing. The Planning Commission formulates the plans and the States implement them on all concurrent subject. We have very little to do with them at the ground level, except monitoring. We are only financing. That is the reality.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : That is not correct.

MR. SPEAKER : The Planning Commission will plan on the suggestions given by the Power Ministry.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : I bow down to what you say ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : That is not enough. I am sorry. When we are discussing these things let us be clear on that point please.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : That is the limitation of the system under which we working.

MR. SPEAKER : No. That is not a limitation. It may be the limitation of the individual but that is not the limitation of the system.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : I want to answer the question to your satisfaction, Sir. Maybe, the system is not satisfactory. If our role in the whole system is purely to give finances...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, that could have been done by the Finance Ministry also, if it were so.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : But that is how we are working. That is the system I am working under.

MR. SPEAKER : I know that you are working under a lot of pressure and paucity of funds but that is not the system.

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : Sir, According to the answer given, there are 84.00 and odd villages which have not yet been electrified. It is true that the power generation is short and the funds are also lacking for generation of power. In view of this, the Government has started privatisation of power generation. The Government has received from various States, to the extent of 50,000 MW, MoUs with various parties in the private sector, out of which 23,000 are from Andhra Pradesh, 50 and odd from Karnataka and the rest from the other States. The Government have put a condition that it should be before the 18th February, 1995 that these MoUs should be signed and sent to the Central Electricity Authority. What happened to these MoUs? When is the CEA going to give consent to the MoUs with the private parties, sent by the State Governments to start this project? Is it the only procedure the Government is going to adopt? Or, is it going to allow the signing of the MOUs even after the 18th February, 1995?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think that this comes out of the main question. But if the hon. Minister wants to reply, I have no objection.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the small projects are either in the hill areas or are in the tribal areas in the country as there are a large number of streams flowing there. It has been observed that in other countries a large number of mini power projects are undertaken. Whether there is any proposal to have mini power projects in our country also and whether any survey has been conducted in this regard? Keeping in view the power requirements of the country, whether Government propose to consider applications from the private parties for mini power projects cost Rs. 60 thousand to Rs. 1 lakh on each project?

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : Mini Power Projects costing less than 1 crore of rupees can be undertaken by the State Governments themselves.

[English]

SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA : Sir, there are 50 lakh villages in India and there are 25 States in India, shall I call them 'Provinces'? There are so many villages in the rural areas and also in the urban areas. Those people who are living there are Tribals and Harijans. I understand that in the previous years, they have got some subsidy; but nowadays they are deprived of it. Why is it so? How is the policy changing day-by-day? Why are the Adivasi people not being given facilities in their villages? They are still not helping them. I am very sorry to say that they are suffering like anything. Even these Adivasi villages are included in the urban areas and also in the rural areas. May I know

as to how many Adivasi villages have been electrified all over India, specially in Orissa? May I know this from the Government?

MR. SPEAKER : If you have the information give it or you can send it later on also.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : I have no information just now about the Adivasi villages. I will certainly promise to provide that information.

MR. SPEAKER : I am inclined to give more time to this question because we did not take up the discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Power. You can be rest assured that you will get the opportunity, provided the question are relevant.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BABU RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the information made available by the hon. Minister, about 4 lakh villages have already been electrified. Bihar is very backward State where 75 per cent of population is dependent on agriculture and electricity is an important ingredient for ensuring agricultural development. During the year 1984-85, the Congress Party was in power in the State as well as at the Centre. From that year till date, rural electrification in our villages is limited to only installation of electric poles and no wiring has been done. An incorrect report has been sent to the Central Government about electrification.. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is the concern of the State Government.

SHRI LAL BABU RAI : Kindly listen to my submission, Sir.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please come to the question directly.

[Translation]

SHRI LALL BABU RAI : Of course, the State Government awards the contracts. But will the hon. Minister ensure the proper electrification of these villages and propose to provide additional assistance to the Bihar Government for the purpose?

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has already stated that the allocation of funds is being made according to the demands of the State.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let us not waste the time.

SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD : In Maharashtra, electrification for most of the villages are completed but when they declare a village as electrified, the wadis are not covered in it. Half of the population stays in wadis and I can quote many wadis like that. One village consists of ten to twelve wadis also. Now, when they declare a village as electrified, the wadis are not covered. So, I would like to know whether they will give special priority to wadis and give guidelines to the State Governments to get these wadis also completed.

Secondly, Sir, they have included 10,000 remote villages in 50,000 villages which are going to be electrified in the Eighth Five Year plan. I would like to know the number of villages left out and whether the Government is giving any priority to these remote villages and give some more funds to them?

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, have you followed?

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : If the Member can repeat his question, it will be helpful.

MR. SPEAKER : Will you please briefly repeat the question?

SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD : Sir, you also know what I was telling. Even then I will repeat the question very shortly.

MR. SPEAKER : No. I really did not follow it. Probably, there is something wrong with the sound system.

SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD : Sir, *wadi* is such a place where most of the population coming from the village stays.

MR. SPEAKER : What are you doing to electrify these *wadis* i.e., the hamlets?

SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD : They declare that a village is electrified but *wadis* are not at all electrified. I want to know whether they are going to give priority to this sector and give some more funds.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, you have the villages and you have the hamlets. Hamlets are not electrified. Are you going to do something to electrify the hamlets also?

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : Sir, about 2,62,960 hamlets - Harijan *bastis* - are electrified. It is for the State Government to decide which *basti* should be electrified or otherwise.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, in part (e) of the reply, it is stated by the Minister as :

"The majority of the remaining unelectrified villages are located in remote, inaccessible and difficult areas requiring heavy capital investment for their electrification. The State Governments and State Electricity Boards have been requested to accord higher priority and prepare necessary action plans for completing electrification of the remaining villages."

Once the State Government prepares the Action Plan, I would like to know whether the Government assures this House that

MR. SPEAKER : No. That kind of an assurance cannot be given. It depends on the Plan. Let us please come to the right question. I am giving you the time to ask the right question.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : My question is this. Once the Action Plan is prepared, will the Government of India make available the funds required for the State Government?

MR. SPEAKER : They cannot give an assurance like this.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Otherwise, what is the good of asking them to prepare the Plan, unless the funds are allocated?

[Translation]

SHRI MANJAY LAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, India lives in villages and the progress of the country will be possible only if the villages are electrified. I can give examples of a large number of villages in Bihar from where electric lines are passing but those villages have not been electrified. Whether the hon. Minister would enquire into it and take any action against the officials responsible for providing wrong information?

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. This is the responsibility of the State Government.

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the cost of rural electrification is very high. That is why the rural areas do not get this facility. With the privatisation of power generation, whether the private sector would be pressurised to provide electricity to the rural areas and..

MR. SPEAKER : You have asked a very good question but do not make it lengthy.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I entirely agree by hon. Member. Though the cost of rural electrification is very high, still the rural areas have to be electrified. But the planning has to be done by the State Governments. In case, the proposals for private projects are received, we will see what can be done on this aspect.

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Mr. Speaker, Sir..

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. you were given the chance. Please do not misuse it.

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV : Mr. Speaker Sir, the REC gives funds for the State Governments purely as per their village electrification with standardisation of works. Have the Minister of Power, Government of India received any complaint? I would like to know whether the funds intended for the village electrification have been diverted as a result of which the inferior electrification was being done and the farmers are suffering because of the non-standard work done.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : Sir, no such complaints have been received by us.

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated by the hon. Minister in her reply to the question that the heavy investment is required for the electrification of villages located in difficult hill areas. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the practice is that if a pole is installed on the outskirts of a village located particularly in a hill area, it

is declared an electrified village? Whether the hon. Minister is aware of this position and if so, what she proposes to do in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER : She has already stated that it relates to the revenue area.

[English]

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the question of assurance on the question raised by the hon. Member, Shri Chandrajit Yadav, I thought this question was with reference to a separate survey to assess the requirement of the rural areas. That, we have not taken up. But in answer to (b) and (c), we have clearly stated further that the Central Electricity Authority made an estimate of the energy consumption for pump-sets, tubewells and Lift Irrigation Scheme for each State and Union Territory.

Sir, the assurance I gave was that a separate survey is not being made to assess the power requirement of the rural areas as a whole. Therefore, I wanted to clarify this that the other estimates are available. (Interruptions)

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : Sir, I am only clarifying what I have assured the hon. House that the answer is already there. So far as the requirement of consumption of energy of pump-sets, tubewells and the Lift Irrigation Scheme, etc. upto 1994-95 is concerned, the CEA has already made the estimates. But we have already stated that separate survey is not being made to assess the power requirement of the rural areas as a whole. This is the reference with which I said that we will try to undertake this work.

That is all, we want to clarify. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Should we not know what is the requirement?

SHRI A. CHARLES : Yes, yes. This is a question. ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : Sir, we may add that the 14th Electric Power Survey has already been done and the 15th EPS is now being done.

Revival of HFC and FCI

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*642. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken into consideration the recommendations made by the Purohit Committee, while preparing a revival plan for the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCI) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to seek commercial assistance from foreign and domestic financing agencies in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the retrenched workers will be re-employed after the revival of these units; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) :

(a) to (f). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (f). As per its terms of reference the Purohit Committee was not required to make any recommendations in respect of FCI. It was merely required to examine whether Durgapur, Barauni and Namrup-I and II units of HFC could be operated with some investment on renewal/replacement of the problematic equipments. This Committee had, *inter alia*, identified trouble-prone equipments and weak areas of the above units for replacement/repairs/modifications, alongwith other remedial measures essential to continue the operations of the aforesaid units, at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 263.18 crores.

Based on the recommendations of the Purohit Committee, as also taking into account other relevant factors, the Government has recently prepared a revival plan for HFC which, in principle, envisages rehabilitation of its Barauni, Durgapur and Namrup units through revamp, and hiving off of Haldia Fertilizer Project in view of the fact that revamp of this project was not feasible. The revival plan envisages fresh investment of the order of Rs. 464.93 crores apart from capital restructuring and other financial reliefs. The funds for revival of these units including funding through participation of Financial Institutions have not been tied up so far. Since HFC and FCI were declared as sick companies by the BIFR, any decision on their long term future of rationalisation of their manpower would depend upon the outcome of the proceedings pending before the BIFR, which is a quasi-judicial authority.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has stated that the HFC and FCI have been declared as sick companies by the BIFR. Government has also stated that the Haldia unit cannot be revived and Barauni, Durgapur and Namrup are sick units, which need to be revived. I want to know from the Government as to the amount of capital invested in setting up both these units what was their production target and what is the actual production being done and the loss suffered as well as the causes for it. First the BIFR declared that these three units were sick and it has been stated in the answer to the question that Durgapur, Barauni and Namrup fertilizer units are required to be revived and an amount of Rs. 464.93 crores would be required for their revival. It was also stated in the same answer that the revival of the Haldia unit is not pragmatic. I want to know from the Government about the capital invested in all these units, the production targets envisaged and the loss suffered and the steps proposed to be taken to achieve the production targets in future? Also how do you want to solve the

problem of fertilizer supply to the farmers? Whether the demand of fertilizers would be met by imports or a new fertilizer unit would be set up for the purpose and what is the estimated capital investment in this new unit. On the one hand, the Government units are facing closure and on the other hand, talks are being held with foreign companies to set up new units.

I would like to say that the people should know about it?

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV : As far as the question of loss is concerned, FCI and HFC suffered a loss to the tune, of Rs. 2451.50 crores and Rs. 2635.91 crores respectively during the year 1994-95. An amount of Rs. 750 crores has already been spent on Haldia Fertilizer Project.

The hon. Member has asked a number of questions. Whether all these questions are needed to be answered.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, if these questions are relevant.

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV : As far as the question of their revival is concerned, it is found that the factories based on old technologies are incurring huge losses and have outlived their life. We got HFC examined by the Department's Technical advisor, Shri Bhaumik and he has given his opinion that these factories cannot be made operative without derating. We are of the view that we should revive the closed units, if possible. If it is not possible to revamp these units and if we get finance we can set up new factories in the country. We have other measures also to meet the demand of fertilizers. We will not allow shortage of fertilizers. There has neither been any shortage nor we will allow any shortage in future. We have got the Durgapur, Barauni Namrup-I and Namrup-II units re-examined by Shri Purohit and other officers and according to their report, a fresh investment to the tune of 464 crores of rupees would be needed for their revival. The report is under consideration but in the meantime, we are thinking to take some other measures also. We have formulated a scheme for both the companies for which an amount of Rs. 109 crores would be needed. We had to spend 69 crores of rupees even otherwise also and now by spending only an additional amount of Rs. 40 crores, we would have 90,000 tonnes of additional production of urea every month. We started on that basis and found that during the period of first five months the production was much more than envisaged. The production in these units was 5 lakh tonne. We have formulated another scheme under which we will invest 2200 crores of rupees which will result in an annual production of 23 lakh tonnes of urea. The scheme is being examined and the Group of Ministers have, already agreed in principle and we are doing the exercise of mobilizing resources.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to ask the causes for the loss. If you do not analyse the causes and simply keep on saying

that loss is being suffered because of the old machinery, you will not be able to check it. You have stated in the answer that the revamping of the Haldia project is not feasible and secondly, it has been mentioned that an amount of Rs. 464.93 crores would be needed for its revival. I want to know from the Government the nature of the steps taken and when these were taken and when the case was referred to BIFR? What is the proposal of the Government for the workers likely to be retrenched in the event of closure of Haldia Fertilizer Project as it has been stated that revival of this unit is not feasible? Whether any programme has been chalked out to provide them employment?

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already stated and I want to repeat it that Haldia and Gorakhpur factories are not working at present but no worker has been retrenched. We are spending more than Rs. 1.5 crore and Rs. 1.25 crore per month for paying wages to the workers of the Haldia and the Gorakhpur units respectively. It is not correct to say that we have given them up.

We have already formulated a scheme to revive six factories by investing only an amount of Rs. 2200 crores. I have already told you that this will result into a production of 23 lakh tonnes annually. If we do not revive these factories, we will have to spend about Rs. 1100 crores for payment of salaries and such other than relating to establishment. Thus an additional fund of Rs. 1100 crores only will enable us to revive these factories.

As regards the Haldia Fertiliser Project, I have given the details separately because both the factories are lying closed and we need about Rs. 2000 crores for their revival and it is not possible to mobilise so much money at present. So it was decided to take measures to generate production to the tune of at least 23 lakh tonnes of urea every year for 10 years. The factory, which was giving a yield of 18 percent only is being revived to achieve a yield upto 65 percent. It was decided to revive it because this step was considered to be in the interests of the farmers and the country. The Group of Ministers as well as that of the officers have agreed to this proposal and now we are working on it. We are paying attention to Haldia as well as to it.

Haldia Fertilizer Project is also being considered separately. Actually, technology keeps on changing constantly the Haldia Fertilizer Project has technology not from one country but from 13 countries because when it was set up, we took the machinery from whichever country it was available as we did not have enough foreign exchange in those days. So this factory has 13 types of technologies which could not properly be utilised. We are, therefore, trying to find out the ways to revamp it.

As far as the question of workers is concerned, I have already stated that nobody has been retrenched and everybody is getting wages.

As regards Gorakhpur factory, there is no difficulty in that we did not close it down permanently. It had to be closed down due to a minor accident and also due to pollution. We are studying both the aspects and it can be made operative. So, we are making efforts in that direction. We have given a revival scheme, these two should be viewed separately.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : The water and electricity connections in Haldia Fertilizer factory have been cut...

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, I asked a question on the basis of a three point understanding. There was a Goswami Committee on BIFR which stated that before closing down a unit we have to find out, even for foreign parties, the existing infrastructure that are available in the unit. So many things are already available in those units. The foreign parties would rather prefer starting the closed units instead of going in for setting up of new units. Therefore, the Committee suggested that the foreign parties should be interested in starting the closed units.

Secondly, Sir, very frequently we go in for the import of second-hand machinery in order to establish industry. There is an existing structure. There is a mismatch in Haldia. Can you tell us on the basis of these two - while trying to generate more production of fertilizers within the country - whether it is not wiser to utilise the existing things like the earlier, even if there is a mismatch, and on the basis of a small investment try to revive the unit?

The second part of my question is on BIFR. All such units have been referred to the BIFR, which is a quasi-judicial authority. When the BIFR gives an award asking the Government to do something, the Government forgetting its quasi-judicial nature request it to review. Secondly, the award which is generated from BIFR is dependent on the kind of stand the Government take.

MR. SPEAKER : Let us ask the question.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Therefore, my question is : Will the per unit cost of production of fertilizer in Haldia be more or less the per unit cost of production of fertilizer in a new unit? Secondly, what position the Government is taking in the BIFR itself to get a favourable response?

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV : I could not follow his question.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : My question is very simple. If you start a new factory, there is a per unit cost of production of fertilizer. If you try to revive Haldia, will the per unit cost of production be more or less?

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV : The per unit cost of fertilizer in a new factory will always be more than in the old factory. But we have to first decide as to whether Haldia is profitable or not or whether it will run at all or not.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, is the answer satisfactory? He says that the per unit cost of fertilizer will be less in Haldia.

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV : Not only in Haldia, in any old factory the per unit cost of production of fertilizer will be less than that produced in the new factory, provided the units are able to run...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Well, I think you will have to get it examined. If the cost of production in new factories is going to be more than in old factories, then why have the new factories?

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV : Because old factories are getting older and older and they are not profitable...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You please get it examined.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The cost of production is something different from actually the cost of establishing a factory.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Haldia unit is controlled by Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation and Barauni and Durgapur units in the Eastern region are also controlled by the same corporation. However, Government has taken a decision for reviving the Durgapur and Barauni units but no decision has been taken for reviving the Haldia unit. The workers there are getting their wages but the electricity and drinking water connections have been cut. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he proposes to take any action for reviving the Haldia unit?

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV : We have not retrenched any worker. If there is any shortage of drinking water there, I cannot do anything in it. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please let us not confuse.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has conceded that the Fertilizer unit of Gorakhpur was closed down after the court passed strictures. Some people met the Prime Minister and the hon. Minister set up an enquiry committee in this regard. Whether the Committee has recommended the reopening of Fertilizer unit of Gorakhpur? If it is not possible to reopen it, whether it will be entrusted to the private sector as it is the only big unit in the eastern region and it can be revived at a modest cost.

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my first aim is to see that units under operation should have resources enough to keep them going.

12.00 hrs.

If it is not possible, then our corporations can run them...

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Please tell us about the Gorakhpur unit.

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV : About Gorakhpur unit, I have stated that I have not yet got the matter enquired. I am getting it enquired and after that, measures will be taken for reviving the Gorakhpur unit. If finance could be arranged for its revival.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : We had met you and you had given us an assurance about the revival of Gorakhpur unit.

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV : You had met me and I had expressed my desire to revive it. If you want to entrust it to the private sector, please bring them so that I may help them...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : How can we bring them. I would request the hon. Minister to withdraw these words...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want to revive it. If we get the funds, we would like to revive it today itself. If we do not get money, we will have to take some measures as we want to revive it...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know, through you, the reasons for not appointing the Chairman of the Rashtriya Chemicals Fertilizers, Bombay for the last two years?

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV : This point does not relate to the question. This question relates to the Purohit Committee and this Committee does not cover the appointment of the Chairman of the Rashtriya Chemicals.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Revival Plan for BCPL

*643. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has sanctioned the revival plan for Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount proposed to be spent thereon;

(d) the funding procedure followed; and

(e) the likely time by when BCPL will resume its normal functioning?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL) was approved by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in the hearing held on the 28th March, 1995. The formal sanction to the scheme has been accorded by the BIFR on the 4th April, 1995. According to the sanctioned scheme, the revival period is for 10 years beginning from 1994-95. The scheme, *inter alia*, envisages higher production, sales, fresh financial assistance from the government, generation of internal resources, cost reduction measures in terms of reduction in excess manpower/deferment of revision of wages and salaries/redeployment of manpower. The targets of production and sales for 1995-96 are Rs. 31.20 crores and Rs. 24.23 crores respectively which would gradually be increased to Rs. 48 crores of production and Rs. 54 crores of sales by the end of the revival period i.e. 2003-2004. The scheme also envisages capital restructuring with effect from 1/4/94 involving conversion of a part of the outstanding term-loan given by the Government into equity of the company, a part of the said loans into zero rate debenture, write-off of interest outstanding on such term-loans given by the Government as on 31/3/94 and waiver of entire penal and compound interest. The company is expected to turn-around from 1995-96.

The total cost of the scheme is Rs. 28.49 crores. The fresh financial assistance envisaged from the Government is Rs. 8.60 crores over a period of 2 years i.e. 1994-95 and 1995-96 and the balance cost of the scheme is proposed to be made through generation of internal resources by sale/disposal of surplus assets.

(e) BCPL is in operation. In 1994-95, the company has achieved a turn-over of Rs. 22.51 crores in terms of production and Rs. 20.37 crores in terms of sales. The production in 1994-95 registered a growth of 25% and sales registered a growth of 27% over the actuals of the year 1993-94.

[Translation]

Production of Steel in SAIL

*644. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited has made a successful attempt to bring down the cost of production of Steel in 1993-94, as compared with the preceding years, by rationalising the power utilisation;

(b) if so, the extent to which the cost of production of Steel could have been brought down as a result of this experiment;

(c) the total amount spent on the implementation of all these attempts; and

(d) the details of the reforms implemented and the number of production units operating under the Steel Authority of India Limited in which such reforms have been implemented till December, 1994?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. During the year 1993-94, SAIL has been able to reduce electrical energy consumption through 12 schemes, as well as better operational practices. The four integrated steel plants of SAIL reduced electrical energy consumption per tonne of saleable steel by 1.7% during the year 1993-94 compared to the position obtaining in 1992-93. Power consumption came down to 626 kwh per tonne of saleable steel during 1993-94 against 637 kwh per tonne during 1992-93 and 647 kwh per tonne during 1991-92. Conservation of electrical energy resulted in cost savings by Rs. 15 per tonne of saleable steel. Total expenditure on these schemes was around Rs. 292 lakhs.

(d) Details are given in the Statement attached.

STATEMENT

Details of Schemes Implemented to Conserve Electrical Power During 1993-94 and 1994-95 (April - December)

S.No.	Plant	Name of the Scheme
1	2	3
I. 1993-94		
1.	BSP	Auto operation of charging side of roll table of PM.
2.	BSP	Renovation of illumination in OHP area.
3.	BSP	Micro Processor based controller for ESP's of PP-II.
4.	BSP	Replacement of HPMV lamps with HPSV lamps in SMS-II and PM.
5.	BSP	Replacement of existing lamps with HPSV lamps in BBM, RSP, MM and SP-I.
6.	BSP	Replacement of existing lamps with HPSV lamps in PM Foundry and PP-II.
7.	BSP	Accurate monitoring of electrical energy parameters.
8.	BSP	Auto operation of field motor of PM.
9.	BSL	Static AC speed regulation for GAS storage Fan of SMS-II.
10.	BSL	Conservation of High Bay HPMV and 300 GLS lamps with 640 HPSV lamps.
11.	BSL	Electronic ballasts for tubelights.

1	2	3
12.	BSL	Automatic switching off of street lights.
II. 1994-95 (Upto December, 1994)		
1.	DSP	Installation of Capacitor Banks.
2.	ASP	Dynamic reactive power compensation system at ASP.

[English]

Power Supply by Nepal

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

(a) whether the Government of Nepal has agreed to supply power to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the quantum offered and the proposed rate of power;

(c) whether the rate of hydro power would compete favourably with rate of power proposed to be supplied by other foreign power companies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. There is no new specific proposal under consideration for supply of additional power to India by Nepal. India and Nepal are exchanging power at some border points.

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

[Translation]

Fertilizer Units

*646. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA :
SHRI K. PRADHANI :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the installed capacity of public sector fertilizer units which are closed or functioning partially and the amount of investment made in each of these plants;

(b) whether the gap between the demand and indigenous production of fertilizers is being covered by imports;

(c) if so, the foreign exchange spent on the import of fertilizers during the last three years;

(d) whether the availability of fertilizers during the two crop seasons of the year would match the estimated demand;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(g) whether the revival of the sick fertilizer units will make the country self-reliant in fertilizer production?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) : (a) The various units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) and Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI), the two sick companies in the public sector, are not operating at their full capacity due to old age, technological deficiencies, etc. The commissioning of Haldia project of HFC was suspended in 1986 due to repeated failure of equipment during the commissioning. The Gorakhpur unit of FCI is lying closed since June, 1990 due to an accident in the plant. The unit-wise installed capacity and capital investment (equity + plan loan) of HFC and FCI as on 31.3.1995 are given below :

Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation

Unit	Investment (Rs. crores)	Installed capacity (‘000 MT)
Namrup	412.34	350.00 (Nitrogen)
Durgapur	165.27	152.00 (Nitrogen)
Barauni	197.48	152.00 (Nitrogen)
Haldia project	54.70	155.00 (Nitrogen) 79.00 (Phosphate)

Fertilizer Corporation of India

Unit	Investment (Rs. crores)	Installed capacity (‘000 MT)
Sindri	361.81	152.00
Gorakhpur	66.44	131.00
Ramagundam	226.51	152.00
Talcher	245.04	152.00

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The foreign exchange spent towards the cost and freight value of the fertilizers imported on Government account during the last three years is given below :

S.No.	Year	Foreign exchange spent on the import of fertilizers on Government account (in Rs. crores)
1.	1992-93	2108.33
2.	1993-94	1163.75
3.	1994-95	1722.45

(d) to (f). Arrangements have been made to ensure that the availability of the controlled fertilizer viz. urea matches the demand which is reflected in the allocations made under the Essential Commodities Act, 1995. The availability of decontrolled fertilizers is determined by market forces.

(g) Keeping the view the size of the gap between demand for urea and its indigenous availability, the revival of the sick fertilizer units of HFC and FCI will not

make the country self reliant in fertilizer production (nitrogen). Since the indigenous phosphatic ores meet only 5% of the demand, the major requirement of phosphatic fertilizers is met through imports, either in the form of finished products or raw materials. Since there are no known commercial reserves of potash in the country, the entire requirement is per force met through imports.

[English]

Setting up of NPPA

*647. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for delay in setting up of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), as provided in the New Drug Policy;

(b) the steps being taken to set up the above stated authority; and

(c) the time by which the same is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (c). In the Modification in Drug Policy, 1986 announced in September, 1994, there is a provision to set up an independent body of experts called the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to do the work of price fixation. This body would be entrusted with the task of updating the list of drugs under price control. It would also monitor the prices of decontrolled drugs and formulations and oversee the implementation of the provisions of the DPCO. Necessary steps have already been initiated to set up the NPPA very soon.

Backlog of National Highway Projects

*648. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an alarming backlog of National Highway Projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, those are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The VIII Five Year Plan provides for Rs. 2460 crore for ongoing as well as new works on National Highways. Anticipating enhancement of allocation during various Annual plans on the pattern of VII Plan, a programme of sanction of projects to the tune of Rs. 4150 crore during VIII Five Year Plan was made. However, due to resource constraints, projects worth Rs. 910 crore could be sanctioned during the first three years of the plan.

(c) The clearance of these projects depends on the allocation of funds. As such, it is difficult to indicate the time-frame for clearance of those projects.

[Translation]

Indo-Maldives Cooperation

*649. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the areas in which India and Maldives are co-operating presently;

(b) the further areas identified for cooperation between the two countries in future; and

(c) the aid provided to Maldives by India during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) India and Maldives are cooperating in sectors of health, Human Resource Development, Education, trade, restoration of ancient historical monuments, vocational training and linguistic research and technical assistance through deputationists.

(b) Further areas will be identified by the Indo-Maldives Joint Commission. One specific area of cooperation identified is the field of non-conventional energy.

(c)	1992-93	:	10.05 crores
	1993-94	:	18.46 crores
	1994-95	:	5.88 crores

Nehru Rozgar Yojna

*650. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Banks have extended full Cooperation into schemes under Nehru Rozgar Yojna;

(b) if so, the contribution made by the banks in this scheme during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the details of the discussion held in this regard by the Urban Affairs and Employment Ministry with the Ministry of Finance; and

(d) the response of the Ministry of Finance thereto?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL) : (a) and (b). The Statewise details of number of beneficiaries assisted through banks under the Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME) of Nehru Rozgar Yojana during the last three years are given in the Statement attached. Efforts are being made on a continuous basis in co-ordination with the Ministry of Finance and the Reserve Bank of India to improve the manner of implementation of the Yojana with better cooperation from the Banks.

(c) In order to sort out operational problems like long pendency of loan applications, high rate of rejection of loan applications, quantum of loans being extremely

low, non-acceptance of loan applications by some banks, non-viability of projects, identification of beneficiaries, raising of loan limit, raising of poverty line criteria and definition of 'Family' under Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME), issue pertaining to residency condition, etc., discussions have been held in the course of Meetings of the High Powered Committee on Institutional Credit Support for Scheme of Urban Micro enterprises of Nehru Rozgar Yojana, Reserve Bank of India, Planning Commission, Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment and representatives of State Governments. The last Meeting of the High Powered Committee was held on 19th September, 1994.

(d) The Reserve Bank of India reiterated the instructions to all public sector banks for disposal of loan applications under Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises within prescribed time limit. It has also issued instructions to the banks to include suitable lecture sessions in all relevant training programmes to educate and change the attitude of bank managers so that they have proper perspective and real appreciation of the spirit behind all the poverty alleviation schemes. Instructions have also been issued to take stock of the position of pendency of loan applications under Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME) in every meeting of the State Level Bankers' Committee or its sub-committees. For proper identification of beneficiaries Task Forces have been constituted involving representatives of banks at the level of Urban Local Bodies. The matter regarding involvement of cooperative banks in addition to public sector banks in implementation of Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises has also been taken up with the Ministry of Finance and they are not agreeable to this proposal. Regarding proof of residency of a beneficiary, it was agreed that residency certificate by an appropriate authority would be sufficient and that the identified beneficiaries having a ration card will not be insisted upon. Also, it was proposed not to insist upon residency in an urban local body for a period of three years as eligibility condition but Reserve Bank of India did not agree to it and Ministry of Finance had also rejected it earlier. Ministry of Finance and R.B.I. are not agreeable to raise the loan limits.

STATEMENT

No. of Beneficiaries Assisted Through Banks Under the Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME) of Nehru Rozgar Yojana During the Last Three Years

S. No.	Name of State/UT	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25523	18175	15510
2.	Bihar	3732	1987	NR
3.	Gujarat	4765	2630	1663

1	2	3	4	5
4. Haryana	7435	800	2060	
5. Karnataka	14789	3345	14048	
6. Kerala	4790	5202	3279	
7. Madhya Pradesh	43787	32072	NR	
8. Maharashtra	18839	11917	7435	
9. Orissa	4946	1214	NR	
10. Punjab	3985	3931	2670	
11. Rajasthan	4594	11749	9621	
12. Tamil Nadu	19182	24413	12665	
13. Uttar Pradesh	59101	24813	35852	
14. West Bengal	15169	4368	3042	
15. Goa	—	440	—	
16. Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	40	
17. Assam	1822	1299	13572	
18. Himachal Pradesh	190	—	—	
19. Jammu and Kashmir	1695	91	—	
20. Manipur	395	2745	1651	
21. Meghalaya	199	274	NR	
22. Mizoram	—	—	700	
23. Nagaland	—	—	—	
24. Sikkim	182	16	NR	
25. Tripura	330	137	NR	
26. A and N Islands	—	177	1	
27. Chandigarh	178	—	21	
28. D and N Haveli	43	53	14	
29. Daman and Diu	—	—	—	
30. Pondicherry	226	160	705	
31. Delhi	1038	295	79	
Total	236855	152380	124628	

Note: NR = Not Reported.

[English]

Sea Food

*651. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of sea food potentials in terms of tonnage in the country;

(b) the estimated quantum tapped during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the yield?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) The estimated potential of marine fishery resources in the country is 3.9 million tonnes.

(b) Marine fish production during the last 3 years was as under :

Year	Marine fish production (In million tonnes)
1991-92	2.46
1992-93	2.57
1993-94	2.68

(c) Steps being taken to increase the yield :

1. Augmentation of deep sea fishing fleet through introduction of vessels under various schemes like import, indigenous construction, joint ventures, leasing and chartering.
2. Systematic survey of fishery resources in Indian waters.
3. Training of personnel in deep sea fishing operatives.
4. Construction of fishing harbours at major and minor ports.
5. Subsidy in the rate of interest for acquisition of deep sea fishing vessels.
6. Creation of infrastructural facilities for processing, preservation and marketing of fish.
7. Reimbursement of a part of the cost of diesel consumed by Indian-owned deep sea fishing vessels.
8. Regulation of fishing by foreign fishing vessels in the Exclusive Zone and the Indian owned vessels in the territorial waters.
9. Motorisation of Traditional craft.
10. Introduction of plywood craft.
11. Introduction of off shore intermediate size pelagic fishing craft.
12. Setting up of artificial reefs and Mari-culture projects.
13. Development of brackish water aquaculture for shrimp production.

[Translation]

Import of Urea

*652. DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the rates at which urea was imported during the last three years, country-wise;

(b) the reasons for purchasing urea at differential rates from different countries; and

(c) the terms and conditions under which urea was imported from these countries?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) :

(a) Imports of urea during the last three years have been canalized through MMTC Ltd. Information regarding derived/actual C and F price of imports during the relevant period is given in the Statement attached.

(b) Prices of urea in the international market vary from time to time. In FOB contracts, price realisations of the suppliers also vary as a function of the freight element.

(c) The broad terms and conditions of urea imports as reported by MMTC Ltd. are as under :

- (i) Each offer to MMTC is required to be accompanied by a Bid Bond at the rate of US\$ 1 per tonne. The producers/sole representatives of the producers and the

established traditional suppliers are, however, exempted from submission of Bid Bond.

- (ii) The supplier is required to submit a Performance Guarantee Bond @ 2% of the contract value within 10 days of the placement of Letter of Intent by MMTC against the valid offer.
- (iii) In the case of new suppliers, proof of stock duly endorsed by a prime Bank or the Chamber of Commerce of the country of origin is required to be submitted before a non-transferable and/or divisible Letter of Credit is opened by MMTC Ltd.
- (iv) Discharge port results in regard to the quantity and quality of the cargo are generally taken as final.

STATEMENT

Derived/actual C and F Prices of Urea Imported during the years 1992-93 to 1994-95 in US\$ PMT

S.No.	Country	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95	
		FOB	C & F	FOB	C & F	FOB	C & F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	CIS	97.49	134.49	78.00	122.00	-	141.00
		127.50	164.50	91.00	135.00	-	143.50
		-	159.98	76.00	120.00	-	149.50
		-	164.99	81.00	125.00	-	158.00
		124.75	161.75	81.45	125.45	117.50	154.50
		118.60	155.60	82.00	126.00	-	165.75
		127.50	164.50	-	124.00	133.00	170.00
		128.77	165.77		128.00	166.50	153.50
		129.11	166.11			136.25	173.25
						122.75	160.75
						-	158.50
						-	173.50
						130.75	168.75
2.	Qatar	134.00	150.00	94.50	112.50	123.00	139.00
		148.00	164.00	114.50	132.50	228.50	244.50
3.	Kuwait	95.00	113.00	88.00	108.00	121.00	139.00
		138.75	156.75	92.50	112.50	-	205.00
		145.00	163.00	95.00	116.00	-	227.50
		148.00	166.00	97.00	197.00	199.50	217.50
				108.00	198.00	-	197.50
				109.00	129.00	-	200.00
					125.00		

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) and (b). Out of 250 Food Processing and Training Centres proposed to be assisted during the 8th Plan, assistance has been extended for setting up 150 such Centres in the first 3 years of Plan. Of these 8 Centres in Bihar, 10 in Orissa, 8 in West Bengal, 11 in Uttar Pradesh, 4 in Mizoram, 2 in Karnataka and 1 each in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu — a total of 47 such Centres are reported to have become operational.

[English]

Joint venture in deep sea fishing

*657. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether foreign investment in the deep sea fishing sector has received a setback after the ban on joint ventures imposed this year by the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the deep sea fishing industry association has informed that proposals valued at around 58 million dollars from companies in Korea, Mexico etc. have been held up as a result of the ban; and

(c) the concrete measures proposed to be taken to attract foreign investment in deep sea fishing industry and to withdraw the ban on joint ventures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). 22 deep sea fishing project proposals with a total project cost of Rs. 119.44 crores are held up as it has been decided not to process any new applications in view of the apprehensions expressed in different quarters that operation of deep sea fishing vessels affects the traditional fishermen adversely. Government has also decided to review the Deep Sea Fishing Policy and has accordingly constituted a Review Committee under the chairmanship of Shri P. Murari, former Secretary to the Government of India.

Development of Ports

*658. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to allot various schemes, regarding development of ports to Private Sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of schemes, alongwith their allocations, to various private sector companies?

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

(b) Private sector participation in Port Development project is expected to augment resources and port efficiency to meet the growing demands of Ports users.

(c) A list of important Port Projects approved by Government for private participation is given below which will bring in an investment of Rs. 2,500 crores approximately :

1. Setting up of ship repair facilities at Madras Port by M/s Chokani International Limited in collaboration with M/s KEPPEL Shipyard of Singapore.
2. Setting up of a floating dry dock and ship repair facilities at Mormugao Port by M/s Western India Shipyard Limited in collaboration with M/s LISNAVE of Portugal.
3. Creation of Port facilities for handling crude and POL products for M/s MRPL's Refinery at New Mangalore. Funding of project being arranged by M/s MRPL through SCICI.
4. Maintenance and operation of berths at Haldia Dock Complex by Steel Authority of India Ltd and TISCO on lease basis.
5. Supply of equipment and operation of berth No. 6 at Kandla Port by M/s Geepee Corporation Limited, Bangkok for handling bulk and break buld cargo on lease.
6. Private operation of a berth by American President Lines at Indira Dock Complex, Bombay Port.
7. Creation of Storage and despatch facilities for LPG at Tuticorin Port by M/s SPIC.
8. Setting up of mechanical cargo handling facilities etc. by M/s Tinna Oils and Chemicals Limited, Bombay at Visakhapatnam Port.
9. Setting up of an iron ore pelletisation plant at Visakhapatnam Port by M/s Essar Investments Limited.
10. Putting up refrigerated LPG handling facilities by M/s Indian Oil Corporation at Kandla Port.
11. Setting up of 100% export oriented unit for Manufacture of calcined coke by M/s Rail Calcining Limited, and
12. Setting up of a ship repair facilities at Calcutta Port by M/s Chokani Shipyard (Bengal) Limited.

Pepsi

*659. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pepsi has failed to fulfil all the promises it had made at the time of entry into the country;

(b) if so, the details of the promises made by the Pepsi company;

(c) the details of promises which the Pepsi has not fulfilled so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) No, Sir. But there were allegations that M/s. Pepsi Foods Ltd. had not fulfilled the export obligations.

(b) The original terms and conditions of the approval granted to M/s. Pepsi Foods Ltd. are given in the Statement-I attached. These terms and conditions were revised in July, 1993.

(c) and (d). There were allegations that M/s. Pepsi Food Ltd., had not fulfilled its export obligation. The matter relating to the fulfilment of export obligation has not yet been finally decided by the competent authority.

STATEMENT

Original Terms of Approval Letter dated 29.8.88

- (i) (a) Foreign Equity : 39.89% (Thirty nine point eighty nine per cent) amounting to Rs. 3,59,00,000/- (Three crore fifty nine lakhs only)
- (b) Rs. 3.25 crore (36.1%) will be invested by you and the balance of Rs. 2.16 crore (24%) by M/s Voltas Limited.
- (ii) Lumpsum payment: US\$ 8,00,000/- (US Dollars eighth lakhs only) net of taxes with tax liability to be borne by the Indian Company.
- (iii) Duration of agreement: 10 (Ten) years.
- (iv) Item 2 of the Annexure is not applicable.
- (v) Item 5 of the Annexure is modified to the extent indicated above.
- (vi) The turnover from soft drink concentrate manufacturing shall in no year exceed 25% of the total turnover of the company for that year.
- (vii) The project shall export 50% of its total turnover each year for a period of 10 years from commencement of commercial production, of which 40% will be from the company's own manufactured products and 10% from Select List products manufactured by others. The foreign exchange inflow shall not be less than five times the foreign exchange outflow of the project during the above mentioned 10 year period.
- (viii) The company shall set up an Agro Research Centre covering development of improved varieties, development of optimum production technologies, multiplication of high quality seeds, oil seeds research etc.

(ix) There shall be no import of proprietary ingredients to manufacture soft drink concentrates and the raw materials available within the country shall be use to the maximum extent possible. The import of any raw materials and chemicals that are not available indigenously shall be regulated by the import policy in force from time to time and no special import concessions shall be allowed.

(x) Foreign brand names shall not be allowed to be used on domestic sales.

(xi) Efforts should be made to increase export potential and the actual export performance of the project which would include export of soft drink also.

Financial Constraints Faced by Shipping Companies

*660. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shipping sector in the country is facing financial constraints for expansion of its activities, acquisition of ships, modernisation of its infrastructural facilities and introduction of latest technologies;

(b) if so, the details of the problems faced by the shipping companies in this regard;

(c) whether the Indian Shipping Companies have not been able to mobilise capital to meet its expansion developmental requirements;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor: and

(e) the details of the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remove financial constraints and other obstacles faced by the Indian Shipping Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (e). The Shipping Industry apprehends that they will face financial constraints from the current financial year due to the withdrawal/curtailment of certain benefits which were hitherto being enjoyed by them viz :

(i) Withdrawal of exemption from Withholding Tax on interest payment on External Commercial Borrowings by amending Section 10 (15) (iv) of the Income Tax Act.

(ii) The existing Section 80 IA of Income Tax Act provides relief to shipping companies by allowing deduction of 30% of the taxable income of a ship newly acquired and brought into operation from the year beginning from 1.4.1991. This benefit has been withdrawn with effect from 1.4.95.

- (iii) As per revised ECB guidelines the average age of loan has to be 7 years for the loan over US \$ 15 million. Since the loans are amortised on the basis of equated instalments and not on the basis of bullet payment (one time payment) to achieve average life of 7 years, the tenure of loan has to be between 13 to 14 years. Such long term loans are not easily available and also more expensive in terms of rate of interest and loan covenants. This will place additional financial burden on the Indian shipping companies and make the ships acquired through such loans economically unviable in the international market as the Indian shipping companies cannot pass the additional burden to their customers. Further, such loan cannot be used for purchase of second hand ships as the balance life of second hand ships may be lesser than the average life of the loan. Industry therefore desires that Government may adopt age norms for loans applicable to Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development loans where tenure of loans is maximum 8 years.

- (iv) The benefit of Section 33 AC of the Income Tax Act, which the shipping industry had, so far, been enjoying have been curtailed from 100% to 50%.

The Indian National Shipowners' Association have submitted a Memorandum to the Ministry of Finance for granting certain incentives to make shipping industry compete in the international market effectively.

Protection of Maritime Rights

6558. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the news-item captioned "U.S. disputes maritime claims of India" appearing in 'The Hindu', dated March 18, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) how the Government propose to protect India's maritime rights in regard to foreign warships obtaining their prior permission before they enter into territorial waters extending upto 12 nautical miles and to India's historic claim to the gulf of Mannar?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The Government's attention has been drawn to the news item, which is a challenge of maritime claims of a

number of countries, including India and China, by the U.S. The Territorial waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and Other Maritime Zones Act 1976 of India clearly states the sovereignty of India extends and has always extended to the territorial waters of India and to the seabed and subsoil underlying, and the airspace over such waters, the limit of territorial waters being the line every point of which is at a distance of twelve nautical miles from the nearest point of the appropriate baseline. The Article 4(2) of the Act also foresees that foreign warships including submarines and other underwater vehicles may enter or pass through the territorial waters after giving prior notice to the Central Government.

Payment of Pensionary Dues

6559. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry are making timely payment of pensionary dues, G.P.F. and encashment of earned leave etc. to their retiring employees;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to check such delays which are detrimental to the interests of the retiring employees; and

(c) the number of cases pending for payments in his Ministry and since when and the steps taken to finalise them without further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In most cases retirement dues are paid promptly. In some cases short delays in payment of some retirement dues occur because of non-settlement of audit objections relating to payments made to officers during their careers and lacunae in their Service Books.

(c) The number of cases in which pension payment orders have to issue are :

(i) more than six months	4
(ii) more than three months	7
(iii) more than one month	12

The Ministry has and will continue to emphasise to all concerned officials to ensure that there is no delay in payment of retirement dues.

[Translation]

Visit of Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal

6560. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the issues discussed during the recent visit of Nepalese Deputy Prime Minister; and

(b) the details of the progress made in regard to sharing of river water and to solve the issues relating to Hydel Power Projects?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b). During the recent visit of Nepalese Deputy Prime Minister from 6-10 Feb, 95, wide ranging discussions on bilateral relations, the situation in the Indian sub continent and other matters of common interest were held. These talks were preparatory to the visit of the Nepalese Prime Minister which took place from 10-14 April, 1995. As a follow up of the discussions on water resources cooperation during Nepalese Deputy Prime Minister's visit, the issue of water resources was also discussed during Nepalese PM's visit. It was agreed that the two sides should continue their efforts on water resource cooperation.

[English]

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

6561. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have suggested any modification to Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these suggestions have been accepted by various countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d). Government has repeatedly called for developing a global non-proliferation regime, that is universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory and linked to the goal of complete disarmament. This approach was outlined in the Action Plan for a nuclear weapon free world tabled in the Conference on Disarmament in 1988, which called for the initiation of multilateral negotiations for a new treaty eliminating all nuclear weapons by the year 2010, to replace the NPT. However negotiations have not been possible due to lack of consensus.

Visit of Ministers

6562. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the countries that have been visited by the two Ministers of State during the last three financial years, year-wise; and

(b) the details of visits out of the total visits in which Ministers met heads of the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b). The information is given in the Statement attached.

STATEMENT

Name of the Minister	Financial year	Country Visited	Whether Met Head of State
1	2	3	4
Shri Eduardo Faleiro	1992-93	Brazil	No
		Suriname	Yes
		Trinidad & Tobago	Yes
		Jamaica	No
		Bahrain	Yes
		Oman	Yes
		Qatar	Yes
		Sri Lanka	Yes
		Maldives	No
		Jordan	Yes
		Syria	Yes
		Indonesia	No
		Japan	No
		Iran	Yes
		Ethiopia	Yes
Shri R.L. Bhatia	1992-93	Kenya	No
		Somalia	No
		USA	No
		Malaysia	No
		Kazakhstan	Yes
		Kyrgyzstan	Yes
		Uzbekistan	No
		Nepal	No
		Poland	No
		Slovak Republic	No
		Czech Republic	Yes
		Hungary	No
		Indonesia	No
		Bangladesh	No
	1993-94	Turkey	Yes
		UAE	No
		Oman	Yes
		China	Yes
		Bangladesh	No
		Algeria	No
		Tunisia	No
		Egypt	Yes
		Indonesia	No
		Ukraine	Yes
		Hungary	Yes

1	2	3	4
		Pakistan	No
		Iran	No
		Kuwait	Yes
		Bahrain	Yes
		Yemen	Yes
		Thailand	Yes
	1994-95	Qatar	Yes
		Bangladesh	No
		Morocco	Yes
		Egypt	No
		USA	No
		Russia	Yes
		Iran	Yes
		Singapore	Yes
		Vietnam	Yes
Shri Salman Khurshid	1992-93	Hong Kong	No
		Brunei	Yes
		Singapore	No
		Vietnam	No
	1993-94	Kazakhstan	Yes
		Kyrgyzstan	Yes
		Tajikistan	Yes
		Brazil	No
		Argentina	No
		Chile	No
		Venezuela	Yes
		Mexico	No
		Peru	Yes
		Cuba	Yes
		Guyana	Yes
		Maldives	Yes
		Switzerland	No
		USA	No
		Republic of Korea	No
		Zambia	Yes
		South Africa	No
		Kenya	Yes
		Mozambique	No
		Botswana	No
	1994-95	Jordan	Yes
		Egypt	No
		United Kingdom	No
		Spain	Yes
		Ireland	No
		Greece	No

1	2	3	4
		USA	No
		Bulgaria	Yes
		Romania	Yes

Construction of Houses at Chandigarh

6563. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of houses constructed by Chandigarh Administration/Housing Board for retired or retiring employees as also E.W.S./LIG flats during each of the last three years; and

(b) the plinth area of such houses/flats and the price charged therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Fertilizer Plant in Maharashtra

6564. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Fertilizer Plant in the State of Maharashtra during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). There is no proposal to set up a fertilizer plant in the State of Maharashtra during the current financial year.

[Translation]

Development of Minerals in Gujarat

6565. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received foreign assistance for the exploration and development of minerals in Gujarat during the last three years till April, 1995; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the amount of foreign assistance received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

National Road Policy

6566. SHRI M.G. REDDY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'World Bank derails national road policy' appearing in the 'The Hindustan Times' dated February 11, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c). World Bank have offered comments on the draft Policy paper and suggested that India should start small with bridges and urban bypasses and expressways of demonstrably high priority in the beginning.

Marine Survey

6567. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India (GSI) have sought foreign collaboration for its marine Geoscientific programme;

(b) if so, the names of the countries with which the Government have signed agreements for seabed survey; and

(c) the areas within the Exclusive Economic Zones which are being opened up to the foreign companies for mineral exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No area within the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) has been given to any company for exploitation of minerals.

Steel Quota for Sikkim

6568. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received request from the Government of Sikkim for increasing allotment of steel quota for the use of people of Sikkim;

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

(c) the quantum of steel quota allotted to the State during the last two years;

(d) whether this quota is only for the use of the Government or for the public in general; and

(e) whether the Government could consider allotting increased quota for the use of public also keeping in view that the State does not produce steel and also its backwardness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel (DCI and S) makes allocation of steel to the Small Scale Industries Corporations (SSICs) of the States to meet the requirements of Small Scale Industries keeping in view the demand registered by the SSICs and their past offtake. Allocation of steel to the Sikkim SSIC by the DCI and S and the quantity lifted by the Sikkim SSIC during 1993-94 were as under:

	(in tonnes)	
	Allocation	Lifting
1993-94	1200	51

The State SSIC did not register¹ any demand with the Office of DCI and S for 1994-95.

DCI and S also formulates the supply plan for the North Eastern Region including Sikkim after collecting the demand through the Nodal Authorities. Although no demand was received for the Nodal Authority of Sikkim for allotment of steel materials for use by State Government departments, the DCI and S indicated 500 tonnes for Sikkim in the supply plan for the year 1993-94. For the year 1994-95, the Nodal Authority of Sikkim stated that their demand may be treated as nil.

(e) The State of Sikkim being one of the priority sectors for supply of steel materials, the DCI and S can consider allocation of steel materials to the State of Sikkim for use of public also if such a requirement is received from the State Government.

National Highways in Tamil Nadu

6569. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on the repairs of damaged National Highways in Tamil Nadu during 1994-95 and the amount allocated for the purpose during 1995-96; and

(b) the details of bridges on National Highways in the State constructed/repaid during 1994-95, and the amount spent thereon and also the amount allocated for the purpose during 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). A sum of Rs. 1702.86 lakhs was allocated to Tamil Nadu for maintenance and repairs of National Highways during 1994-95. Two minor bridges at Km. 144/6 and 99/2 on NH 7 were constructed at a cost of

Rs. 21.05 lakhs and Rs. 23.13 lakhs during 1994-95. It is too early to indicate the amount to be allocated for original works and repairs of National Highways to be carried out during 1995-96.

Punjab National Fertilizers and Chemicals

6570. PROF. PREM DHUMAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Punjab National Fertilizers and Chemicals plant, manufacturing soda ash and ammonium chloride fertilizers at Naya Nangal (Punjab) has been running at loss;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to convert this into economically viable unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). The Punjab National Fertilizers Chemicals Limited is a company promoted by Punjab State Industrial Development Corporation, a wholly owned Punjab Government Undertaking.

Pollution Control Measures in Steel Units

6571. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has asked every public sector steel plant to adopt pollution control measures;

(b) if so, whether the pollution control measures have been adopted by each public sector steel plant; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) As per Notification No. S.O. 23 (E) dated 16th January, 1991 and GSR 95 (E) dated 12th February, 1992, issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests, all public sector steel plants are required to adopt pollution control measures.

(b) Yes, Sir. All the public sector steel plants under Steel Authority of India Limited and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, have drawn up programmes and initiated measures for control of pollution.

(c) Steel Authority of India Limited has committed to invest about Rs. 1000 crores exclusively for Environment Management over a time span of 8 to 10 years ending 1997 through a comprehensive Pollution Control Action Plan for its plants and captive mines. Besides, in order

to create awareness, SAIL has initiated many measures like training of its personnel, observance of World Environment Day, World Forestry Day, Environment Month, formation of Eco Clubs in schools etc.

RINL (VSP) has taken extensive pollution control measures at a total cost of Rs. 460 crores.

The schemes drawn up cover all the pollution potential areas such as air, water, noise and solid waste management. Extensive afforestation programme has also been taken up.

Nuclear Tests by China

6572. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the reported confirmation by China about the second nuclear test of the year and declaration of its intention to continue such tests until a comprehensive test ban treaty is concluded;

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

(c) whether any steps are being taken by the Government to conclude any universal comprehensive test ban treaty; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government is aware that, most recently, China conducted a nuclear weapon test on 15.5.95.

(b) to (d). India has consistently advocated the urgent need for a universal Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). It remains our hope that all nuclear weapons states and non-nuclear weapons states can work together to negotiate such a treaty. India considers a CTBT an integral part of its proposals for nuclear disarmament and the establishment of a nuclear-weapons free world. In December 1993, India cosponsored a consensus resolution in the UN General Assembly calling for such a treaty. India has been actively involved in the negotiations on a CTBT which commenced in the Conference on Disarmament in January 1994.

Issue of Passport by RPO, Guwahati

6573. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :
SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Rs. 20,000 for a

passage to India and a dead man's name" which appeared in 'Indian Express' dated March 25, 1995;

(b) if so, whether a large number of Bangladeshi nationals who illegally entered into India have been granted Passport by the Regional Passport Office, Guwahati;

(c) if so, whether the Government have conducted any enquiry into this matter;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken to prevent such issue of fake passports by various Passport Offices in the country and to check illegal immigrants from Bangladesh on the basis of such bogus passports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). According to the information available with the Ministry approximately 700 cases for issue of passports on the basis of fraudulent documents are being investigated by various investigating agencies of the Government.

(d) The investigations have not yet been completed. Initial examination has, however, revealed that the passports were obtained by submitting forged Verification Certificates, fake police reports, ration cards and school leaving certificates.

(e) All RPOs/POs have been given instructions to ensure that the required documentation is complete and, where necessary, not to issue passports in the absence of police verification report. They have also been instructed to ensure scrutiny at the application stage. The RPOs/POs also maintain close liaison, including through periodic meetings, with the concerned Central and State Government agencies to ensure that frauds of this nature are prevented.

OIC Memorandum to UN Human Rights Commission

6574. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT :

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) has recently submitted a memorandum on Kashmir to the United Nations Human Rights Commission;

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

(c) the counter steps taken by the Government and the results achieved;

(d) whether the Government have taken up the matter with OIC and each of its member countries; and

(e) if so, the response of OIC and each of its member countries thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) Morocco, in its capacity as OIC Chairman had transmitted to the Chairman of 51st Session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission, an OIC statement pertaining to Kashmir.

(b) In its reply, the Government through the Permanent Representative of India at Geneva had regretted that the OIC had made a reference to Jammu and Kashmir which is an integral part of India.

(c) As a result of the effective articulation of the Indian viewpoint, no adverse move against India could succeed at the 51st session of UN Human Rights Commission.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Most of the OIC member States informed us that they favoured resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir issue bilaterally between India and Pakistan.

High Level Delegation from Japan

6575. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high level Japanese delegation had visited India recently;

(b) if so, the objectives and the outcome of the visit;

(c) whether Japan has agreed to provide assistance in various fields;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether talks were also held on issues relating to nuclear weapons; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Second High Level ODA Mission on Economic and Technological Cooperation from Japan visited India for talks with officials in the Ministry of Finance on 28.3.95.

(b) The objective of the visit is intensifying policy dialogues between India and Japan specifically in the field of official development assistance (ODA).

(c) and (d). Japan has pledged an amount of Yen 125.765 billion as development assistance to India for the year 1994-95. This assistance is to finance projects in the following sectors - power, fertilisers, telecommunications, gas pipelines, ports, irrigation, environment, health, urban development and agriculture.

(e) and (f). During the talks, in accordance with Japanese ODA policy since 1992, the Japanese side referred to certain non-economic factors such as non-

proliferation of nuclear weapons and missile delivery systems. The Japanese delegation was briefed about India's commitment to non-proliferation and disarmament. It was pointed out that these issues are regularly discussed in Foreign Office Consultations.

Activities of LTTE

6576. SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that LTTE has virtually acknowledged assassinating Rajiv Gandhi in their warning to the Sri Lankan President against seeking a military solution to island's ethnic conflict;

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

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to keep a vigil on the activities of LTTE in various parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b). The Government has seen reports in the Press about a statement made by an LTTE spokesman, Anton Balasingham, regarding the assassination of the former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Government has taken action to comply with the requirements of Indian law relating to the arrest of LTTE leaders including Prabhakaran. The Designated Court in Madras issued warrants of arrest and proclamations against Prabhakaran in February, 1992. With the approval of the Government of Sri Lanka, these were got published in Sri Lankan newspapers. The SIT filed a chargesheet against V. Prabhakaran in May, 1992. The Government of India is awaiting the outcome of the trial in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, currently subjudice in the Designated Court in Madras. In April, 1994, a "Red Corner Notice", requesting the arrest of Prabhakaran was circulated through Interpol.

(c) The Central Government declared the LTTE an unlawful association in May, 1992. A further notification was issued in May, 1994, extending the earlier ban by another two years. Central and State Governments are taking coordinated action to prevent any illegal activities by the LTTE. State Governments have intensified security arrangements along the coast line by setting up armed checkpoints as well as mobile patrols. Apart from these measures, the Palk Bay is kept under continuous surveillance by the Navy and Coast Guards on the Indian side of the International Boundary Line.

Permission by DDA to use terrace floor

6577. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDA has permitted the first and second floor allottees of some Cooperative Group Housing Societies to make use of the partitioned terrace floor;

(b) if so, the names of such societies with background for such a move;

(c) whether Government propose to extend similar facilities to allottees of other Cooperative Group Housing Societies also;

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

(e) whether Government also propose to extend the same facilities to first and second floor allottees of DDA flats; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) and (b). DDA has reported that building plans providing partitioned spaces on the terraces upto 3 feet high have been permitted only in the case of Gujrawala Co-operative Group Housing Society, which had only 3 floors. Since their proposal was not objectionable the permission was given.

(c) and (d). Proposals, from Societies for utilisation of terrace spaces, which do not cause inconvenience to individual members and are otherwise not objectionable from Building Bye-Laws point of view, are examined on the merits of each case.

(e) and (f). No, Sir. In DDA flats, the terrace is meant for the use of top floor allottees only. However, the allottees of other floor can put their water tank and T.V. antenna on the terrace.

Indians in Bahrain

6578. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken note of the violence in Bahrain and the possible consequences to Indians there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this matter has been taken-up with the Government of Bahrain; and

(d) if so, the response of Bahrain thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There were a few cases of threats received by the Indian expatriate community including warning from unidentified sources to leave the country. Such cases involving other expatriate communities resident in Bahrain were also reported.

(c) and (d). Our Mission has remained in close contact with the authorities who assured full protection and the Indian community have kept advised of the steps taken to ensure their safety.

Allotment of Government accommodation to house owners

6579. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government employees having own houses at their service stations are entitled for allotment of Government accommodation;

(b) if so, on what grounds; and

(c) if not, the reasons for allotting Government accommodation in Delhi or elsewhere to such employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) As per the existing policy of the Government house owning officers are also eligible for allotment of Government accommodation as and when the turn matures. However, depending upon the range of rental income from their houses, different rates of licence fee have been prescribed for the Government residential accommodation allotted to them.

(b) and (c). House owners at their stations of posting have been made eligible because discontinuance of such facility would discourage the Government employees from construction of private houses which would be against the housing policy of Government.

Fertilizer Plants

6580. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS and FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received proposals to set up new gas based fertilizer plants particularly in U.P. and in the North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the proposals will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). As per Industrial Policy Statement of July, 1991, industrial licensing has been abolished for the fertilizer industry. An entrepreneur can set up a fertilizer plant anywhere in India subject to environmental clearance. However, M/s Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Limited have submitted a proposal for allocation of gas to set up an ammonia-urea plant in Assam at an estimated cost of Rs. 1100 crores for manufacturing of 726,000 tonnes of urea per annum. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has been requested to allocate gas for this project.

Two gas-based plants are already under implementation in U.P., one at Aonla and the other at Shahjahanpur to produce 7.26 lakh MT urea per annum each.

Espionage incident in ISRO

6581. SHRI SHARAD YADAV :

SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken up the issue of espionage incident detected in ISRO, with the Government of Maldives; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved thereby?

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

(b) It has been conveyed to Government of Maldives that the two Maldivian nationals implicated in the case have violated certain Indian laws and that information sought from the Government of Maldives in this regard was essential in completing the investigation. The Government of Maldives has agreed to the despatch of the information.

[Translation]

National Working Group on Power Sector

6582. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Working Group on Power Sector is opposing the entry of multinational companies/corporations in the field of energy; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL) : (a) and (b). National Working Group on Power Sector in their letter addressed to Members of Parliament regarding the new power policy of the Government of India have raised various issues on the private power policy including foreign investment in this sector. All the issues raised by them have been replied in a publication brought out by the Ministry of Power "The Legal and Policy Framework of Private Power Development—Facts and clarifications" which was widely circulated including among the Members of Parliament.

[English]

Building of Hospitals Abroad

6583. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total investment of the Government in regard to setting up of Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Maldives;

(b) whether the Government have built such hospitals in other countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) The Government has so far spent Rs. 38.69 crores on constructing the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Maldives.

(b) yes, Sir.

(c) (i) In Nepal, the OPD Block with diagnostic and other facilities of the Bir Hospital was constructed at a cost of Rs. 9.61 crores. Another 350 bed hospital is under execution in Dharan, Nepal as part of the Government of India's assistance for B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences worth Rs. 64 crores. India has also assisted Nepal in upgrading and strengthening its health facilities.

(ii) In Mauritius, the Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital was constructed under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme. This 180 bed hospital, whose construction commenced in June 1987 and completed in January 1991, was handed over to the Mauritian Government in March 1991 during the visit of our Vice President to Mauritius. The cost of construction was Rs. 35 million. An additional amount of Rs. 15 million was spent towards equipment for the hospital.

(iii) In Afghanistan, the Government constructed the Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health in Kabul in 1972. This 250 bed hospital is the biggest health centre in Afghanistan.

(iv) In 1986, under the second phase of assistance, construction of 100 bed surgical block and an OPD was started. This work, however, had to be suspended in February 1993 due to the situation in Afghanistan.

Import of Urea

6584. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation, Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL), National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) and Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Limited (PPCL) have failed to import urea required by the farmers during the current kharif season;

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

(c) whether the Government is prepared to meet the country's requirement of urea during the current kharif season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). The arrivals of imported urea during the current kharif season have been as per schedule. Necessary arrangements have been made to meet the country's requirement of urea as reflected in the allocations made under the Essential Commodities Act (ECA), 1955 for kharif 1995.

Non-Proliferation Treaty

6585. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to take steps to propagate the view that the NPT has been un-successful in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons;

(b) if so, the fora in which this issue was raised during the last three years, forum-wise;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to discuss this issue at bilateral level with the supporting countries of NPT; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d). India has consistently maintained that the NPT, in its present form is a fundamentally flawed treaty. It is discriminatory and creates a permanent division between the nuclear "haves" and "have-nots", by legitimising the nuclear arsenals of the nuclear weapons states. It seeks to control horizontal proliferation and ignores completely the problem of vertical proliferation. This well known position has been conveyed in bilateral discussions with the depositary states of the NPT as well as in all relevant multilateral fora such as the Conference on Disarmament and the UN General Assembly.

Fertilizer requirement of Tamil Nadu

6586. SHRI B. RAJARAVIVARMA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total demand for fertilizers made by the State Government of Tamil Nadu for the present rabi season;

(b) whether the Union Government are unable to meet the urea requirement of Tamil Nadu; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) At present urea is the only fertilizer under price, distribution and movement controls.

The Rabi season covers the period from October to March. The allocation of urea for Tamil Nadu made under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, taking into account the assessed demand of the State was 5.10 lakh tonnes. The cumulative availability of urea in the State during the season was 5.19 lakh tonnes. The demand and availability of decontrolled fertilizers are governed by market forces.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Road on Indo-Nepal Border

6587. DR. P.R. GANGWAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a road on the Indo-Nepal border in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c). This Ministry is primarily concerned with National Highways. As far as National Highways are concerned, there is no proposal to construct a road in Uttar Pradesh in the Indo-Nepal border.

[English]

Tin Bigha

6588. SHRI RAM KAPSE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Bangladesh has failed to honour the conditions associated with the transfer of Tin Bigha; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/ being taken to ensure implementation of Tin Bigha accord?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Ganga Barrage Project

6589. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have agreed to extend financial assistance for resumption of water on Ganga Barrage Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the share of the Union and State Government in the development of the projects;

(c) the progress made so far regarding construction; and

(d) the time by which the barrage is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the cost of the barrage as informed by the Government of Uttar Pradesh works out to Rs. 200 crores and Government of India have agreed to extend a loan of Rs. 100 crores i.e. 50% cost of the barrage.

(c) As informed by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, preliminary works such as model testing, soil testing and detailed foundation investigation works are almost over. Tenders for the construction of the barrage are in the process of acceptance and the work of construction of the main barrage is yet to begin.

(d) The State Government has informed that the project is envisaged to be completed in six years.

Production of Sponge Iron

6590. MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have not made a comparative study of the cost for production of sponge iron;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to stabilize the cost of indigenous production of sponge iron?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b). Sponge Iron manufacturing units are primarily in the private sector. The production cost of Sponge Iron depends upon several factors such as location, technology, quality of raw materials etc. The cost of production statistics are generally mentioned in confidence by the units because of commercial considerations. It may however be added that the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices has indicated that the Indian sponge iron industry is internationally competitive.

(c) In order to provide relief to Indian Sponge Iron Industry, Government had in the budget for 1994-95, reduced custom duty on Iron Ore Pellets from 15% to 10% and on non-coking coal from 85% to 35%. Custom Duty on Iron Ore Pellets was further reduced to 5% from 26.4.1994.

Secondary Steel Units

6591. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :
SHRI M.V.S MURTHY :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of Secondary Steel Units in the country are lying sick;

(b) if so, the total number of such units that were functioning in the country during 1994-95, the number of units out of them that have become sick and the total annual production capacity of these sick units;

(c) whether the Government had appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Commissioner of Iron and Steel Development for giving suggestions for the revival of these sick units; and

(d) if so, when this committee was appointed, the names of the members of this committee and by when the committee is expected to give its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b). In the secondary sector, out of 182 electric arc furnace units producing steel, while 95 were reported functioning during 1994-95, 1 unit with a capacity of approximately 36,000 tonnes has been declared sick by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) during 1994 and 1995 (upto April), in terms of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA) as amended from time to time.

(c) and (d). The Government had not appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel for giving suggestions for the revival of these sick units.

[English]

Exchange of Enclaves

6592. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the Government of Bangladesh have indicated that Bangladesh would not discuss the issue of exchange of enclaves unless the Farakka water dispute is resolved;

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

(c) the steps have since been taken to secure the exchange of enclaves between India and Bangladesh;

(d) whether it is fact that tension is building up in the border areas of Jalpaiguri and Coochbehar districts of West Bengal; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The Government of Bangladesh have not indicated such a stand to the Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government remain committed to the full implementation of the provisions of the Indo-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement, 1974 including the exchange of enclaves. Efforts are underway to complete procedural formalities pertaining to the 1974 Agreement both in the Centre and concerned State Governments.

(d) and (e). The situation in the border districts along the Indo-Bangladesh border is kept under constant watch. Government remain vigilant to defuse any possible tension.

[Translation]

Registration of Vehicles

6593. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI JANARDAN MISRA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to register only those vehicles in Delhi, which will be fitted with catalytic converter;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) & (b). No, Sir. As per the Government Notification dt. 22.3.95, it has been made mandatory that with effect from 1st April, 1995, all four wheeler petrol driven vehicles which are registered on first sale in the cities of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, shall have fitted a noble metal based catalytic converter of atleast an oxidative type and with an OEM certification.

(c) At present, fitment of catalytic converter is required only for four-wheeler petrol driven vehicles.

Purchase of Power Plant

6594. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
SHRI JAGMIT SINGH BRAR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated April 2, 1995 under the caption "competitively bought equipment can reduce cost"; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The policy to encourage private sector participation in the Power Sector has been formulated

basically to augment the resources of the Central/State Public Sector in the Power Sector. To attract private investors to this capital intensive sector, it was felt that the investors should be provided freedom regarding sourcing of equipments, as it would enable them to explore suppliers' credit for the equipments. BHEL is free either to bid individually or to form joint ventures with private investors by providing suppliers' credit for taking up private sector power projects.

Urea Production

6595. SHRI SHANKERSINGH VAGHELA :
SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of Urea during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the targets fixed for the production of Urea in Public Sector/Private Sector under taking during 1995-96;

(c) whether the Government have signed any Memorandum of Understanding with them;

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

(e) the estimated total demand and production of Urea during 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Total production of urea during the last three years is given below :

Year	Production (Lakh MT)
1992-93	131.23
1993-94	131.48
1994-95	141.43

(b) Sector-wise target fixed for urea during 1995-96 is given below :

Sector	Target (Lakh MT)
Public	54.23
Cooperative	32.98
Private	66.58
Total	153.79

(c) and (d). Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is signed by the Government only with public sector undertakings (PSUs). National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL), Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF), Madras Fertilizers Ltd. (MFL) and Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT) are the urea producing PSUs which would be signing MOUs for 1995-96 with the Government.

(e) The estimated demand for urea for Kharif, 1995 season is 87.67 lakh tonnes. The assessment of demand for urea for Rabi 1995-96 is yet to be made by the Ministry of Agriculture. The production target of urea for 1995-96 has been fixed at 153.79 lakh tonnes.

Damages to National Highways in Rajasthan

6596. SHRI RATILAL VARMA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the National Highways affected by natural calamities in Rajasthan during the last three years; and

(b) the expenditure incurred during the period till date on the repair work of those National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) The National Highway Nos. are 3, 8, 11, 12, 14 and 15

(b) Rs. 650.90 lakhs.

[English]

Visit of Foreign Minister of Colombia

6597. SHRI RABI RAY :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Foreign Minister of Colombia recently visited India;

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

(c) the subjects figures in his talks with Indian leaders and the outcome thereof; and

(d) the extent to which the bilateral relations between the two countries will be strengthened as a result of the visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Foreign Minister of Colombia visited India at the invitation of the External Affairs Minister from April 20-23, 1995.

(c) Bilateral political consultations was the theme of the visit of the Foreign Minister of Colombia. Preparations for the forthcoming Non-aligned summit which will be held in Colombia also figures in the talks.

(d) The bilateral relations between India and Colombia have been strengthened as a result of this visit of the Foreign Minister of Colombia. The two countries have found possibilities for a lot of interaction in all possible fields between them.

Resolution in US House of Representatives

6598. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA : Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Democratic Representative from No.

Carolina has formally introduced a resolution in the US House of Representatives commending India for its commitment to religious pluralism and tolerance;

(b) whether the resolution wants India to be recognised for the commitment to religious harmony throughout the world; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : Yes, Sir. Congressman Charlie moved a Concurrent Resolution in the House of Representatives on April 6, 1995

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Congressman Rose's Resolution calls upon the House of Representatives to resolve that the Government of India should be commended for its commitment to religious pluralism and tolerance; the Government of India should be recognized for its willingness to give refuge to displaced victims of religious persecution; and the people of the United States recognize and appreciate the enormous contributions of India to the cause of religious harmony throughout the world.

Pig Iron Plants

6599. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether some major Pig Iron Plants are proposed to be set-up in the country in the private sector; and

(b) if so, the details of their capacity and employment generation potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b). In the recent past, a number of entrepreneurs have shown interest to set up pig iron plants. Of these, as per information available, units with a capacity of approximately 1.1 million tonnes per annum have been commissioned by the end of 1994, and a additional capacity of approximately 1.7 million tonnes is already in various stages of implementation. These units are primarily in the private sector. Employment generation potential would depend on factors such as size, technology adopted and level of automation of individual units.

Hydel Pumped Storage Power Project in West Bengal

6600. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether hydel pumped storage power project over Kistobazar Nala in Ayaddhya Hill in the district of Purulia in West Bengal has been sanctioned by the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL) : (a) and (b). The Purulia Pumped Storage Scheme (4 x 225 = 900 MW) had received Investment Approval from the Planning Commission in February, 1994 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1456.56 crores.

[Translation]

Iron Ore Reserve

6601. SHRI MANJAY LAL : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a survey has been conducted to assess the deposit of iron ore reserve;

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

(c) the locations where the production has been started after setting up steel mills during the last two years; and

(d) the prospects of Iron-ore industry in the country and the programme formulated by the Government to encourage this industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b). The national mineral inventory is updated by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), Nagpur, based on the exploration and surveys undertaken by the Geological Survey of India, the Mining and Geological Departments of the State Governments and other concerned agencies. As per the latest mineral inventory prepared by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), the recoverable reserves of Haematite and Magnetite iron ores in the country as on 1.4.90 are placed at 9602 million tonnes and 3143 million tonnes, respectively.

Details of State-wise recoverable reserves of Haematite and Magnetite ore as on 1.4.90 are given in the Statement attached.

(c) No new steel plant using iron ore as basic raw material has come into production during the last two years.

(d) The demand for iron ore will go up as a result of increased domestic production of iron and steel to meet domestic and export requirements.

Among the steps taken by Government to step up the production of iron ore in the country are :

(i) Mining of iron ore has been removed from the list of minerals reserved for exclusive exploitation by the public sector.

(ii) The mining law has been suitably amended to encourage and facilitate investment, including foreign investment, in the mineral sector including iron ore.

STATEMENT

State-wise, Recoverable reserves of Iron Ore
(Haematite and Magnetite) as on 1.4.1990

(in Million Tonnes)

State	Proved	Probable	Possible	Total
HAEMATITE				
Andhra Pradesh	3	6	37	47
Bihar	1,387	1,229	351	2,967
Goa	363	200	190	762
Karnataka	511	253	165	929
Madhya Pradesh	901	463	681	2,045
Maharashtra	84	36	56	176
Orissa	1,441	632	594	2,667
Rajasthan	-	6	3	9
Total	4,689	2,824	2,088	9,602*
MAGNETITE				
Andhra Pradesh	38	380	-	418
Bihar	1	2	2	5
Goa	65	4	96	165
Karnataka	1,663	371	484	2,518
Kerala	-	24	11	35
Rajasthan	-	-	1	1
Tamil Nadu	-	-	1	1
Total	1,766	782	595	3,143

* Total may not add up due to rounding off.

[English]

Private Partners for Power Projects

6602. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have taken a decision that all State Governments would be allowed to fix their own bench marks for selecting private partners for power projects;

(b) if so, by which time that policy would be implemented;

(c) whether his ministry will present any final model for the competitive bidding process;

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the other new guidelines issues by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b). Awarding private power projects to the private promoters is within the competence of the State Governments. Prior to 18.2.1995, State Governments were

allowed to award power projects to private promoters through MOU route or competitive bidding. Government of India has made it mandatory to award private power projects through competitive bidding after 18.2.1995.

(c) to (e). Since bidding document would be project specific, it would not be feasible to develop a single model document. As such, Ministry of Power has circulated guidelines for competitive bidding route for private power projects to the various State Governments/UTs and has also advised them to avail of World Bank loan administered by Power Finance Corporation under the Technical Assistance Programme for Private Power Development to hire consultants for various services required for awarding the projects through competitive bidding including preparation of bid documents.

Potential in North East Region

6603. SHRI LAETA UMBREY : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to tap the huge potentials of Food Processing Industries in North-East Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted to ascertain the feasibility of such industries in the region;

(d) if so, the details of the survey report, State-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) to (e). Various surveys and studies conducted in the past in general indicate good potential for agro processing industries, spices based products, medicinal aromatic plants, tea, cashewnuts, etc. in the North Eastern States.

Besides, Plan assistance has also been extended by the Ministry or studies and preparation of techno-economic feasibility reports for the States or Assam, Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland.

[Translation]

Food Processing Industries in M.P.

6604. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI :

SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH :

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO :

SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up food processing units in each State in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, particularly in the North-Eastern region, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka;

(c) whether the Government have cleared certain proposals in this regard;

(d) if so, the name of such proposals, State-wise;

(e) the total investments involved in these units, State-wise;

(f) the percentage of investment to be made by private foreign investors;

(g) the details of proposals for setting up of food processing units received from both foreign and private investors in the country;

(h) the details of export capacity thereof; and

(i) the State-wise details of Food Processing Units still under consideration of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) to (e). Government do not set up any Food Processing Unit directly in any State. However, the Ministry under its Plan Schemes extends financial assistance to State Government Organisations/ Cooperatives/Voluntary Agencies etc. for setting up/ expansion/modernisation of Food Processing Units.

(f) and (g). During the post liberalisation period, the Govt. have approved some 587 proposals till January '95 for Foreign Investment, Export-Oriented Units, Industrial Licenses etc. envisaging a total investment of Rs. 7679 crores including foreign investment of Rs. 2528 crores for setting up of units in the various sectors of food processing. The foreign investment of Rs. 2528 crores is approx. 9.1% of the total foreign investment approved by the Government. Apart from the above, 3101 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda envisaging an investment of Rs. 390.99 crores have been filed upto March '95 in various sectors of food processing.

(h) The targetted exports of the export-oriented units is envisaged around Rs. 31340 crores during the first five years of implementation.

(i) In view of reply to (a) above, does not arise.

Trade Mission in Taipei

6605. SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA): Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Trade Mission has been set up in Taipei, Taiwan;

(b) if so, the objectives of the Mission;

(c) whether Taiwan also propose to set up its Mission in India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b). A non-official entity called India-Taipei Association is being set up in Taiwan to promote trade, investment and tourism links between India and Taiwan.

(c) and (d). It is understood that an office of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre, which would be non-official in character, is likely to be established in New Delhi to promote trade, investment and tourism between India and Taiwan.

[English]

Dredging of Tuticorin Port

6606. SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for urgent dredging of the Tuticorin Port to a further depth of atleast four feet;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) A proposal for capital dredging of channel and the basin of Tuticorin Port at an estimated cost of Rs. 170 crores has been formulated to achieve a draft of 10.7 mts as against the existing draft of 8.23 mts.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Incentives to Fertilizer Producers

6607. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA : SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have implemented any scheme to encourage the production of chemical fertilizers in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the total amount allocated for the implementation of this scheme and the amount actually utilised, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALERIO) : (a) and (b). No such scheme has been implemented in the context of the Eighth Five Year Plan. However, as a follow-up of recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Fertilizer Pricing, the following reliefs/ concessions have been extended for the fertilizer industry to encourage production.

(i) Customs duty on import of capital goods for new fertilizer projects as well as for modernisation/revamping of the existing plants was abolished w.e.f. 23.1.1992.

(ii) The customs duty (15%) on phosphoric acid, used in the manufacture of phosphatic fertilizers, was abolished on 27.8.1992.

(iii) In the case of new fertilizer plants or revamp/modernisation projects commissioned on or after 1.1.1991, a scheme was notified on

27.2.1993 for refund of customs duty paid on capital goods, as also a 3% concession in the interest rates on term loans.

- (iv) The rail freight was reduced on phosphatic fertilizers and their raw materials by about Rs. 150/- per 1000 Kms. w.e.f. 5-9.1992.
- (v) To enable the domestic phosphatic fertilizer manufacturers to compete with cheaper imported DAP, special concession of Rs. 1000/- per tonne of indigenous DAP and proportionate concession on indigenous complex fertilizers, including SSP, is being given.
- (vi) A scheme of import substitution incentive has been implemented to encourage use of indigenous iron pyrites in the manufacture of phosphatic fertilizers.

In addition, the retention price-cum-subsidy scheme is continuing in the case of urea, which is the main nitrogenous fertilizer.

[English]

Fruits and Vegetables Industries

6608. DR. K.D. JESWANI : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the installed capacity of fruit and vegetable processing industries in each State has increased considerably in the recent past; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) and (b). installed capacity of the fruit and vegetable processing industries has increased in all the States, in comparison to the previous year, except in Haryana and Pondicherry.

Observer for Deep Sea Fishing

6609. SHRI HARILAL NANJI PATEL : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had posted an observer in Gujarat and Visakhapatnam during Fishing Session of 1994-95 to monitor the problems of the deep sea fishing sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to revive the sick units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A Technical Committee on the deep sea fishing industry in India has submitted its report for revival of

deep sea fishing units and inter-ministerial action has been initiated for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee.

Bridge at Honnavar

6610. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have cleared the rehabilitation of the bridge at Honnavar in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the tender for the work has been approved;

(c) the estimated cost of the project; and

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

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

(c) The cost of the project based on tender rates has been approved for Rs. 675 lakh.

(d) The project is targetted to be completed by August '96.

Housing Scheme for Weaker Sections

6611. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have launched a new housing scheme for providing houses to people below the poverty line and those belonging to the weaker sections;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount earmarked for each State for implementation of the above scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) and (b). No new urban housing scheme has been launched by Union Government for people belonging to EWS. However, as a part of Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme, Government of India has launched a Rural Housing Scheme during 1993-94 for the people below poverty line and persons belonging to the weaker sections of the society.

Under this scheme, funds are provided to State in proportion not exceeding 50% of the allocation made by them for the Rural Housing Schemes including institutional finance for weaker sections and families below the poverty line over and above the level of expenditure on such schemes achieved by them in 1992-93.

(c) During 1995-96, a provision of Rs. 45.00 crores has been made as Central assistance for this scheme, being implemented by the States. State-wise allocation of the outlay has not been done so far.

Corporate Plans of SAIL

6612. SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited has drawn up some corporate plan upto 2005 A.D. in order to meet competition from other products;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when the same will be implemented;

(c) whether the SAIL have financial resources to implement its corporate plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the measures being taken to mobilise finance from other sources;

(e) whether the Government propose to ask SAIL to explore possibilities to include Kerala in its corporate plan in any way; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir. Corporate Plan 2005 is a strategy document that seeks to make SAIL internationally competitive in cost and quality.

(b) The growth strategy outlined in the Corporate Plan is aimed at exploiting the latest potential of SAIL plants through further modernisation and technological upgradation. No greenfield capacity creation is envisaged. The crude steel capacity of the SAIL group is expected to grow to a level of 18.9 million tonnes (MT), in the year 2005. 100% of the steel would be produced by the BOF route and 97% of the crude steel would be continuously cast. The plan aims at 30% reduction in specific energy consumption and a doubling of manpower productivity by 2005. The exports are targetted to an equivalent of 20% of saleable steel production, or around 3.5 MT by 2005.

SAIL has undertaken a comprehensive modernisation of its plants to take care of the technological backlog and improve cost and quality of its products. DSP and RSP are expected to be modernised in the 8th Plan period, with RSP phase-2 modernisation to be over by 1996-97. Steps have already been initiated for phase-1 modernisation of BSL.

(c) and (d). SAIL proposes to carry out modernisation of its steel plants without any budgetary support. The detailed working of resources are calculated only for the five year period, coinciding with the concurrent Five Year Plan. For the 9th Plan period, SAIL would be financing its investments by internal resource generation and through appropriate capital market instruments.

(e) and (f). The existing Corporate Plan of SAIL does not envisage setting up of any steel making facilities by SAIL at Kerala. Moreover as a policy, Government do not propose to set up any new steel plants in the public sector.

Diesel Pump in Kandla Port Trust

6613. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether fishermen's cooperative society has applied for starting a diesel pump in Kandla Port Trust area; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the permission for diesel pump is likely to be granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Production of Iron Ore

6614. SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether several public sector units are engaged in production of iron-ore in the country;

(b) if so, the names of those units and the area of operation thereof;

(c) whether the production made by these units is in accordance with their annual targets;

(d) if so, the targets fixed by each of those units for the year 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(e) the production made by them during each of these years, separately;

(f) whether these units have suffered losses due to not having their production as per their targets; and

(g) if so, the quantum thereof during the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b). The major Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) engaged in the production of iron ore are (1) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), (2) National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC), and (3) Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL). The locations of the iron ore mines being operated by these PSUs are as follows:

1. SAIL Singhbhum district (Bihar)
Durg district (Madhya Pradesh)
Keonjhar & Sundergarh districts (Orissa)
2. NMDC Bellary district (Karnataka)
Bastar district (Madhya Pradesh)
3. KIOCL Chickmagalur district (Karnataka)

(c) to (e). The targets fixed for production of iron ore for the 3 PSUs and the achievements against these

targets have been as under :

Name of PSU	(In Million Tonnes)					
	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
SAIL	13.23	11.72	13.52	11.92	14.16	13.07
NMDC	11.00	12.21	11.00	12.75	11.20	13.02
KIOCL	5.17	5.01	6.2	6.2	6.2	5.71

(f) and (g). All the three PSUs made profit during the years, 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95.

[English]

Fruit Processing Industries in Bihar

6615. SHRI BHOGEN德拉 JHA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the latest position with regard to the fruit processing industries set up at Madhubani, Darbhanga and Oini in North Bihar;

(b) whether it is proposed to revive and run these industries in cooperative sector or to be taken over under the State sector or to be leased out to private sector to enable it to begin working during the coming Mango season;

(c) whether a group of experts are being sent to examine these three industries one by one and submit a rehabilitation report at the earliest; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) to (d). Cooperative Fruit Processing Industries set up at Madhubani, Darbhanga and Oini (Waini) in North Bihar are non-functional at present. There is no proposal from concerned societies or the State Government seeking assistance for revival of these units and as such, no action or export study is contemplated presently, to make use of the Mango season.

[Translation]

Rise in Drug Prices

6616. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the drug companies have raised the prices of non-scheduled drugs and formulations too much; and

(b) the names of the products whose prices have been raised over 75 per cent during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) There has been in general, no abnormal increase in the prices of medicines. On a point to point basis, the Wholesale Price Index for Drugs and Medicines (1981-82=100) has shown an increase of only 4.2% as against 8.6% for All Commodities during the last one year.

(b) The number of formulations, in various pack sizes and dosage forms runs into tens of thousands and the time and labour involved in compiling the information may not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

[English]

Privatisation of Bailadila Mines

6617. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI PROMOTHESE MUKHERJEE :
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "privatisation of Bailadila mines proposed" as reported in the 'Statesman' dated April 27, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received a series of objections against handing over of the National Minerals Development Corporation's Bailadila Mines to Nippon Denro Ispat Limited; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and further reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The iron ore available in Bailadila Iron Ore Deposit 11-B is reportedly best suited or production of sponge iron in gas-based plants. A proposal is under consideration to take up development of Deposit 11-B as a joint venture of the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC), and one of the private sector entrepreneurs who are operating or setting up a gas based sponge iron plant in the country and who already have an assurance from NMDC to meet a substantial part of the plant's requirement of iron ore. In

taking a final decision in this regard, the views expressed by all concerned will be taken into consideration.

Fly Ash Bricks

6618. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of fly ash that is coming out of the Thermal Power Corporation in the country; and

(b) the quantum of fly ash out of the total quantity being utilised in the manufacture of fly ash bricks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) It is estimated that nearly 40 million metric tonnes of fly ash is generated annually from the thermal power plant all over the country. The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) operates ten coal-based power stations producing about 16 million tonnes of fly ash annually.

(b) During 1993-94, NTPC had utilised over one million tonnes of fly ash for manufacture of bricks and other construction materials, which accounts for nearly 7% of ash generated by their plants.

Non-Proliferation Treaty

6619. DR. R. MALLU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the deliberations that took place/taking place in the NPT extension conference being held in New York;

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

(c) whether the Government are exploring the possibility of replacing the existing NPT with a universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable regime;

(d) if so, the status of the efforts being made by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Government propose to take-up with the Conference/Committee on Disarmament to start negotiations for a non-discriminatory treaty to ban and eliminate all nuclear weapons; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government is aware that on 11 May, the States Parties decided to extend the NPT indefinitely

(b) Government has consistently maintained that the NPT, in its present form, is a discriminatory treaty, and creates a permanent division between nuclear "haves" and "have-nots".

(c) to (f). India will continue its efforts for genuine nuclear disarmament on the basis of the Action Plan for a nuclear weapon free world put forward in 1988 at the Third Special Session on Disarmament (SSOD-III). This

has also been tabled at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. We will continue our efforts to create a consensus on this proposal in order that the conference on Disarmament can begin negotiations for global elimination of all nuclear weapons.

Progress in F.P.I.

6620. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH :

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the food processing industries have made good progress during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details of growth rate, State-wise;

(c) whether there are still some States where food processing industry is yet to make any progress;

(d) if so, the details of those States; and

(e) the details of steps taken to remove the regional imbalance and develop food processing industry in every State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Information regarding growth rate of food processing industries yearwise and statewise is not maintained centrally. However, details of Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda filed by the entrepreneurs and approvals granted by the Government since liberalisation are given in the Statement attached.

(e) In the post-liberalisation period entrepreneurs are free to invest in the areas of their choice. However, with a view to encourage larger investment in the areas of the North-East and backward areas besides the incentives being provided by the States, higher amount of assistance in the fruit and vegetables processing sector and Meat and Poultry Processing Sector is provided under the Plan schemes of the Ministry.

STATEMENT

State-wise number of IEMS and Industrial approvals approved during the post liberalisation period

S.No.	Name of the State	No. of IEMS Files	No. of Industrial Approvals
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	197	115
2.	Assam	3	-
3.	Bihar	21	4
4.	Gujarat	217	25
5.	Haryana	352	39
6.	Himachal Pradesh	36	12
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	10	-

1	2	3	4
8.	Karnataka	79	20
9.	Kerala	26	36
10.	Madhya Pradesh	268	15
11.	Maharashtra	436	113
12.	Manipur	0	0
13.	Meghalaya	1	0
14.	Nagaland	1	0
15.	Orissa	15	5
16.	Punjab	261	14
17.	Rajasthan	298	28
18.	Tamil Nadu	113	41
19.	Tripura	0	-
20.	Uttar Pradesh	610	38
21.	West Bengal	74	10
22.	Sikkim	1	1
23.	Andaman Nikobar	1	3
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	-
25.	Chandigarh	2	-
26.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	11	-
27.	Delhi	42	2
28.	Daman & Diu	7	1
29.	L.M. & A Islands	0	4
30.	Mizoram	0	-
31.	Pondicherry	12	2
32.	Goa	7	17
33.	Exact location not specified/ units proposed are in more than one State	-	42
Grant Total		31.01	587

[Translation]

Settlement Claims

6621. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases for settlement of claims pending in the courts, prior to amendment made in the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958;

(b) whether approval has been given to settle the cases of claims without taking permission of the court;

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

(d) the amount paid on the basis of the claims settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (d). Under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, a number of claims relating to insurance, pollution, accident, jetty damage, mortgage, wages etc. are settled. Since, however there is no mention of specific type of claims pending in the court prior to the amendment of the Act, about which information is being asked, it is not possible

to answer the question. Moreover, it is also felt that time and efforts involved in collecting the material for answering the question will not be commensurate with the results/purpose sought to be achieved.

[English]

Demurrage to Ship Owners

6622. SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of foreign exchange paid in the financial years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 as demurrage (waiting cost) to ship owners (Indian or Foreign) for ships waiting to discharge/pick up dry cargo for both import and export at ports in India; and

(b) the amount out of it paid specifically for the import of fertilizer during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). The ports do not pay demurrage or waiting cost to ship owners for ships waiting to discharge/pick up dry cargo at ports; not do the ports charge demurrage on such ships. The charges towards ships' waiting cost, if any, are being paid by the importers/exporters to the ship owners or their agents directly without involving the ports in any manner. Such charges, as a normal practice, are included either in the freight and incidental charges or in the terms and conditions of the charter party agreements between the shippers and the shipping lines concerned.

The Majority of the importers/exporters particularly after liberalisation and decontrol of many commodities by the Government, are private parties. Therefore, no statistics are being maintained about the monies paid by one private party to another; not would it be practicable, in view of the fact that thousands of importers/exporters are dealing in multitudes of products/commodities, through shipping lines the world over, at various minor and major ports in India.

Regional Passport Office, Gujarat

6623. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat and some other organisation to open more passport offices in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Union Government thereto;

(c) whether there is shortage of staff strength in the existing Passport Offices in that State;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to increase the staff strength so as to cope-up with the increasing work;

(e) the number of passport applications received and the number of passport issued by each of the passport offices in Gujarat since January 1, 1994; and

(f) the average time taken to issue an ordinary passport and an emergency passport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b). Government have not received any such proposal from the State Government of Gujarat. However, some other organisations have proposed opening of new offices in Rajkot and Surat. Opening of new passport offices is based on various parameters including workload and financial resources. Standing Committee of Parliament on External Affairs have recommended, *inter-alia*, that one Passport Office be located centrally as possible in contiguous blocks/wards/districts/States which, on average generate 50,000 applications per year. Total number of applications received from the entire State of Gujarat during the year 1994 was 98,943 and PO, Ahmedabad has been found to be adequately equipped for dealing with this number.

(c) and (d). Considering the input of applications during 1994 (Jan-Dec.) the existing staff strength is considered adequate.

(e) Number of applications received and number of passports issued during the period 1.1.94 to 30.4.95 were 131477 and 186881 respectively.

(f) Average time taken in issuing a fresh passport was 56 days as on 31.1.95. However, subject to the applicant fulfilling certain prescribed conditions, which have been communicated to the Standing Committee, a passport can be issued on out-of-turn basis.

Invitation to Bosnian Foreign Minister

6624. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have invited Bosnia's Foreign Minister or any other dignitary to visit India;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware of the documents titled "Islamic Declaration" authorised by Bosnian President;

(c) whether Bosnia had co-sponsored Pakistan's resolution or Kashmir at Geneva last year;

(d) whether Government are aware of the support India would lose of other new States in the area by appeasing Bosnia;

(e) whether the Government have formulated an overall strategy in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if answer to (a) is 'no' whether the Government are planning to extend any such invitation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED) : (a) The proposed visit by the Bosnian Foreign Minister to India is at the initiative of the Bosnian Government. Government of India have accepted the visit in principle, though dates for the visit have yet to be worked out through diplomatic channels.

(b) Government are aware of the document titled "Islamic Declaration" which was authored by the current President of Bosnia-Herzegovina several years ago.

(c) While the Resolution on Kashmir was withdrawn without being put to vote at the UN Human Rights Commissions in Geneva last year, Government are aware that Bosnia-Herzegovina had co-sponsored the Resolution.

(d) India has recognised and established diplomatic relations with all the emergent States of the former Yugoslavia. We have good relations with these States and have hosted visits to India by the Foreign Ministers of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia-Montenegro) in October, 1993 and Croatia in April, 1995. India's position on the Bosnian crisis is understood and appreciated by all these States.

(e) and (f). Government have followed the developments in the former Yugoslavia with attention and concern. The then Minister of State of External Affairs had made a *suo moto* statement on the subject in both Houses as far back as on 11.5.1992. A copy is attached.

India has recognised all the States of the former Yugoslavia within their old, *i.e.* ex-Yugoslav, borders and we seek to expand our relations with them on the basis of the excellent historical and people-to-people contacts which we had with them in the past. We condemn ethnic cleansing, rape and other atrocities, regardless of whichever party has committed them, and find these practice to be abhorrent and unacceptable. We have consistently called on the parties concerned to eschew the futile pursuit of military solutions and to enter into negotiations for a political settlement in a constructive spirit. We believe that only a political settlement which is just, fair, equitable and broadly acceptable to all the concerned parties can endure on the ground.

(g) Does not arise.

Copy of the Suo moto Statement

Hon'ble Member will have followed closely the recent developments in what was the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and which had comprised six republics, namely, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia. Last year a series of major political developments took place in that country which led to the creation of five international entities. The new Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, declared on 27th of last month, comprises Serbia and Montenegro. The four other States have declared their independence and Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina have been recognised by a large number of nations in the international community, including virtually all the States in Europe.

It has been decided by Government that we shall now accord recognition and enter into diplomatic relations with the Republic of Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. In regard to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, no new initiative is required since our diplomatic mission in Belgrade will continue to be

accredited to that country. We will be in touch with the Governments of Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina to establish diplomatic ties and determine which of our Embassies in Europe will be concurrently accredited to those States.

In regard to Macedonia, very few countries have recognised the new independent state and a controversy over its name is yet to be resolved. Government proposes to extend recognition to the Republic of Macedonia as soon as a Number of States in its region do so.

Government has been watching the developments in the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia with great attention. The establishment of the new federal Republic of Yugoslavia which has implicitly recognised the other four States necessitates that we need no longer wait before recognition of the new entities that have emerged from the former SFRY.

I am confident that Hon'ble Members will join me in extending our good wishes to the newly independent republic and welcoming them into the comity of nations. We also express the hope that the difficulties faced by some of these new countries among themselves, and in resolving outstanding issues caused by the dissolution of the SFRY, will be peacefully and amicably resolved.

Sinking of Dredger

6625. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any dredger sank at the ship repairing yard at Vizag in March, 1995;

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

(c) whether there is any possibility for its retrieval; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. Dredger, Mondovi-II, belonging to Dredging Corporation of India Ltd. capsized on 26.3.95 due to accidental flooding of the compartment of the dredger while it was berthed at Hindustan Shipyard's wet basin after dry-docking and repairs. For the purpose of retrieving the sunken dredger the work has since been awarded to M/s. Smith International, Singapore.

Allotment of Plot in Anand Vihar

6626. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI SURAJ MANDAL :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the DDA has received requests from CGHS to allot a plot in Anand Vihar, Delhi for the construction of a CGHS dispensary;

(b) if so, the action taken by the DDA thereon;

(c) whether the DDA propose to change the nomenclature of the land earmarked for a nursery school for the construction of CGHS dispensary; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The Delhi Development Authority has reported that the land use of the site earmarked for Nursery School in Anand Vihar Co-operative Group Housing Society for allotment of land for CGHS dispensary needs to be changed.

Pepsi Foods

6627. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow Pizza Huts/Kentucky Fried Chicken to be set up by Pepsi Food and other Fast Food Establishments;

(b) if so, the reasons for permitting the foods that are harmful to health; and

(c) the details of plans to keep a check on the quality of animals/birds used in non-vegetarian food?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) to (c). Government have approved proposals of M/s. Pizza Hut, M/s. KFC and M/s. McDonalds for setting up fast food establishments to serve various types of food products which *inter-alia* include pizza with vegetarian and non-vegetarian toppings, potato products like french fries, mashed potato products, salads, milk products, burgers with different types of fillings including fish, chicken, vegetables, etc. No authentic scientific data regarding harmful effect on health by the products served by these companies elsewhere are available. However, products to be sold in India will be subject to Indian food laws including Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. These companies propose to source most of the raw materials including meats of animals and birds from the Indian suppliers. Quality of animals and birds used for production of meats and poultry products by these suppliers are subject to veterinary inspection laws prevalent in the country. These companies also propose to have their in-house quality inspection system for the items sourced from the suppliers and for preparation of the food.

GSI Survey of Tamil Nadu

6628. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India (GSI)

has conducted any survey to assess the availability of iron ore deposits in Tamil Nadu during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Smuggling Activities at Main Port

6629 SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the income earned by the Ministry from main port trusts of India such as Kandla, Tuticorin, Madras, Bombay and Cochin;

(b) the number of incidents of seizure of smuggled goods on the main ports; and

(c) the action taken by the department against those employees and officers of port trusts, who were found involved in these incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) This Ministry does not directly earn any income from the Major Port Trusts. The income generated by the Port trusts remain with them. During the year 1994-95 the total operating income and finance & miscellaneous income of the major ports of Kandla, Tuticorin, Madras, Bombay and Cochin was Rs. 1132.56 crores (provisional).

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

[English]

Aluminium Production

6630. SHRI GOPI.NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the production and consumption of aluminium in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the indigenous production of aluminium is insufficient to meet the country's requirement;

(c) if so, whether aluminium is being imported to meet the demand-supply gap;

(d) whether the Madras Aluminium Company and the Belgaun Aluminium Smelter have been closed down; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) and (b). The production and approximate consumption of primary

aluminium in the country during the last three years is indicated below :

Year	Production	(Unit : tonnes)
		Domestic Consumption
1992-93	4,84,913	3,70,000
1993-94	4,64,718	4,10,000
1994-95 (Provisinal)	4,80,262	4,71,500*

* Assuming a 15% growth in demand.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). The Madras Aluminium Company Limited (MALCO) being a sick unit is not in production. The Belgaun Smelter of India Aluminium Company Limited (INDAL) was shut down since August, 1992 due to steep increase in power tariff but recently some pots have been re-energised.

[Translation]

Investment in Shipping Sector

6631. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the total capital investment made in Shipping sector during the last three years as a result of liberalised policies of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : Investment to the tune of 1334.69 million US \$ has been made both in the private sector as also the public sector during the last 3 years, i.e. from 1991-92 to 1994-95, as per the records maintained by Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India Limited and Shipping Corporation of India Limited.

[English]

Ceiling on Railway Freight

6632. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry had put up a proposal to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) for abolition of the existing ceiling on railway freight so that the main steel producers — Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) — can charge from their consumers;

(b) the genesis of this freight ceiling abolition against the backdrop of the abolition of the freight equalisation scheme for steel projects in January 1992; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to benefit the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (c). After deregulation of pricing and distribution of steels, the main producers are charging actual freight upto the stockyards or freight element as existed under the earlier Freight Equalisation Scheme whichever is lower. The extra burden on this account is being borne by the main producers themselves. The main steel producers have stated that with the reduction of duties on steel imports and increased competition from domestic producers, the freight ceiling only on the main producers places them at a disadvantage. They have therefore represented that the main producers should be allowed to charge freight on actuals. The matter is under examination.

Vehicular Pollution

6633. SHRI M.G. REDDY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pollution under check (PUC) rule is not applicable to diesel vehicles;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the mechanism by which the pollution caused by diesel vehicles would be kept under check?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir.

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

House Building Advance Limit

6634. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the maximum house building advance limits for different categories of Central Government employees;

(b) the manner in which these limits compare with the prevailing housing advance levels of the corresponding categories in the banking industry; and

(c) the anomalies, if any, and in what manner the Government propose to remove them and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) According to the house building Advance Rules the maximum advance admissible to a Central Government employee is his 50 months' pay or Rs. 2.50 lakhs whichever is less. There is no categorisation, as such, among the Central Government employees on the basis of the post held etc.

(b) As per the information furnished by Ministry of Finance the maximum limits for grant of House Building Advance to various categories of staff in the public sector banks are as follows :

Category of staff	Maximum limit of HBA
1. Subordinate Staff	Rs. 1.00 Lakh
2. Clerical Cadre	Rs. 1.50 Lakh
3. Officers in JMGS-I	Rs. 2.00 Lakh
4. Officers in MMGS-II and above	Rs. 2.50 Lakh

Though the admissibility of House Building Advance is reckoned differently in both the cases, the maximum amount of HBA admissible remains the same.

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

[Translation]

Mining in Raipur

6635. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government for mining of the newly discovered diamond and gold deposits in Raipur district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether any scheme is underway in Raipur for imparting technical training in mining; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Government Flats at Timarpur

6636. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Timarpur mein chaar so sarkari flaton ke jang se khokhle hone ki chetawani" appearing in the *Jansatta* dated April 22, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the action taken thereon by the Government;

(c) when these flats were constructed;

(d) whether there is any proposal to inquire into the alleged laxity and connivance of the civil engineers with the contractors;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the approximate loss the Government is going to suffer on the demolition of these houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of total 4000 flats (Type-II quarters), the condition of 300 quarters is satisfactory and the remaining 100 quarters have been declared dangerous and special repair work is in progress and is likely to be completed shortly.

(c) During 1970.

(d) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Subsidy on Imported Fertilisers

6637. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum and value of the fertilisers imported during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) whether the Government provide heavy subsidies on the import of fertilisers every year;

(c) if so, the amount given by the Government as subsidy on imported fertilisers during the above period, year-wise; and

(d) the percentage reduction in prices of fertilisers every year on account of these subsidies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). The details of the major fertilizers imported during the years 1992-93 to 1994-95 are as under :

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

Fertilizers Imported	92-93	93-94	94-95
Urea	18.57	28.40	28.84
DAP*	15.57	15.69	8.25
MOP*	17.61	14.28	18.48

* Figures of imports effected after decontrol and decanalisation are only approximations.

The cost and freight value of the fertilizers imported on Government account during the period under

consideration and the subsidy borne by Government thereon are given below :

Year	C&F value of fertilizers imported on Government account (Rs. crores)	Subsidy on fertilizers imported on Government account (Rs. crores)
1992-93	2216.00	999.82
1993-94	1300.18	598.97
1994-95	1785.11	1166.02

(d) The desired information is as follows :

Year	Gross expenditure on fertilizers import on Government account (Rs. crores)	Subsidy borne by the Government (Rs. crores)	Percentage reduction in average price
1992-93	2802.99	999.82	35.67%
1993-94	1649.99	598.97	36.30%
1994-95	2031.98	1166.02	57.38%

[English]

Mining in Sikkim

6638. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state the number of mines under public sector and private sector in the State of Sikkim?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : The Indian Bureau of Mines has stated that as per their records, there is only one mine in Sikkim, which is operated by M/s. Sikkim Mining Corporation, a Public Sector Undertaking.

Offer of Talks By Pak

6639. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has sent any communication to the Government after the recent visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to the US, in regard to their willingness to have talks with India on outstanding bilateral issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have accepted the proposals;

(d) if so, whether any agenda and time has been fixed for the talks; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). Government's stand regarding dialogue with Pakistan is well-known. We are ready to hold unconditional bilateral talks with Pakistan to resolve all differences within the framework of the Simla Agreement. We have urged Pakistan to respond with sincerity to our repeated offer of talks. Setting of conditions and preconditions for such talks, as Pakistan has been doing, does not, in our view, constitute a positive approach.

Buckingham Canal

6640. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have deferred the State Government proposal for the revival of Buckingham canal in the Eighth Plan Period;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Inland Waterways Authority of India is examining the possibility to make the project technically and economically viable; and

(d) if so, by what time final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (d). For the South Buckingham Canal running between Madras and Marakkanam, no proposal has been received from the Government of Tamil Nadu for its revival. However, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for developing the stretch from Ennore South Lock to Chintamani Lock was sanctioned by the Government of India in May, 1987 at a cost of Rs. 200.00 lakhs. The scheme had been kept in abeyance from January, 1991.

As regards the North Buckingham Canal, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme was submitted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in 1988. The matter was examined in consultation with the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Ultimately, it was decided by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) to carry out the techno-economic feasibility study on the entire canal system connecting Kakinada and Madras which includes Kakinada, Eluru, Commamuru and the Buckingham Canal. The field study had already been completed and the IWAI's Consultants, RITES have since submitted the draft report.

A decision on the development of this canal system would depend on the finding of the techno-economic feasibility study.

[Translation]

Construction of Flats by DDA

6641. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH :
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of flats constructed by Delhi Development Authority during the last three years;

(b) the number of flats to be built every year in view of the increasing population of Delhi, as well as to overcome the scarcity of the flats;

(c) whether the Delhi Development Authority propose to formulate any scheme to overcome the shortage of flats; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) DDA has reported that 23,381 flats have been constructed by it during the last three years.

(b) to (d). To overcome the shortage of houses in Delhi, DDA responds by introducing new schemes for allotment of flats from time to time. DDA also allots lands to Cooperative Group Housing Societies. There is a provision of 400 plots in Dwarka and Narela for allotment to Cooperative Group Housing Societies in which 33,000 dwelling units will come up. DDA has recently offered about 3000 flats under VII Self Financing Scheme and about 8000 flats under the Expandable Housing Scheme-1995. Besides, about 3000 flats are to be offered under the VIII Self Financing Scheme. The sale of brochures for this scheme will commence from 25.5.1995.

Peace-keeping Force to Rwanda

6642. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to send Indian Peace Keeping Force to Rwanda to assist in repatriation of the displaced persons in Keisehi Refugee camp; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b). The Indian contingent to the UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda has not been involved in repatriation of the displaced persons, except for providing ten vehicles.

[English]

Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers

6643. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA :

SHRI RAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a leakage of toxic gases from the factory of Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF) in Bombay, recently;

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

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry into this incident;

(d) if so, the findings thereof;

(e) the compensation paid to the affected persons and the steps taken to prevent such incidents in future; and

(f) the number of incidents of ammonia leakage detected at RCF, Bombay during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). There was an accidental release of ammonia gas on 13.4.1995 for a very short duration at the Trombay plant of Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited(RCF) due to malfunctioning of control valves/transmitter.

(c) to (e). Since the release of ammonia gas was accidental and for a very short duration, causing no loss of life or property, the question of ordering an enquiry into the incident by the Government or payment of compensation does not arise. With a view to avoiding recurrence of such incidents, the control valve has been modified and the company has undertaken study of the plant to identify any possibility of leakage from any other point.

(f) One ammonia emission incident has occurred on 8.6.1994 from another plant of RCF due to process upsets, but there was no loss of life or property.

[Translation]

Uri Hydel Power Project in Kashmir

6644. DR. CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Uri Hydel Power Project on Jhelum with capacity of 480 MW is under construction in North Kashmir region;

(b) if so, whether the original construction cost of the project has increased;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the said project is likely to be completed within the stipulated period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Project was sanctioned in June 1989 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1632.62 crores. The present estimated cost of the project is Rs. 3070.67 crores.

(d) and (e). The project was originally scheduled to be commissioned by November, 1995, but the progress on the project has been affected by the law and order situation in Jammu & Kashmir and it is now expected to be commissioned in May' 97.

[English]

Manufacturing of Cans

6645. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up small scale industries for manufacturing of cans required for food processing industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) to (c). This Ministry does not set up units for can manufacturing directly. Presently, a good number of small units are producing cans and containers other than Open Top Sanitary cans which are required for packaging of certain varieties of food product; and, Open Top Sanitary cans which are required for packaging specified varieties of food products are being produced in few large scale units. There are also a few units producing aluminium cans for use in food industry.

Road Accidents

6646. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

SHRI N. DENNIS :

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take some effective steps to curb the rising incidents of roads accidents; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) With a view to check the rising trend of road accidents, the Government have started a massive public awareness campaign. This includes strengthening of driving training facilities, conducting of Essay competitions among the school children, helping on road safety marches and other publicity measures through Press and Media. Besides certain amendments have been made in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 with a view to provide for stringent punishment for violation of traffic related rules. The Government has also been providing assistance to the State Governments in cash and kind to strengthen their road safety measures. It has also been decided to observe the year 1995 as Road Safety Year and further strengthen the road safety programmes in the country.

[Translation]

Bridges in Maharashtra

6647. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bridges constructed on the National Highways in Maharashtra during 1994-95;

(b) the details thereof, location-wise and name-wise; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Fifteen.

(b) Details are given in the Statement attached.

(c) Rs. 13 crore.

STATEMENT

S.No.	N.H.	Details of work
1	2	3
1.	3	Reconstruction of Minor bridge across Deori Nalla in Km.329/900
2.	3	Nagaon bridge at Km.253/200
3.	3	Major bridge across Godavari river in Km.415/200
4.	4	Flyover bridge on westerly diversion of Pune city at ch.29/139 to ch.29/396
5.	4	Viaduct to flyover bridge of Westerly diversion outside Pune city at ch.28/1739 to 29/139 on ch. 29/396 to 29/521
6-8	4B	Three minor bridges at ch.800, ch.1820 and ch. 4049

1	2	3
9.	6	Minor bridge in Km.504/565
10.	6	Minor bridge in Km.166/200
11.	6	Minor bridge in Km.172/1000
12.	6	Major bridge across Nalganga river in Km. 351/1000
13.	7	Minor bridge in Km.48/500
14.	7	Minor bridge in Km.154/800
15.	9	Bridge on Pakni Nalla in Km.230/800
Total		15 bridges

Diamond Mining

6648. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA :

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state .

(a) the location and other details of diamond mines in the country;

(b) the profits earned/losses suffered by these mines during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether incidence of diamond and alexanderite has been located in Manipur and in Devbhog area in Raipur, Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) The only diamond mine in the country is located in Panna district of Madhya Pradesh and is operated by M/s. National Mineral Development Corporation. The mine produces 18,000 carats of diamonds per year. Some private operators however, also recover diamonds on permit system for shallow mines in Panna District of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Profits/losses suffered during the last 3 years is as under :

Year	Profits	Losses
1990-91	51.07 lakhs	-
1991-92	79.51 lakhs	-
1992-93	-	80.76 lakhs

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. As per investigation carried out by Geological Survey of India and Directorate of Geology and Mining, Madhya Pradesh, possibilities of occurrences of Diamond and Alexandrite are found in some parts of Raipur district (Madhya Pradesh). Kimberlite bodies are discovered at Behradih, Payalikhanda, Jhangra and Kodamali. Occurrences of other precious stones like alexandrites, garnet etc. are also confirmed from these areas.

Indian Council for World Affairs

6649. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :
MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA
KHANDURI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have instituted any enquiry into the functioning, organisational deficiencies and library system of Indian council of World Affairs (ICWA);

(b) if so, the findings of the enquiry; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to revamp the functioning of the Indian Council of World Affairs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) is an autonomous body. For quite some time, it is facing some problems and there have been demands, both in Parliament and outside, for its take over and to revamp its functioning. After extensive consultations, the Government have decided to appoint a high-powered advisory/supervisory committee to look into the functioning of the ICWA and to suggest steps to be taken to revamp its functioning. However, as the Council is an autonomous body, the Government have no control over it. Any Supervisory/advisory committee can only be constituted in pursuance of a request made by this Organisation. The governing body of the Council is presently being persuaded to pass a resolution requesting the Government to set up such a high-powered committee.

National Highway in Gujarat

6650. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the last time when a State Highway was declared as a National Highway in Gujarat; and

(d) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). A new National Highway having a length of 140 Kms from Beabar to Radhanpur (NH No. 14) was added to the National Highway System in the Year 1989 in the State of Gujarat.

Foreign Assisted Road Projects

6651. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY :
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of highways/national highways that are under construction with foreign collaboration at present;

(b) the names of the countries which are collaborating in these road projects; and

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c). The Central Government is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of national highways and all roads other than National Highways are essentially the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. The National Highway projects being built with external aid are as under :

Foreign Aid Agency	No. of Projects	Target date of completion
World Bank	6	30.6.2001
Asian Development Bank	12	31.12.1999
Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund (Japan).	5	28.2.2002

Construction work on National Highway-52

6652. SHRI LAETA UMBREY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) progress of the construction work on National Highway-52 in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) whether there has been a reduction in Fund Allocation on this road; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Out of the total length of 337 km of National Highway-52 which falls in Arunachal Pradesh, the formation work on 143 kms and pavement work on 129 kms have been completed upto September, 1994.

(b) and (c). Due to budgetary constraints, it is not possible to meet the full requirement of the National Highways in the country including National Highway-52 in Arunachal Pradesh.

[Translation]

Steel Plants in Madhya Pradesh

6653. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Madhya Pradesh Government regarding the issuance of letter of intent for setting up of steel plants in private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the private companies approved by the State Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Under the New Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991, 'iron and steel' industry has been removed from the list of industries reserved for public sector and has also been exempted from the purview of compulsory licensing, except for certain locational restrictions. No industrial licence is, therefore, required to set up a steel plant. The Union Government has not received any proposal from Madhya Pradesh Government regarding the issuance of letter of intent for setting up of steel plants in private sector.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Income from National Highways

6654. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the income from the National Highways during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the other details in this regard; and

(c) the break-up of source from which the said income has been accrued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c). Revenue on National Highways is generated only through levy of fees on permanent bridges costing more than Rs. 100 lakhs. The income generated on this account during the last three years is as under :

Year	Bridge Fee Collection (Rs. in lakhs)
1992-93	3124.32
1993-94	3645.91
1994-95	4483.86

[English]

M/s. McDonald Corporation of USA

6655. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions set up between the parties M/s McDonald Corporation of USA and Indian entrepreneurs approved by the Government for opening/operating restaurants at various places in the country;

(b) whether the agreement has come into force; and

(c) if so, the reasons and rationale thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) to (c). The Government have approved the proposal of M/s. McDonald Corporation of USA to set

up a wholly owned subsidiary in India for developing and operating the restaurants through (a) limited number by the subsidiary; (b) joint ventures between the McDonald Indian subsidiary and the Indian partners; and (c) the Indian licencees. This approval envisages a total investment of US \$ 40 million during the initial seven years and foreign equity amounting to RS \$ 1 lakh which will be increased to US \$ 20 million in the initial seven years. The proposal will be foreign exchange neutral for seven years and no repatriation of dividend will be done during the first seven years of operation. The project is expected to generate total employment of 3400 persons, bring in the technologies for upgrading the facilities of the suppliers, bring in better management techniques for operation of such chains and create possibilities for eventual export of products to McDonald's chain elsewhere. Till date, no restaurant has been opened.

SAARC Strategy

6656. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether member countries of SAARC have decided to formulate a uniform strategy to combat terrorism;

(b) if so, whether any action programme has been worked out in this regard;

(c) if so, the salient features thereof and the time by which the same is likely to be implemented;

(d) whether the Government have offered to provide any advance training to the other member countries;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any dissent view has been registered by any member country to this strategy to combat terrorism; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (g).

The SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism signed in Kathmandu in November 1987, entered into force on 22 August 1998, following ratification by all Member States.

The convention embodies and gives legal sanction within a regional framework, to the internationally accepted principles of non-use of the territory of one Member State to commit terroristic acts in that of another, treatment of offences under the Convention as non-political for purposes of extradition and obligation to extradite or prosecute terroristic offenders. Under the Convention, the contracting Parties are obliged to afford maximum judicial assistance, in accordance with national laws, in legal proceedings in respect of terroristic offences, and to undertake cooperative measures consistent with national laws to prevent activities through precautionary measures.

At successive SAARC Summits, the Heads of State or Government have unequivocally condemned all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and deplored its adverse impact on socio-economic development and political stability, regional peace and cooperation.

The SAARC Council of Ministers had, in December 1992, endorsed the recommendation for convening an annual meeting of authorised Liaison Officers of the Member States on Suppression of terrorism. Pursuant to this decision, the Liaison Officers have met in Dhaka in February 1994 and in New Delhi in March 1995 and as a result of their recommendations :

A SAARC Terrorist Offences Monitoring Desk (STOMD) has been established in Colombo in January 1995, to work as an effective data bank and dissemination centre on the nature, extent, magnitude and trends of terrorism in the region, storing and disseminating information and trends which would help to curb and eradicate this menace. On the need-to-know basis Member States will supply the STOMD with relevant data on terrorist activities, tactics, strategies, methodologies and profiles.

The security agencies of the Member States have agreed to keep heightened vigilance and surveillance on the points of manufacture, storage, supply routes and use of illegal arms and effectively stop this flow at various points.

Appropriate arrangements will be initiated for training of security personnel in the existing security institution of member countries. In this context, the Government of India has offered to make available its institutions/facilities for imparting training in counter terrorism to officials from Member Countries.

Annual meeting of Liaison officers would continue to be held at regular intervals in order to monitor, update, evaluate and improve counter-terrorism strategies.

Southern Power Grid Plan

6657. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Southern Power Grid Plan in Jeopardy' appearing in 'The Economic Times' on April 25, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. It is a fact that at present there is inadequate availability of gas for the proposed gas based power projects in the Southern Region. The new

power projects being set up would operate on coal or with a dual fuel capacity. Projects that will use the latter will be able to switch over to natural gas at a later stage, when it is made available.

[Translation]

International Ports

6658. DR. P.R. GANGWAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some ports have been accorded the status of International Port and some others have been closed down; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Ban on Textile Dyes

6659. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to ban the manufacture and sale of certain textile dyes;

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

(c) the time by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Government are exploring new markets for indigenously produced dyes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). At present Government have no proposal to ban the manufacture and sale of textile dyes. However, in the context of the German Government's legislation to ban import of textiles involving the use of specified azo dyes, the Government of India has initiated steps to review the usage of various dyes in textile products with the objective of identifying dyes whose production/ imports need to be curtailed and the encourage use of alternate permissible dyes for promotion of internationally acceptable eco-friendly textiles.

(d) and (e). Already there exists a good indigenous and export market for these dyes.

Mining of Known Deposits

6660. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) the places where deposits of Gold and Silver are known to exist but are not exploited;
- (b) the reasons for not exploiting these deposits;
- (c) whether Government propose to implement any scheme for their exploitation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) to (d). The known occurrences of the gold other than the deposits being exploited are as below :

State	Areas
Andhra Pradesh	Some areas of Ramgiri, Kothapalli, Peddaparthikunta, Ramapuram, Chinmulgund, Bhadrampali, Mallappakonda.
Karnataka	Hira-buddini, Ajjanhalli, Chinmulgund, Surapalle, Tuppadhur, Chinchergai, kadoni Uti, Wandalli, Bellara, Kempinkote.
Kerala	Maruda and Puthemala.
Bihar	Kunderkocha.
Madhya Pradesh	Baghmera, Sonakhan.
Tamil Nadu	Maharaj-Gadai-Naralapalli.
Rajasthan	Pindwara

Silver is available as by-product from copper-lead-zinc and gold ores. However, occurrence of silver ore has been reported in Baghera block of Bharak area, Bhilwara district in Rajasthan.

An entrepreneur takes a decision for exploiting a particular deposit if he finds the same to be commercially viable based on the grade of the ore as well as size and nature of the deposit. To encourage mining for all known deposits, Government has already thrown all non-atomic and non-fuel minerals including gold and silver open for exploitation by the private sector.

Staff Strength of Regional Passport Office, Bangalore

6661. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is delay in issue of passports due to shortage of staff in Regional Passport Office, Bangalore;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to provide adequate staff to avoid delay in issue of Passports and to prevent long queues before the office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b). As on 31-1-95 Passport Office Bangalore was issuing passports in 82 days which is an improvement over the 97 days it took in December 1993 and 123 days in December 1994. The delay in issue of passports, is however, not due to shortage of staff which, considering that the number of applications received during 1994 (January-December) for issue of fresh passports was 82023, is adequate.

The number of applications received in 1992 and 1993 was 104871 and 111035 respectively.

(c) The re-location of the Passport Office to more spacious premises, the institution of a system of regular inspections, better utilisation of the computer system, and efforts to motivate the staff are expected to reduce the time taken for the issue of passports in Bangalore to a more acceptable level.

Non-Aligned Movement

6662. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have taken any steps to increase the membership of NAM;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is alleged that there has been slackness on the part of India in nurturing the NAM; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to activate further the NAM?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b). NAM is a voluntary association of member states. India welcomes the steady increase in its membership.

(c) No, Sir..

(d) NAM holds regular meetings at the level of Ministers or Heads of Government or State, and senior officials meet frequently to discuss important international issues. India takes an active part in these meetings.

Outlay for Various Schemes

6663. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the total outlay for various scheme under the Ministry made for 1995-96;
- (b) the financial and physical achievements made under each scheme during 1994-95, State-wise in general and in Goa in particular;

(c) whether substantial increase in prices of inputs like cement, bricks, steel, land and other building materials have escalated the cost of construction significantly;

(d) if so, the impact of the price hike on construction activities/projects, particularly intended for rural and urban poor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to contain the prices of land and building materials for the benefit of all, particularly the middle and lower income groups?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) and (b). The total outlay for various plan schemes of the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment for 1995-96 is Rs. 530 crores. A statement indicating the achievements of the important programmes being monitored by this Ministry is attached.

(c) to (e). Yes, Sir. The percentage increase in the price of major items required for construction is directly related to the building cost index and vice versa. Government is encouraging use of precast/prefabricated building components like door/window frames, lintels, shelves, floor/roof units etc. and similar components made of waste materials which reduce consumption of wood which in turn reduce cost of construction and increase the speed of the construction work.

STATEMENT

The status of the various schemes for the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment is as follows :

1. Low Cost Sanitation :

Under the Programme of Low Cost Sanitation and Liberation of Scavengers, funds are allocated by the Central Government in the form of subsidy. During 1994-95 an amount of Rs. 25.80 crores was allocated under this scheme.

The system of manual scavenging does not exist in Goa. However a Statement indicating the State-wise details is enclosed (Appendix-I).

2. Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) :

The scheme was launched towards the end of 1994 and an amount of Rs. 11.76 crores was distributed during 1993-94 and Rs. 16.99 crores during 1994-95. During the current financial year, i.e. 1995-96, an amount of Rs. 20 crores has been allocated.

Under AUWSP during the year 1994-95 an amount of Rs. 10.14 lakhs was sanctioned for the towns of Calangute and Reishagos of Goa. A Statement indicating State-wise allocations is enclosed (Appendix -II).

3. Night Shelters and Sanitation Schemes for the footpath dwellers in the Urban Areas

This scheme had been launched during 1988-89 and was reviewed and modified in August 1992. This scheme has two components.

(a) Construction of community night shelter with community toilets and baths.

(b) Constructing only community pay and use toilets/baths for the homeless.

Under this scheme no state wise funds are being allocated. Funds are placed at the disposal of HUDCO from releasing to implementing agencies depending upon progress of works.

4. National Network of Building Centre

This scheme is in operation since 1988-89. Under this scheme the central subsidy is not earmarked Statewise. The central assistance is routed through HUDCO to Building Centers in a phased manner.

5. Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT)

The budget allocation for IDSMT Scheme during the year 1995-96 is Rs. 35 crores. During 1994-95, against the target of 72 additional towns, 104 additional towns were covered under IDSMT. Besides, subsequent instalments of Central Assistance were also released for ongoing projects in 21 towns. During 1994-95, the budget allocation of Rs. 22.90 crores available for providing the Central Assistance to State Governments under IDSMT was fully utilised. During 1994-95, one town in Goa State, i.e., Margao was covered and Central Assistance (first instalment) of Rs. 24.00 lakhs released. A Statement indicating the State-wise details of physical and financial achievements under IDSMT during 1994-95 are appended (Appendix-III).

6. Mega Cities

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for infrastructural development in the Mega cities was initiated only during 1993-94. It is applicable to cities with a population of more than four million as per 1991 census. The scheme would be applicable to Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore and Hyderabad.

During 1994-95, an amount of Rs. 74.50 crores was released as Central Assistance for implementing the scheme in the four cities. The scheme is not applicable to any city of Goa.

7. Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) :

The performance of States/UTs as on 31.3.95 under NRY is given at Appendix - IV.

8. Urban Basic Service for the Poor (UBSP) :

A Statement indicating the funds released for the year 1994-95 is annexed (Appendix-V).

APPENDIX-I*Position as on 31/03/95**Amount released under Low Cost Sanitation during 1994-95.**Low Cost sanitation (Integrated) Schemes Sanctioned**(Rs. in lacs)**(Actual release as on 31/03/95)*

S.No.	State Name	Loan Amount	Subsidy
		1994-1995	
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	497.28	47.65
2.	Assam	36.63	45.08
3.	Bihar	0.00	126.73
4.	Haryana	160.66	364.59

1	2	3	4
5.	Karnataka	58.64	0.00
6.	Kerala	8.62	13.32
7.	Madhya Pradesh	67.50	135.51
8.	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00
9.	Manipur	0.00	37.41
10.	Meghalaya	0.00	8.47
11.	Orissa	44.82	44.80
12.	Punjab	3134.42	1391.10
13.	Rajasthan	10.50	235.99
14.	Tamil Nadu	149.87	61.05
15.	Tripura	0.00	58.78
16.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00
17.	West Bengal	0.00	144.81
Grand Total		4168.94	2705.29

APPENDIX-II

As on 31.3.95

Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) State-wise Status of DPRs of the Schemes Approved during 1993-94

[illegible]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
24.	Uttar Pradesh	42	42	2947.84	327.88	290.64	634.92	N.A	N.A	1473.92	736.96	586.17	-	586.17
25.	West Bengal	3	3	325.88	39.13	N.A	78.62	40.00	50.00	162.94	81.47	52.25	-	52.25
26.	A and N Island	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
27.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
28.	D and N Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
29.	Daman and Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
30.	Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
31.	Lakshdweep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
32.	Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
Total		148	131	8522.11	1145.43	645.30	1417.44	1216.02	2130.51	4261.06	2140.88	1600.00	99.00	1699.00

N.I = No Information; N.A = Not Available; * Funds Already Released.

APPENDIX-III

No. of towns Covered and Central Assistance Released Under IDSMT Scheme During 1994-95

(Rs. in lakhs)

State/UT	1994-95		
	Towns Addi.	Covered Ongo-ing	Funds Rele-ased
1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh	6	-	135.00
2. Arunachal Pradesh	2	-	26.00
3. Assam	3	-	45.00
4. Bihar	2	-	45.00
5. Goa	1	-	24.00
6. Gujarat	7	2	150.00
7. Haryana	-	-	-
8. Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-
9. Jammu and Kashmir	1	1	40.00
10. Karnataka	11	-	290.00
11. Kerala	4	-	118.50
12. Madhya Pradesh	12	3	253.50

1	2	3	4
13. Maharashtra	17	4	433.75
14. Manipur	-	-	-
15. Meghalaya	-	-	-
16. Mizoram	1	-	12.00
17. Nagaland	-	1	15.00
18. Orissa	9	2	181.00
19. Punjab	1	1	36.25
20. Rajasthan	3	-	70.00
21. Sikkim	-	1	20.00
22. Tamilnadu	11	4	139.00
23. Tripura	-	-	-
24. Uttar Pradesh	5	-	159.00
25. West Bengal	8	2	93.20
UTs			
1. A and N Islands	-	-	-
2. D and N Haveli	-	-	-
3. Lakshdweep	-	-	-
4. Pondicherry	-	-	-
5. Daman an Diu	-	-	-
Total	104	21	2289.70

APPENDIX-IV

Nehru Rozgar Yojana - Performance of States/UTs as Per Reports Submitted by Them as on 31.3.1995

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	Name of State/UTs	Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises						Scheme of Urban Wage Employment		
		Central Subsidy released	Amount of Subsidy Sanctioned	No. of beneficiaries assisted	Central grant for T&I released	Amount spent under T & I by States	Trainees trained or under-going training Nos.	Central funds released	Expendr. reported by States/UTs	No. of mandays generated. (figures in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	102.22	1194.83	74,933	241.25	68.67	7953	1322.72	1472.83	16.90
2.	Bihar	504.35	289.07	7,738	141.85	11.96	2517	1689.62	1372.29	41.16
3.	Gujarat	324.16	254.71	12,514	88.85	55.63	6462	918.40	875.07	11.80
4.	Haryana	162.27	296.79	13,609	42.37	58.42	3623	313.00	427.96	6.94
5.	Karnataka	775.75	662.14	44,230	167.57	47.65	9313	1622.46	1298.12	35.06
6.	Kerala	387.23	616.20	21,445	85.47	55.28	4792	574.24	681.03	9.58
7.	Madhya Pradesh	980.12	1541.14	84,004	223.90	114.29	10960	1745.79	2144.77	32.34
8.	Maharashtra	1119.40	880.27	57,826	240.05	224.25	29928	2165.50	1663.44	30.18
9.	Orissa	281.93	291.96	12,165	63.43	27.15	1894	705.90	645.91	9.57
10.	Punjab	285.91	433.57	16,449	64.17	40.28	4156	620.91	693.35	4.72
11.	Rajasthan	508.67	591.42	30,874	107.87	59.50	5470	1207.61	1616.43	17.04
12.	Tamil Nadu	1263.65	1212.87	73,025	280.52	191.03	19377	1507.46	1930.95	35.63
13.	Uttar Pradesh	2417.28	3588.39	145,113	536.90	348.32	33773	4831.09	5529.57	94.92

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14. West Bengal	728.88	407.01	29,809	189.68	98.21	8502	1027.59	1278.53	18.67	
15. Goa	16.58	8.36	440	3.46	1.87	250	69.54	60.69	0.46	
16. Arunachal Pradesh	17.72	2.91	40	8.70	1.84	240	16.92	28.48	0.20	
17. Assam	143.62	227.90	17,568	53.20	5.96	3032	360.09	406.46	5.32	
18. Himachal Pradesh	56.10	41.80	1,276	27.70	4.61	364	111.62	109.53	2.48	
19. Jammu and Kashmir	91.02	64.48	1,786	44.69	20.84	821	123.81	190.14	2.08	
20. Manipur	41.44	77.96	5,186	19.45	0.86	1050	82.62	89.33	2.31	
21. Meghalaya	26.58	11.47	400	11.45	-	-	49.54	27.96	0.66	
22. Mizoram	20.68	35.52	700	8.45	6.86	468	49.88	125.06	12.35	
23. Nagaland	21.19	-	-	10.40	-	-	28.48	-	-	
24. Sikkim	24.50	33.20	532	14.30	13.44	419	41.24	41.38	0.73	
25. Tripura	24.52	40.85	434	9.97	5.32	471	68.41	84.12	1.65	
26. A and N Islands	8.55	6.95	178	3.13	1.80	65	13.93	15.81	0.18	
27. Chandigarh	25.62	7.69	199	3.42	0.49	14	19.21	55.74	0.36	
28. D and N Haveli	7.55	3.78	110	2.47	0.70	123	7.22	5.61	0.12	
29. Daman and Diu	13.20	-	-	5.60	-	-	21.12	8.07	0.16	
30. Pondicherry	14.58	10.43	1499	5.46	1.10	193	45.85	36.92	0.96	
31. Delhi.	115.60	58.25	1,412	26.40	12.51	1206	-	-	-	
Total	11510.37	12891.92	655494	2730.13	1478.84	159436	21361.77	22915.55	394.53	

APPENDEX-IV

*As on 31.3.1995**Nehru Rozgar Yojana - Performance of States/UTs As per Reports Submitted by them*

(Rs in lakhs)

Name of State/UTs	Scheme of Housing and Shelter Upgradation									
	Central Subsidy placed with HUDCO	Amount of Subsidy released by HUDCO	Amount of Subsidy utilised by State/UTs	No. of Dwelling Units upgraded/ in Progress	No. of mandays of work generated (in lakhs)	T & I Funds placed with HUDCO	T & I funds spent by States/UTs	No. of persons trained or undergoing training	A & DE/ ULBs/ NGOs Expenditure incurred (All components)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1. Andhra Pradesh	721.09	390.18	730.62	62,760	29.00	184.38	94.43	3,810	46.56	
2. Bihar	639.93	197.56	21.33	13,115	0.68	163.49	129.63	8,642	138.22	
3. Gujarat	352.85	2.80	19.21	508	0.11	90.24	3.91	325	185.01	
4. Haryana	98.81	56.53	29.61	3,560	-	32.84	8.80	695	79.58	
5. Karnataka	615.54	88.06	70.69	8,277	10.62	157.31	71.01	1,209	118.23	
6. Kerala	276.65	682.07	743.62	80,794	45.14	70.58	64.81	3,150	29.19	
7. Madhya Pradesh	653.90	-	-	-	-	176.59	75.26	-	393.97	
8. Maharashtra	652.01	191.99	-	6,200	-	166.15	65.31	3,000	24.00	
9. Orissa	184.90	96.50	71.34	4,180	1.43	50.42	9.00	12	103.88	
10. Punjab	189.86	60.16	85.87	6,242	2.82	50.80	15.20	-	73.21	
11. Rajasthan	376.04	-	102.54	-	-	102.97	61.25	1,980	234.32	
12. Tamilnadu	753.99	901.50	1106.20	1,15,289	55.74	192.53	134.55	9,708	235.43	
13. Uttar Pradesh	1605.26	202.00	325.52	26,074	-	410.24	248.58	1,649	240.85	
14. West Bengal	574.93	341.89	-	37,181	-	148.14	12.85	6,816	42.98	
15. Goa	13.48	-	-	-	-	4.66	-	-	16.43	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
16. Arunachal Pradesh		16.70	-	-	-	-	9.30	-	-	8.24
17. Assam		102.29	80.67	-	6,948	0.05	36.38	19.08	1,272	-
18. Himachal Pradesh		34.20	3.91	-	-	-	20.63	-	-	-
19. Jammu & Kashmir		59.44	19.54	57.68	1,443	0.63	28.03	-	-	39.34
20. Manipur		22.59	5.33	5.35	385	0.19	11.62	1.50	100	59.26
21. Meghalaya		16.80	-	-	-	-	9.30	-	-	-
22. Mizoram		11.10	-	8.00	887	0.56	5.83	-	-	61.77
23. Nagaland		21.20	-	-	-	-	11.33	-	-	-
24. Sikkim		13.50	2.63	11.55	-	-	7.40	-	-	19.60
25. Tripura		12.11	1.30	1.30	260	0.02	6.02	-	-	37.37
26. A and N Islands		8.18	-	-	-	-	2.50	0.35	23	7.36
27. Chandigarh		20.64	-	-	-	-	4.99	-	-	2.05
28. D and N Haveli		5.34	0.22	-	-	-	2.45	-	-	4.49
29. Daman and Diu		8.45	-	-	-	-	4.15	-	-	-
30. Pondicherry		13.88	-	2.54	-	-	5.56	2.49	140	1.69
31. Delhi.		8.08	-	-	-	-	1.62	-	-	34.77
		8083.74	3324.84	3392.97	3,74,103	146.99	2168.45	2143.06	44,531	2235.50

APPENDIX-V

Funds Released Under Urban Basic Services for the Poor (U.B.S.P) for the year 1994-95.

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of State/UTs	UBSP	NGOs	ULBs	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	166.70	6.00	6.90	179.60
2.	Bihar	74.835	5.30	6.15	86.285
3.	Gurarat	57.10	2.95	3.40	63.45
4.	Haryana	24.60	1.00	0.95	26.55
5.	Karnataka	99.50	5.10	5.90	110.50
6.	Kerala	63.13	2.30	2.65	68.08
7.	Madhya Pradesh	140.75	5.45	6.25	152.45
8.	Maharashtra	115.785	8.25	9.50	133.535
9.	Orissa	46.30	1.50	1.75	49.55
10.	Punjab	30.65	1.60	1.80	34.05
11.	Rajasthan	89.30	3.10	3.60	96.00
12.	Tamilnadu	150.90	7.75	8.95	167.60
13.	Uttar Pradesh	129.90	6.675	7.70	144.275
14.	West Bengal	59.05	3.025	3.50	65.575
15.	Goa	10.00	1.00	-	11.00
16.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-
17.	Assam	20.05	1.00	0.85	21.90
18.	Himachal Pradesh	10.00	1.00	-	11.00
19.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-
20.	Manipur	15.50	1.00	-	16.50
21.	Meghalaya	14.00	1.00	-	15.00
22.	Mizoram	15.50	1.00	-	16.50

1	2	3	4	5	6
23.	Nagaland	-	-	-	-
24.	Sikkim	15.50	1.00	-	16.50
25.	Tripura	15.50	1.00	-	16.50
26.	A & N Islands	8.33	0.82	-	9.15
27.	Chandigarh	8.325	0.825	-	9.15
28.	D and N Haveli	16.65	1.65	-	18.30
29.	Daman and Diu	-	-	-	-
30.	Pondicherry	10.00	1.00	-	11.00
31.	Delhi.	-	-	-	-
32.	NGOs directly from Ministry	-	30.00	-	30.00
	Total	1407.855	102.295	69.85	1580.00
	Salary etc.				20.00
	G. Total				1600.00

National Seminar on Health Care

6664. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Seminar on Health Care was held in the country, in April 1995;

(b) if so, the main issues discussed in the seminar;

(c) whether the Government have considered the suggestions made by the organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India at the seminar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (d). The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) and the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Associations (IFPMA) organised a National Seminar on Health Care in New Delhi on 21st and 22nd April, 1995. The Seminar provided an opportunity to exchange views on the various aspects of health care and the contribution of the pharmaceutical industry in this regard. Such interactions are an on-going process.

Water Supply Projects in Kerala

6665. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has urged the Union government to approach the World Bank for financial assistance to their projects for improvement of water supply in corporation cities, Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi and Kozhikode;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Union Government to this proposal;

(d) the other proposals of the Kerala Government for water supply improvement in other cities of the State lying pending with the Union Government; and

(e) the time by which proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(d) The following water supply schemes have been received from the Government of Kerala/Kerala Water Authority for obtaining External assistance from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan:

- (i) Meenad, 12 adjoining villages and Parevoor Municipality Rs. 71 crores;
- (ii) Pattuvam and adjoining 14 villages - Rs. 42 crores;
- (iii) Cherthala and adjoining 19 villages-Rs.69.25 crores;
- (iv) Calicut City region - Rs. 285.20 crores;
- (v) Thiruvananthapuram city region - Rs. 199.20 crores;
- (vi) Kochi region - Rs. 234.50 crores.

(e) This will depend upon the time taken by the State Government/Kerala Water Authority in furnishing the additional information required for obtaining clearances from various Department and in the form required by OECF.

[Translation]

Inter-State Roads/Bridges

6666. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assistance has been provided to the Government of Gujarat for inter-State roads/bridges of economic importance during the last three years as on April, 1995;

(b) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the criteria laid down for the selection of such projects for providing central assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. Due to limited allocation of funds for Central Sector Road Programme, it has been possible to take up only some selected projects in various States under the programme during the VIII Plan.

(c) The broad criteria are as under :

- (i) Inter-State roads/bridges necessary for ensuring through communications;
- (ii) Roads/bridges required for opening up new areas to which railway facilities cannot be provided in the near future;
- (iii) Roads/bridges which can contribute materially to rapid economic development, e.g. in hilly areas and places having rich mineral resources for exploitation.

[English]

Pak Abetment to Terrorism

6667. SHRI M.G. REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the issue of Pak's involvement in and abetment to terrorism in Kashmir had figured in the talks with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the UK during his recent visit to India; and

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

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

(b) Our concerns regarding Pakistan's continued support to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir were projected to Mr. Douglas Hurd, who conveyed that the UK will continue to emphasize to Pakistan the need to refrain from encouragement to violence and terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

National Highways

6668. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure followed in approving and sanctioning the length of the National Highways;

(b) whether the expenditure is borne by the concerned States also; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Proposals received from various State Governments are examined in the light of availability of resources, criteria laid down for declaring new National Highways, recommendations of the National Transport Policy Committee, inter-se priority of a road on an all-India basis including proximity of other National Highways in the area etc. These are appraised by Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance, etc., and finally approved.

(b) and (c). No expenditure is incurred by the State Government after a road is declared as a National Highway.

Strengthening of National Highways

6669. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have cleared any project during March, 1995 for strengthening some selected sections of National Highways:

(b) if so, whether any sections of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh have been selected for that purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c). Four strengthening works on NH 5 and NH 7 costing Rs. 12.06 crores have been sanctioned during March 1995 in Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

Antarctica Expeditions

6670. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Geological Survey of India (GSI) teams that have participated in the various Antarctica expeditions, during the last three years;

(b) the details of survey and experiments conducted by them in Antarctica;

(c) the results thereof and the benefits that would accrue to the country from these surveys; and

(d) the expenditure incurred on sending these teams for the expedition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) The details of Geological Survey of India (GSI) Scientists Team participated in Antarctica Expeditions are given below:

Year	Expedition	No. of GSI Scientists
1992-93	XII	3
1993-94	XIII	2
1994-95	XIV	3

(b) The details of survey and experiments conducted in Antarctica are as under :

Geology	Glaciology
(i) Geological Mapping	(i) Continental-ice balance
(ii) Geological Evolution	(ii) Glacier dynamics
(iii) Rectonics	(iii) Snow-ice Stratigraphy
(iv) Magmatism	(iv) Palaeoclimate
(v) Inter-continental correlation	(v) Global change
(vi) Geomorphological studies	
(vii) Geochronology	
(viii) Palaeomagnetism	

(c) A total area of 9000 sq. km. have been mapped and 2000 rock samples collected are highly valued for their remoteness.

The geological studies viz. mapping, sampling and laboratory inputs are expected to lead to better understanding of the geology of India in regard to crustal evolution, terrain development and evolution of life about 200 million years before.

The Antarctica ice contains a record of global climatic change of past in its ice layers. Studies throw light on global weather regime and offer input to the environmental change.

Changes in the fluctuations of the mass balance of Antarctica ice offers vital parameters for predicting the future global change on the entire earth system.

(d) The Department of Ocean Development sends the teams to Antarctica and bears all the expenses. There is no separate allocation for sending GSI team to

Antarctica. The total expenditure incurred by Department of Ocean Development is Rs. 41.35 crores during last three years as under :

12th Expedition (1992-93)	Rs. 14.90 crores
13th Expedition (1993-94)	Rs. 13.70 crores
14th Expedition (1994-95)	Rs. 12.75 crores
Total	Rs. 41.35 crores

[English]

Regional Passport Office, Hyderabad

6671. SHRI M.G. REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of passport applications received and the number of passport issued by Regional Passport Office, Hyderabad during the last one year; and

(b) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the issue of passport by this office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) The number of Passport applications received by the Passport Office, Hyderabad during 1994-95 (from 1.4.94 to 31.3.95) was 124743 and the number of fresh passports issued during the same period was 132442.

(b) The Government has taken a number of steps for expeditious issue of passports such as upgradation of office facilities, review of systems and procedures, regular inspections and computerisation of passport office. The Passport Office, Hyderabad has also been computerised with effect from 25th April, 1995.

US-Pak Alliance

6672. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news item captioned "US looking at Pak as ally to fight terrorism" appearing in the 'Financial Express' dated March 24, 1995;

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

(c) whether any steps taken by the Indian Embassy in Washington or its lobbying firm in U.S. to place the correct roles of Pakistan in aiding and abetting terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(d) if so, the details is therefo?

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

(b) Government is aware of the statements made by members of the US Administration commending Pakistan's role as a leader in combatting the menace of Islamic extremism and terrorism. However, the

Government has constantly maintained and conveyed to friendly countries, including the US, that there is incontrovertible evidence of Pakistan's active involvement in promoting terrorism in India;

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Indian Embassy in Washington, with the assistance of the lobbying firm, have provided extensive and incontrovertible evidence to opinion makers in the US regarding the involvement of Pakistan in aiding and abetting terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of India. Visits to Jammu and Kashmir have been facilitated to enable members of Congress, the US media and other opinion makers to see the situation for themselves.

National Land Use Policy

6673. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to undertake some study in Sikkim to know the availability of cultivable land under National land use policy.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) to (c). Based on the information furnished by the Ministry of Agriculture, no study is proposed to be undertaken in Sikkim under National Land Use Policy with reference to availability of cultivable land. However, as per land use statistics collected and compiled in respect of Sikkim by the Dte. of Economics and Statistics under the Ministry of Agriculture, the cultivable area is 114 thousand hectares as per statistics of 1991-92.

Transportation of hazardous Chemicals

6674. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether special rules have been framed/proposed to be framed with regard to the transportation of hazardous chemicals and materials on all major national highways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). The transportation of chemical substances or hazardous material is governed by Rules 129 to 137 of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989, which were brought into force from 1st July, 1989 and slightly amended with effect from 26.3.93. These Rules are applicable to all vehicles carrying hazardous goods, irrespective of their area of operation.

HUDCO Loan to Housing Agencies in Maharashtra

6675. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the amount of loans being advanced by HUDCO to various housing agencies in Maharashtra has been declining every year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and the total amount sanctioned and released to various housing agencies by HUDCO in Maharashtra during the last two years;

(c) whether HUDCO propose to increase the amount of loan to various agencies in Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) and (b). There has been no decline in loan allocation and sanctions during the last two years of the housing projects in Maharashtra as seen from the following table :

(Rs. in Crores)			
Year	Amount of Loan allocation	Amount of Loan sanctioned	Amount Released
1993-94	79.96	51.17	50.35
1994-95	89.88	73.90	41.03

There has been some decline in loan releases during 1994-95 as compared to the figures for 1993-94. The question of release of funds for sanctioned projects is closely linked with demands for funds from housing agencies based on actual progress of works.

(c) and (d). HUDCO has since brought a change in the procedure of making minimum loan allocation. As per the changed the procedure only 50% of the available funds are allocated in the beginning of the financial years and the remaining 50% will be allocated on receipt of specific demands from the States. On this basis, the initial allocation for Maharashtra works out to Rs. 49.32 crores during 1995-96.

[English]

Prawn processing Industries

6676. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of prawn processing industries under public sector and private sector;

(b) the foreign exchange earned by the export of prawn during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide more incentives to the prawn processing sector so as to facilitate the setting up of new units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) The number of prawn processing industries under public sector and private sector is 4 and 357 respectively.

(b) The foreign exchange earned by the export of prawn during the last 3 years is given below :-

Year	Export	(Q : Quantity in M. Tonnes) (V : in Rs. Crores)
1992-93	Q : 74051 V : 1176.83	
1993-94	Q : 86541 V : 1770.73	
1994-95	Q : 101776 V : 2414.40	

(c) and (d). The subsidy schemes for extending financial assistance to new seafood processing units are given below :

1. Subsidy for automatic flake/ship/tube ice making machines.
2. Subsidy for refrigerated truck/container, trailer with prime mover and generating set.
3. Subsidy for generator set.
4. Subsidy for distribution of Insulated fish boxes.
5. Assistance to create infrastructural facilities for processing, preservation and marketing of fish.

Shortage of Drinking Water in Gujarat

6677. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the citizens of the Junagarh, Bhavnagar and Rajkot are facing severe shortage of drinking water;

(b) whether there is a proposal to bring Narmada river water to these cities for augmenting the supply of drinking water;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have cleared the proposal; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) Government of Gujarat has not reported about severe shortage of drinking water in Junagarh, Bhavnagar and Rajkot towns.

(b) and (c). Narmada river would provide drinking water to 135 urban centres. The District-wise details of these urban centres are as given below :

S.No.	Area	No. of Urban Centres
1.	Saurashtra region	90
2.	Kachchh	10
3.	Banaskantha	3
4.	Mehsana	13
5.	Sabarkantha	4
6.	Ahmedabad	12
7.	Panchmahal	3
Total		135

(d) and (e). No proposals have been recieved from the State Government in this regard.

Units Set up by NMDC

6678. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of units set up by National Mineral Development Corporation in the country as on March 31, 1995, State-wise;

(b) whether there are any pending proposals for setting up new units of NMDC; and

(c) if so, the States/places chosen for setting up new units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) The number of units set up by the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) State-wise in the country are as under :

State	Name of the Unit
Madhya Pradesh	1. Bailadila Iron Ore Project Deposit-14, Bastar district
	2. Bailadila Iron Ore Project Deposit-11C, Bastar district
	3. Bailadila Iron Ore Project Deposit-5, Bastar district
	4. Panna Diamond Mine, Panna district.
Karnataka	5. Donimalai Iron Ore Project, Bellary district.
	6. Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Project, Bellary district.
Rajasthan	7. Chawandia limestone mine, Nagaur district.

(b) and (c). Project identified by NMDC to be set up and their States/Places are as under :

1. Bailadila Iron Ore Deposit 11-B in Bastar district, Madhya Pradesh State.
2. Bailadila Iron Ore Deposit 10 and 11A in Bastar district, Madhya Pradesh State.
3. Arki limestone project in Solan District, Himachal Pradesh State.

[Translation]

National Waterways

6679. DR. P.R. GANGWAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop/declare new National Waterways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The following 3 waterways are proposed for declaration as National Waterways during the 8th Five Year Plan for their development for inland water transport :

- (1) The Sunderbans - the international steamer route between Sagar and Bangladesh Border (191 kms.)
- (2) The river Godavari - from Cherla to Rajahmundry (208 kms.) alongwith delta canals.
- (3) The Goa Waterways viz. river Mandovi (41 kms.), river Zuari (64 kms.) and Cumberzua Canal system (17 kms.).

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme

6680. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have proposed a substantial increase in the funds earmarked for the urban poverty alleviation programmes;

(b) if so, whether a new scheme for the urban poor of Class-II Towns in the country is proposed to be launched;

(c) if so, the salient features of the scheme;

(d) the total urban people likely to be covered under the scheme; and

(e) the proposed allocation of funds under this scheme to each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. This has been done to implement a new scheme for the urban poor of Class II towns in the country.

(c) The salient features of the scheme are

(i) Effective achievement of social sector goals, (ii) community empowerment, (iii) convergence through sustainable support system, (iv) improvement of hygiene and sanitation and (v) environmental improvement.

(d) About 10 million urban poor are proposed to be covered under the new Scheme by the end of the year 2000.

(e) A provision of Rs. 100 crores has been earmarked for the scheme for the current financial year as Central share for allocation to State Governments/ U.Ts.

Supply of F-16 Aircrafts to Pakistan

6681. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN :

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY :

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the recent reports regarding US proposal to supply F-16 Fighter aircrafts to Pakistan;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Government are aware of reports that the US Administration intends to seek flexibility from the US Congress on the Pressler Amendment. The US Administration is expected to present proposals to Congress in this regard, which could include the transfer of F-16 aircraft and other military equipment to Pakistan or return of the money already paid by Pakistan.

(b) and (c). Government have conveyed to the US Government that, although the Pressler Amendment was a bilateral issue between the US and Pakistan, the transfer of sophisticated and high performance weapons systems to Pakistan, including F-16 aircraft which are capable of delivering nuclear weapons, would adversely affect India's security. Government remain committed to take all steps necessary to ensure defence preparedness based on its assessment of the threats posed to India's national security.

Visit of US Under Secretary of State

6682. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether a delegation led by US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs have visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the subjects discussed by the delegation with Indian counterparts and the outcome thereof;

(d) whether any agreements have been reached between the two countries during the visit; and

(e) if so, the salient features thereof, agreement-wise?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Mr. Peter Tarnoff led a delegation of senior officials from the State Department to India for foreign policy consultations from April 3-4, 1995. The Indian side was led by Foreign Secretary. The talks were part of an on-going process of expanding and deepening relations between India and the US, initiated by Prime Minister and President Clinton when they decided in May 1994 to forge a new partnership between the two countries.

(c) Discussions covered regional integration, including the European security architecture. APEC, ASEAN, SAARC and the Indian Ocean Rim, multilateral issues such as UN reform and Security Council expansion, peacekeeping, UNGA issues and the NPT Review Conference, and regional issues such as the Middle East Peace Process, the Gulf, Central Asia, Afghanistan, East Asia, South East Asia and South Asia. It was agreed that such policy consultations would be a regular part of Indo-US interactions in the future.

(d) No agreements were signed between the two countries during the visit.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Vacant DDA Flats

6683. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of DDA flats lying vacant due to lack of basic amenities;

(b) the types and locations of these flats and since when the same are lying vacant;

(c) the extent of financial losses suffered by DDA so far as a result thereof; and

(d) the time by which the Government propose to provide the basic amenities in those flats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Rice Milling Regulation Act

6684. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ :

SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to repeal the Rice Millers Marketing Regulation Act, 1958;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the facilities to be extended as a consequence thereof, alongwith the training centres to be opened State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have also decided to rescind the jaggery control order; and

(d) if so, the effect thereof on the distillation of illicit liquor particularly in Andhra Pradesh where liquor is prohibited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) If and when the Rice Milling Industry (Regulation) Act, 1958 is repealed, anybody in the country would be free to carry out rice milling operations.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Gur Control Order has been rescinded w.e.f. 21.3.1995.

(d) No such study has been undertaken.

Water Supply to Ramagundam Thermal Power Project

6685. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether adequate water supply is not available to Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Station in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether water is being supplied from Sriramsagar Project in Andhra Pradesh to the above Project temporarily;

(d) if so, whether ryots are affected on account of diversion of water supply; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to ensure adequate water supply to Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL) :

(a) Adequate water is being supplied to Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Station (RSTPS) in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Water is supplied to the Power project from Pochampad Canal of Sriramsagar Project on a permanent basis.

(d) Provision has been made for supply of water to ryots.

(e) Government of Andhra Pradesh is ensuring adequate water supply to RSTPS on a permanent basis.

[Translation]

Life Span of Merchant Ships

6686. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH :

SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have rejected the request made by ship owners for giving relaxation in time for procurement of ships;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to reconsider the request made by ship owners;

(d) if so, the time by which decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(e) the average life span of the Indian merchant ships compared to that of foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (d). No, Sir. The Government has granted relaxation in age norms for acquisition of various types of second hand vessels by way of import in order to give further boost of shipping industry in the light of economic reforms and liberalisation process.

(e) The average age profile of Indian ships is 12.7 years as compared to the world average age of 17 years.

[English]

Hindustan Copper Limited

6687. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) suffered heavy losses during 1993-94;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to convert HCL into a commercially viable unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) suffered a net loss of Rs. 69.55 crores during 1993-94 mainly due to sharp decline in the international price of copper and sluggish market conditions, in addition to the inherent problems of poor grade of ore, limited known reserves in the country, low scale of operations, etc. To improve the viability of its operations the Company has implemented a number of cost cutting measures and has also drawn up a scheme for expansion of its smelter capacity at Khetri from the existing 31,000 tpa to 1,00,000 tpa using imported copper concentrate.

Baltic Freight Index

6688. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which Baltic freight index is computed; and

(b) its impact on the performance of the Indian shipping companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) The Baltic Freight Index is at present being computed daily on the following basis :

Route	Commodity	Weighting
1. US Gulf-N Cont	Grain	10%
2. Transatlantic Round	T/C	10%
3. US Gulf-Japan	Grain	10%
4. US Gulf-FE TC	Grain	10%
5. US N Pacific-Japan	Grain	10%
6. Transpacific Round	T/C	10%
7. H. Roads-R Bay-Japan	Coal	7.5%
8. H. Roads-Rotterdam	Coal	7.5%
9. Queensland-Rotterdam	Coal	7.5%
10. F East to NOPAC-Cont.	T/C	10%
11. Tubara-Rotterdam	Iron Ore	7.5%

(b) The current uptrend in the Baltic Freight Index is expected to benefit Indian shipping companies in the dry bulk sector which account for about 42% of the Indian fleet.

Assistance to Guntur Municipality in A.P.

6689. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any funds are proposed to be granted to Guntur Municipality in Andhra Pradesh in 1995-96 for undertaking sanitation and water supply schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have approached LIC and other funding agencies to provide funds for the development of Guntur as a model town; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) LIC and other funding agencies have not been approached by the Central Government to provide funds for the development of Guntur as a model town.

(d) Question does not arise.

Export of Steel Rails by Bhilai Steel Plant

6690. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of countries to which steel rails are exported by Bhilai Steel Plant;

(b) the number of rails exported during 1993-94 and 1994-95 and the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(c) the projected export figures of rails during 1995-96 by Bhilai Steel Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Presently Bhilai Steel Plant is not exporting steel rails.

(b) There has been no export of steel rails by Bhilai Steel Plant during 1993-94 and 1994-95.

(c) There is no plan for export of steel rails by Bhilai Steel Plant during 1995-96.

REC Loans to States

6691. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether REC has provided soft loans to States with maturity ranging from 15 to 30 years;

(b) if so, whether most of these loans have matured for repayment; and

(c) if so, the amount to be paid by each State and the amount received by REC so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the terms of the agreements of the various loans, after the expiry of the moratorium periods, repayment of the principal amount falls due every year in instalments.

(c) The amount to be paid by each State and the amount received so far, against the total loan advanced by the Rural Electrification Corporation as on 31.3.1995 (Provisional) is given in the Statement attached.

STATEMENT

Statement indicating the principal amount to be repaid by the borrowers; payments received by REC and outstanding upto 31st March, 1995 (Provisional).

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No. States	Repayment to be made by Borrowers	Repayment received upto 31.3.95	Amount due but not received as on (3-4)
1. Andhra Pradesh	18,547	18,450	97
2. Arunachal Pradesh	120	120	-
3. Assam	5,243	2,644	2,599
4. Bihar	18,883	8,495	10,388
5. Gujarat	9,375	9,375	-
6. Haryana	7,392	7,392	-
7. Himachal Pradesh	3,234	3,234	-
8. Jammu and Kashmir	2,792	2,688	104
9. Karnataka	11,186	11,186	-
10. Kerala	4,412	4,412	-
11. Madhya Pradesh	32,329	24,313	8,016
12. Maharashtra	23,674	23,674	-
13. Manipur	391	391	-
14. Meghalaya	1,752	1,293	459
15. Mizoram	32	32	-
16. Nagaland	778	778	-
17. Orissa	12,085	8,217	3,868
18. Punjab	12,367	12,367	-
19. Rajasthan	14,397	14,397	-
20. Sikkim	238	238	-
21. Tamilnadu	12,334	12,334	-
22. Tripura	878	878	-
23. Uttar Pradesh	27,629	11,353	16,276
24. West Bengal	12,767	7,200	5,567
Total	232,835	185,461	47,374

Production of Sponge Iron

6692. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have explored the potential of sponge iron production in the country.

(b) whether pilot projects producing Sponge Iron were set up; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the status of sponge iron India Limited in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (c). Sponge Iron is a partial substitute of steel melting scrap. Accordingly, Government has identified sponge iron as a thrust area. In order to promote production of sponge iron, Sponge Iron India Limited (SIIL) was set up in 1980 at Khammam, Andhra Pradesh as a demonstration plant, with UNDP/UNIDO assistance to establish the techno-economic feasibility of producing sponge iron from lump iron ore and 100% non coking coal. Furthermore, RDCIS Ranchi under SAIL had also commissioned a pilot plant with similar objectives in March 1982 which was in regular operation till April 1993.

SIIL went into regular operation in November, 1980 with a capacity of 30,000 tonnes/year. The capacity of this unit was expanded to 60,000 tonnes/year in October, 1985. The production of sponge iron at this plant during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 (prov.) was 49,110, 48,550 and 50,375 tonnes respectively. During 1994-95, SIIL incurred a net loss of Rs. 3.25 crores (provisional).

Directions to States for F.P.I.

6693. SHRI M.G. REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given directions to State Governments to declare the Food Processing Industries as priority sector; and

(b) if so, the names of States that have declared this industry as priority sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) and (b). During the meeting with the State representatives and Nodal Agencies, the States were advised to accord priority to the development of agro-food industries in their States. As per available information, almost all States have declared food processing industries as a thrust area.

National Fertilizers Limited

6694. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of expansion programme being undertaken by the National Fertilizers Limited recently; and

(b) the financial implications thereof and the total production envisaged after the expansion programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). M/s. National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) are presently

expanding the capacity of their Vijaipur (M.P.) plant to produce an additional 7.26 lakh MT of urea per year at an estimated capital cost of Rs. 987.30 crores. This project is expected to be commissioned by 01.01.1997.

The Board of Directors of National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL) also have, in principle, approved proposals to expand the capacity of their Panipat and Nangal plants at an estimated cost of about Rs. 1000 crores and Rs. 40 crores, respectively. On implementation, these projects would result in additional production of about 9 lakh tonnes of urea per annum.

Ramagundam Power Project

6695. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposals to expand Ramagundam power project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of financial assistance given so far to that project and the likely date of completion of the project; and

(d) the total capacity utilisation of Ramagundam NTPC plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has submitted a Feasibility Report for expansion of its existing Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Project (2100 MW) by addition of 1 unit of 500 MW under stage III. The Feasibility Report is under process in the Central Electricity Authority for techno-economic clearance. The estimated cost of the expansion project is about Rs. 1435.45 crores at 1st quarter, 1995 price level. The project is proposed to be financed through external commercial borrowings, domestic borrowings and internal resources of NTPC. The 500 MW unit under this project is scheduled for commissioning in 62 months from the date of investment approval.

(d) Capacity utilisation, i.e. Plant Load Factor (PLF), in case of Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Project (2100 MW), during the last four years has been as follows :

S.No.	Year	PLF (%)
1.	1991-92	61.12
2.	1992-93	67.32
3.	1993-94	79.33
4.	1994-95	78.80

The PLF during April, 1995 was 87.84%

Power Crisis in Eastern States

6696. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Eastern States in throes of power crisis" appearing in 'The Economic Times' dated April 28, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to eradicate the causes for power crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b). Out of 18 units of 200/210 MW in the Eastern Region, during the month of April-1995, 8 units of 200/210 MW were out for different durations due to various reasons. The details are given below :

WBSEB

Bandal Unit - 5 (210 MW) Out for 283 hours during April, 95 due to operational problems

BIHAR

Tenughat Vidyut Nigam
Unit-1 (210 MW) New Unit. Un-stabilised.

West Bengal Power Development Corporation (WBPDC)

Kolaghat Unit-2 (210 MW) Out for 432 hours during April, 1995 due to coal feeding system failure.

D.V.C.

Bokero Unit-6 (210 MW) during April, 1995
Out for 8 days/due to operational problems.

Bakaro Unit-7 (210 MW) Out for 27 days due to generator rotor damage.

Durgapur Unit-4 (210 MW) Out for 27 days due to generator rotor damage.

NTPC

Kehalgaoon Unit-2 (210 MW) Out w.e.f. 27.4.1995 due to operational problems.

Kehalgaoon Unit-3 (210 MW) New Unit; un-stabilised.

The power station at Kolaghat had restricted generation for short durations due to less coal supply during the month of April, 1995.

During the month of April'95 the power supply position in the Eastern Region was as per details given below :

	Power Supply Position Energy (MU NET)	April-1995 Peak (MW NET)	
Requirement	3560	Peak Demand	6990
Availability	3069	Peak met	5500
Shortage	491	Deficit	1490
%age shortage	13.8	%	21.3

(c) In order to bridge the gap between demand and availability of power various measures being taken to improve the availability of power in the country include expediting commissioning of new generating capacity, implementation of short gestation projects, improving the performance of existing power stations, adopting various demand management and energy conservation measures, arranging transfer of energy from surplus to deficit areas and promotion of private sector investment in power sector.

Transport Bottlenecks

6697. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether transport bottlenecks are being faced in the country in general and Southern States in particular;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to tide over them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c). Instances of overcrowding in the buses, congestion on roads and unsatisfactory conditions of roads cannot be ruled out which are the main factors of transport bottlenecks in general in this country as a whole. No details in this regard are available. However, the Government has initiated necessary action to remove such obstacles by way of private participation wherever possible in the field of transport and road construction.

Gouripore Thermal Power Project

6698. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Gouripore thermal power project near Calcutta is facing scrapping; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL) : (a) Government of West Bengal has intimated that there is no proposal to scrap Gouripore thermal power project.

(b) Does not arise.

ADB aid to Power Projects

6699. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Asian Development Bank (ADB) has been giving loans to India for setting up of power projects;

(b) if so, the details of power projects recommended for ADB loan during the last three years;

(c) the details of power projects out of them that have received ADB loan, during the period; and

(d) the amount of ADB loan received during those years State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

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

(c) and (d). 'Power Efficiency Project' of Power Finance Corporation was signed on 23.4.1992 for loan assistance of US\$ 250 Million with ADB. In addition to this, the following power projects in the State Sector are receiving assistance from ADB :

S. No.	Name of the Project	State	Sanctioned Laon amount	Disbursement till 31.3.1995 (Million US\$)
1.	North Madras Thermal Project	Tamil Nadu	150	109.5
2.	Rayalaseema Thermal Project	Andhra Pradesh	190	43.8
3.	Second North Madras Thermal Project	Tamil Nadu	200	101.3

Assistance to A.P. Power Projects

6700. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought any financial assistance from the Union Government for power projects;

(b) whether any financial assistance has been extended so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL) :

(a) to (c). the Central Government has been normally providing block Plan assistance to the States for their Plans according to formula approved by National Development Council. The assistance is not provided

for specific sectors/projects/schemes, unless specified and allocated under the criterion 'Special Problems' indicated by the States.

[Translation]

Housing Schemes in M.P.

6701. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted certain housing schemes to the Union Government for approval and financial assistance;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have approved all those schemes; and

(c) the amount of financial assistance to be given for each scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) and (b). The Union government had received a scheme for development of plots and housing for EWS in Bhopal, Indore, Raipur, Jabalpur and Gwalior (Rajbhogi Towns) seeking loan assistance of Rs. 109.50 crores.

This project for Rajbhogi Towns was returned to the Government of Madhya Pradesh in March, 1994 pointing out certain deficiencies and with the advice to recast the project profile to make the scheme viable and affordable to the intended beneficiaries.

(c) Question does not arise.

Vehicular Capacity of Roads in Delhi

6702. KUMARI UMA BHARTI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the vehicular capacity of the roads in Delhi;

(b) whether the number of vehicles plying on the roads in Delhi is more as against the capacity thereof;

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the action taken so far or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(d) the total number of all the type of vehicles in Delhi indicating the number of the vehicle being registered every-year; and

(e) the total number of such vehicles challaned during the last one year which were emitting more smoke than permissible limit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c). No such survey has been conducted by the Transport Department of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi to ascertain the vehicular capacity of roads in Delhi.

(d) The detailshare given in the Statement attached.

(e) During the year 1994, 8033 vehicles were challaned by the Transport Department of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. Earlier Delhi Traffic Police had prosecuted 10289 vehicles which were emitting visible smoke from 1-1-1994 to 30-8-1994 but now the Delhi Traffic Police is prosecuting such vehicles which are found without pollution check certificate and 2831 such vehicles have been prosecuted w.e.f. 1-9-1994 to 31-3-1995.

STATEMENT

Yearwise Registration of Vehicles in Union Territory of Delhi

S.No.	Year	Car/Van/ Zeep St. Wagon	Scooter/ Motor Cycle	Auto Rickshaw	Taxis	Buses	Goods vehicles	Total
1.	1982	10429	65913	2476	1161	2133	4651	86763
2.	1983	8215	58384	3643	514	1338	3870	75964
3.	1984	10722	72075	2333	226	1359	3593	90308
4.	1985	21869	76885	1982	170	457	8739	110102
5.	1986	28015	109352	9359	118	802	2935	150581
6.	1987	38946	121289	4833	147	746	9308	175269
7.	1988	37857	110790	6154	175	956	9244	165176
8.	1989	53053	104104	6061	328	1162	9156	173864
9.	1990	50849	108384	4246	604	1170	9510	174763
10.	1991	44133	102880	3822	400	1020	6974	159229
11.	1992	41066	87516	4145	786	2969	4413	140895
12.	1993	41433	85600	1594	467	1303	3829	134226
13.	1994	47301	113635	2840	548	1610	8150	174082

[English]

India-China Border Issue

6703. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether exiled tibetan leaders have recently warned India that it would stand to lose if it compromised on the issue of McMahon Line;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to resolve the issue by talks?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Government have seen media reports quoting some Tibetan refugees in India as saying that India stands to lose if it compromised on the McMahon Line.

(b) It is Government's view that the McMahon Line of 1914 formalised the natural, traditional and administrative boundary in the Eastern Sector of the India-China border areas. This position remains unchanged.

(c) India and China are committed to work towards a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question and this task has been entrusted to the India-China Joint Working Group.

Condition of Minorities in Pakistan

6704. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any protocol changes were made in regard to composition of Indian delegation to the recent meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission :

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian delegation drew attention of the Commission to the miserable condition of Muhajirs, and other minorities in Pakistan;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (e). An Indian delegation comprising senior Ministers, Members of Parliament, other non-officials and officials participated in the 51st session of the UN Commission of Human Rights held in Geneva from 31st January to 10th March 1995. List is enclosed.

Composition of Indian delegation participated in the 51th Session of U.N. Commission of Human Rights

1. Shri Gulam Nabi Azad (Minister of Civil Aviation)
2. Shri Salman Khurshid (The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs)
3. Shri Bhuvnesh Chaturvedi (The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office)
4. Shri I.K. Gujral, M.P.

5. Shri Inder Jeet, M.P.

6. Dr. Farooq Abdula

7. Shri Brijesh Mishra

8. Shri Natwar Singh

9. Prof. Khusró

10. Shri Satish Chandra, Standing Representative, Indian Mission, Geneva.

11. Smt. Savitri Kunadi, Joint Secretary (UNE) Ministry of External Affairs

12. Shri Dinkar Shrivastava, Director (UNP) Ministry of External Affairs.

13. Smt. Sujata Menta, Director Prime Minister's Office

Dr. Manmohan Singh, Finance Minister addressed the U.N. Commission of Human Rights as a Speaker.

During the session, the Indian delegation apprised the international community, of the true facts of the case in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the sponsorship and abetment of terrorism from across the border. The delegation also highlighted India's policy of promotion and protection of human rights, which is in sharp contrast with Pakistan's dismal record human rights, evident in its treatment of Muhajirs and other minorities in Pakistan.

[Translation]

DDA Flats/Plots to MPs

6705. SHRI SWAMI SURESHANAND : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether DDA have allotted flats or plots to the members of Parliament on priority basis during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the norms prescribed for such allotment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) to (c). The guidelines prescribed for out-of-turn allotment of DDA flats do not permit for making allotment on the sole ground that a person is a Member of Parliament. DDA has reported that during the last two years, 8 MPs/Ex-MPs have been allotted flats in accordance with the guidelines for out of turn allotment. No plot has, however, been allotted to any Member of Parliament on priority basis.

Inter-State DTC Fleet

6706. SHRI MANJAY LAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of DTC buses on Inter-State routes has been on the decrease;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Pak PM's Statement

6707. SHRI TARA SINGH :

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items captioned "Pak for multilateral forum on South Asia" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated April 10, 1995 and "Benazir launches diatribe over Kashmir" appearing in 'Statesman' dated April 10, 1995;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c). Government are aware of Pakistan's active and sustained efforts to agitate the J&K issue in the international fora and its motivated campaign directed against India to project a distorted picture of the security climate in the sub-continent owing to its differences with India over J&K with the intention to seek a third party intervention. Pakistani government at various levels including at the highest level has been involved in its propagandistic campaign over the J&K issue.

Government regard Pakistan's anti-India campaign and its efforts to internationalise the J&K issue to be a in contravention of the spirit of the Simla agreement. These negative actions of Pakistan vitiate the atmosphere of bilateral relations and run counter to universally accepted norms of inter-State relations. We are firmly committed to the resolution of all differences with Pakistan peacefully through bilateral negotiations within the framework of the Simla Agreement. There is no scope for any third country involvement. Government have and will continue to take all steps to apprise the international community of the true facts regarding situation in J&K.

US Pak Defence Relations

6708. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA :

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned Pakistan among top arms importers, as reported in the Statesman dated the April 10, 1995;

(b) whether the Government are also aware of high tech defence relations between the US and Pak; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in regard to its efforts made to reduce arms race in the subcontinent and to normalise its relations with Pak?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b). Government are aware of Pakistan's continued efforts to acquire sophisticated arms and equipment beyond its legitimate needs from various countries, including the US. However, in 1990, as a result of the Pressler Amendment, the US stopped supply of military equipment to Pakistan.

(c) Government are of the firm view that arms race exacerbates international tension and believe that the best way to halt and reduce arms race is through increased confidence building based on transparency and exchange of information. India has constantly pursued this approach in its relations with its neighbours, including Pakistan.

Government had *inter alia*, proposed a Confidence Building Package in May 1990, pursuant to which discussions on Confidence Building Measures have been held at seven rounds of Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan. As further demonstration of its commitment for reducing mistrust and enhancing confidence between the two countries, government proposed additional Confidence Building Measures to the Government of Pakistan in one of the six non-papers forwarded to Pakistan in January 1994.

Government are committed to resolving issues pertaining to bilateral relations with Pakistan peacefully and through a process of bilateral negotiations as stipulated under the Simla Agreement. Government have conveyed to Pakistan on several occasions and at all levels our readiness to enter into a comprehensive and meaningful dialogue on all outstanding issues.

MOUs submitted by Industrialists

6709. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether industrial entrepreneurs have submitted a large number of memoranda during Eighth Five Year Plan with enormous capital investment for setting up industries;

(b) if so, details thereof with potentials for jobs;

(c) the states where these industries are likely to be set up and the number of industries proposed for backward areas;

(d) whether these industries have become operational; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) and (b). Since the beginning of Eighth Five Year Plan, in April 1992, 1895 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda (IEMs) envisaging an investment of Rs. 27073 crores and employment of 285360 person have been filed upto March 1995.

(c) State-wise details are given in the Statement attached.

(d) and (e). As per available information, 403 units, out of the total IEMs filed so far, have reported commencement of commercial production. Normally, it takes 2-3 years for implementation of a project.

STATEMENT

State-wise Summary of IEM filed during 1992-93 to 1994-95.

S.No.	Name of the State	Total IEMs filed	IEM filed for Backward Areas
1.	Andhra Pradesh	136	55
2.	Assam	2	-
3.	Bihar	18	15
4.	Gujarat	136	59
5.	Haryana	174	26
6.	Himachal Pradesh	27	21
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	8	6
8.	Karnataka	60	29
9.	Kerala	24	11
10.	Madhya Pradesh	165	108
11.	Maharashtra	326	117
12.	Orissa	9	5
13.	Punjab	154	62
14.	Rajasthan	135	71
15.	Tamil Nadu	86	35
16.	Uttar Pradesh	318	139
17.	West Bengal	61	30
18.	Chandigarh	2	0
19.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	11	8
20.	Delhi	18	0
21.	Daman & Diu	7	2
22.	Pondicherry	12	7
23.	Goa	6	4
Total		1895	790

[Translation]

Fertiliser Subsidy

6710. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :

SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of fertilizer subsidy given by the Government during 1992-93, 1993-94 1994-95 year-wise;

(b) whether some claims for subsidy still remain pending with the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reasons for the delay in the clearance of claims;

(e) whether Government propose to extend fertilizer subsidies to producers of fertilizer mixtures; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Details of expenditure incurred on fertilizer subsidy (exclusive of special concession on decontrolled fertilizers) during the last three years are as under :

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1992-93	- 5796.11
1993-94	- 4398.97
1994-95	- 5241.00 (provisional)

(b) to (d). The subsidy claims, complete in all respects, are generally cleared within 60 days of their receipt from the manufacturers, subject to availability of budgetary allocations. Some amounts remain outstanding due to budgetary constraints, but the same are disbursed during the course of the next year. As on 31.3.1995, claims amounting to Rs. 930 crores for payment of subsidy received from manufacturers of fertilizers remained pending for payment. A large portion of these outstandings pertained to the revised retention prices for the Sixth Pricing Period which were notified in the last quarter of 1994-95. Steps will be taken to expedite clearance of claims henceforth.

(e) and (f). No such proposal is under consideration.

[English]

Problems of Indian Labourers Abroad

6711. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post of Labour Attache in Indian missions in the Middle East would be upgraded;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether more intensive and sensitive handling of problems of Indian labourers is needed in the Middle East;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to strengthen the Labour department in Indian missions abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b). Work relating to Indian nationals, including Indian labour is normally under the charge of the Consular Section of the Missions headed by Counsellor/First Secretary/ Second Secretary working under the personal supervision of the Head of Mission except in a few

countries where due to very large presence of Indian workers there is separate Labour Section headed by Counsellor/First Secretary/Second Secretary Labour. An upgradation in Consular Wing/Labour Wings where these exist, is presently not under consideration of the Government.

(c) to (e). The Indian Missions in the Middle East devote due and adequate attention, on a continuing basis, to problems that there are brought to their attention. Each of our Missions has designated an officer to interact with the Indian community. The Consular officers at our Missions abroad are accessible to the public at all times. Heads of Missions take personal interest in the problems of the Indian community, including Indian labour. Whenever any problem is brought to the attention of our Missions, the matter is taken up with the sponsor/employer and the local authorities for an amicable settlement.

Ganga Dam Project

6712. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention to the government has been drawn to the newsitem appeared in 'Dainik Jagaran' dated June 11, 1994, published from Kanpur (UP) regarding Ganga Dam Project;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government had asked the U.P. Government to submit the report on Ganga Dam Project;

(c) if so, whether the U.P. Government has since submitted the report;

(d) if so, the highlights of the report;

(e) whether Irrigation Research Centre Roorke's team has made on the spot study to the site to examine the soil; and

(f) if so, the details and findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) to (f). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Percentage of Oil in Pickle

6713. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any condition for mixing 10% oil in Pickle.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any memorandum from the association of Pickle Manufacturers of Kerala to remove this condition, and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) and (b). As per the specifications laid down under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, a minimum of 10% of oil is required to be maintained for Pickles in oil. However, as per the standards laid down under the Fruit Products Order, 1955 (FPO), presence of such percentage of oil is not specified.

(c) and (d). Pickle Manufacturers Association, Kerala and several other pickle manufacturers besides filing some cases in the various Courts have also made representation about the percentage of oil specified under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. An Expert Committee under FPO has examined the matter, and action for consideration of the recommendations of the above Expert Committee by the Central Committee for Food Standards constituted under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 has been initiated.

Allotment of Government Accommodation to State Government

6714. SHRI SHANKARRAO D. KALE : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria followed while allotting Government accommodation from general pool to respective States in Delhi;

(b) the State-wise break up of Government accommodation already allotted in Delhi till date;

(c) whether Government have received complaints from certain states that the fixed norms for allotment are not being followed strictly;

(d) if so, the details and reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Union Government to ensure that respective states are allotted accommodation as per rule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) Allotment to employees of State Governments/Union Territories posted in Delhi is made from General Pool on the specific recommendation of the Resident Commissioner of the concerned State subject to a limit of 5 units to each State Government and 2 units in respect of each Union Territory. Existing allotment made already to various State Government/Union Territory was allowed to continue subject to the condition that additional units in excess of the above limit in their possession will revert to General Pool on vacation.

(b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d). No specific complaint has been received.

(e) Accommodations are allotted to State Governments as per extant rules/guidelines.

STATEMENT

Details of Units Placed at the Disposal of various State Governments/Union Territories.

S.No.	State/UTs.	Units
1.	ASSAM	07
2.	ANDHRA PRADESH	08
3.	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	06
4.	BIHAR	16
5.	GUJARAT	05
6.	GOA	05
7.	HARYANA	05
8.	HIMACHAL PRADESH	03
9.	J & K	07
10.	KARNATAKA	04
11.	KERALA	07
12.	MADHYA PRADESH	06
13.	MAHARASHTRA	06
14.	MANIPUR	05
15.	MEGHALAYA	04
16.	MIZORAM	05
17.	NAGALAND	02
18.	ORISSA	10
19.	PUNJAB	06
20.	RAJASTHAN	04
21.	SIKKIM	08
22.	TAMIL NADU	04
23.	TRIPURA	07
24.	UTTAR PRADESH	09
25.	WEST BENGAL	11
26.	A & N ISLANDS	13
27.	D & N HAVELI, DAMAN & DIU	03
28.	LAKSHDWEET	04
29.	PONDICHERRY	07
30.	CHANDIGARH	02

Decline in Fertilizer Production

6715. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a constant decline in the indigenous production of fertilizers during the last four years;

(b) if so, the quantity of fertilizers produced, as against the targets set, during the last four years, year-wise and

(c) the reasons for the fertilizers production being less than the targets set ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). The quantity of fertilizers produced as against the target set during the last four years are given below :

('000 MT)			
Year	Fertilizer Nutrients	Target	Actual
1991-92	Nitrogen	7350.0	7301.3
	Phosphate	2650.0	2562.1
1992-93	Nitrogen	7700.0	7430.3
	Phosphate	2750.0	2306.2
1993-94	Nitrogen	7800.0	7231.2
	Phosphate	2200.0	1815.8
1994-95	Nitrogen	8115.0	7945.4
	Phosphate	2331.0	2492.8

(c) Till 1991-92, there had been a gradual and steady increase in the production of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers over the years. As a matter of fact, the production of nitrogen (73.01 lakh tonnes) and phosphate (25.62 lakh tonnes) in that year was an all time record till that time.

In August, 1992, based on the recommendations of the JPC on Fertilizer Pricing, all phosphatic fertilizers were removed from the price and movement controls. Part of the nitrogen production comes from the phosphatic fertilizers like DAP and complexes. As a result of decontrol, the prices of phosphatic fertilizers in the open market went up sharply; this led to decline in consumption and ultimately the production. The shortfall in nitrogen production in 1992-93 was partly due to reduced availability of this nutrient from reduced production of DAP and complexes and partly due to poor performance of the two sick PSUs namely, Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI), coupled with equipment problems in some other units.

The reasons for shortfall in production in 1993-94 were the same as a 1992-93. In fact, a number of DAP and complex fertilizer units suspended production because of the reduced demand and stiff competition from the imported DAP which was available at much cheaper rates.

Things started looking up in 1994-95. There was only a 2% shortfall in production of nitrogen mainly due

to problems in the availability of natural gas and low production in the sick units of HFC and FCI. In spite of this, there was a growth of 9.9% in the production of nitrogen compared to 1993-94. The target of phosphate was over achieved with a growth of about 37%.

12.04 hrs.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for breach of privilege against Shri Tytler and the Home Minister, Shri S.B. Chavan.

MR. SPEAKER : Let me go through it. Let me hear their point of view also. then, we will decide.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, almost every year during the months of May and June, cases of fire are reported from many parts of the country and Delhi, the capital of the country seems to be worst affected.

There was a massive fire incident in Seemapuri yesterday in which large number of jhuggies were gutted and one woman and eight children died. It was a very tragic accident. Of Course the government will give relief of Rs. 10-12 thousands but the question is why such accidents take place, particularly in Delhi, the capital of the country? Why precautionary measures are not taken to prevent such tragic accidents? I am raising this matter in order to know through you, Sir, as to whether the Central Government will make a statement about the preventive measures to be taken by the Central as well as the Delhi Government to ensure that such accidents do not recur during the remaining 2-3 months of the summer season? The Government has started relief work. We want to know the steps proposed to be taken by Government to check such accidents in future ? I want an assurance through you that the Government will make a statement and take this matter seriously.

MR. SPEAKER : If I say something on your insistence then, it will become very difficult. Please leave this to me.

SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM (East Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the population of East Delhi is about 36 lakh and people from every walks of life are living there. There have been nine cases of murder, 4 cases of rape and 4 cases of looting during the last 1½ months. I can give date-wise details in a minute.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not raise such matters. The fire incidents are being discussed.

SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM : If it is about fire incident then New Seemapuri falls in my constituency.

MR. SPEAKER : That is why you have been given the opportunity to speak.

SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM : I have visited the place of accident. I reached there after 2 hours of the happening. About 50 jhugies have been reduced to ashes and in all 9 persons were burnt in the fire. There were one woman and eight children among them. I agree with the hon. Member, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan that some permanent steps should be taken in Delhi to ensure that the poor people do not have to face such fire accidents. These people should be rehabilitated on a permanent basis. A judicial inquiry should be ordered into this accident and compensation paid to the victims.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, nine persons including one woman and eight children have died in this fire accident in Seemapuri. It has been reported in the newspapers that the Chief Minister of Delhi has made an announcement of paying Rs. 10,000/- each to the parents of the children and Rs. 20,000/- to the dependent of the woman killed in this accident. There has been discrimination in this because the dependents of the deceased woman will be given Rs. 20,000/- whereas Rs. 10,000/- will be given for the children died. It is not proper as the children are the future of the country. Their deaths cannot be compensated but the amount of money proposed to be given, is very less.

Such type of incidents are very common in jhugijhopri areas of Delhi. Sometimes, these people suffer from cholera by drinking contaminated water from the pipes. Fire accidents which geneally take place at 2,4,5,6 places every year as a result of which thousands of people are affected. One of the causes for such accidents is that they are not supplied electricity and they take it from the poles and from other means. Government should see to it that they are supplied at least the basic amenities such as electricity and drinking water. If the Government is not in position to provide them pucca houses and other facilities, at least electricity and drinking water should be supplied to them. If the Government would have provided them the electricity, they would not have taken electricity in an illegal way which caused this fire. But the most basic question which needs consideration is that the number of slums and slum dwellers are continuously increasing. It has assumed a national problem. The people from the rural areas are migrating to the urban areas in search of employment which causes inconvenience to the people living in urban areas. Government should ponder over this problem and formulate a scheme.

People are migrating from rural areas in search of employment are forced to live in jhuggies. As many as 10 persons are living in a jhugi which is meant for only two persons.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to urge upon the Government to provide adequate amount of compensation to the

people affected by this accident and take suitable steps to ensure that such incidents do not take place in other areas in future.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think, every year, something of this nature appears to be happening. This is within the jurisdiction of the Delhi Government and probably Delhi Government has given assistance to the families who have lost their near and dear ones.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : There has been an increase in the Budget allocations. They have been provided Rs. 500 crore for resettlement of jhuggi-jhonpries, provision of electricity and water to them and sanitation facilities. So, I think, Delhi Government might have done something under that.

MR. SPEAKER : Firstly, this House would like to know whom the land belongs to. It is because that will give us the clue as to why the fire had occurred.

Secondly, what is it that we are doing to stop the incidents of this nature?

And thirdly - of course, the Government has given assistance to the people who have suffered - we would like to know whether steps were taken to extinguish the fire in time or not. I do not think that Parliament can just be a spectator when this kind of things are happening in this part of the country every year. I hope that this information will be collected from the concerned authorities or the Government and will be supplied to Parliament.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : We will write to the Chief Minister to furnish the required data and measures that are being taken to prevent such things in future.

MR. SPEAKER : Writing will not be sufficient. We want information.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : We will try to extract it.

[Translation]

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD (Salempur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, about 200 poor persons have been earning their livelihood by running pan and tea stalls and restaurants on the railway land at Deoria Railway station in Uttar Pradesh for the last 50 years. During the year 1993, the Railway officers got demolished some of the shops when these poor persons failed to pay the money demanded by the Railway Authorities. When I visited Deoria and came to know about it, I wrote to the Railway Department and when the matter was examined, it was found that all the shops were allotted to them and these shops were constructed there with the permission of Railway Department. When this matter was still being examined, the Railway officers got the allotment of these shops cancelled through the divisional Officer, Varanasi

on 12th January, 1995 and chalked out a programme for the eviction of these shopkeepers from the shops. The shopkeepers approached the Court of Deoria and got a stay order on 7th February, 1995. Despite the stay order they have chalked out a plan for demolition drive on 27th May.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I urge upon the Ministry of Railways that the unemployed shopkeepers, who have got the stay order from the Court should not be evicted from their shops and those should not be demolished.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, I am getting a lot of letters from physically handicapped and mentally retarded persons that after the death of their parents there is no one to look after the interests of these persons. The Government have got so many schemes such as old-age pension scheme and freedom fighters scheme. But there is no such scheme for handicapped persons either with the Central Government or with the State Government. May I request the Government through you to give some allowance or start some schemes for this type of people so that after the death of their parents, they are not allowed to go round begging and not allowed to be purchased by other people. I hope the Chair will instruct the Government to do something for them.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, there is a lot of discontentment among the industrial workers as their three genuine demands are yet to be fulfilled. Their first demand relates to increase in the ceiling for payment of bonus. The present ceiling for payment of bonus is Rs. 2,500. After the revision of pay scales almost every industrial worker in the public sector is getting more than Rs. 2,500 per month. With the result 95 per cent of the employees have lost their entitlement to get bonus. Therefore, this needs to be revised upwards. The second demand relates to introduction of slabs in the Dearness Allowance system. This had been agreed to by the hon. Minister of Labour but this has not been given effect to. It is, therefore, needs to be implemented as early as possible. Their third demand relates to pension-for-all scheme. The Government have taken a decision to give pension to all the industrial workers regardless of their contribution to the Provident Fund.

A Bill is also pending in this regard. This has got to be expedited. On this score discontentment among the industrial workers is mounting up. I am afraid that various Central Unions are also giving notices for strikes in the industries. Therefore, I would request the Government of India through you that immediate action be taken without any loss of time. There is some pendency because of some examination of this by the Finance Ministry also. So the Labour Ministry and the Finance Ministry should sort it out as early as possible.

MR. SPEAKER : Let them not fight here on the floor of the House and you also do not instigate them to fight between themselves. It is no good your saying that this Ministry should go to that Ministry and things like that.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I am requesting them to sort it out. I did not mean that.

MR. SPEAKER : This is against the parliamentary practices any Member asking one Ministry to go to the other Ministry and to do something.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I have asked them to sort it out, Sir,

MR. SPEAKER : No, this is not all. As a whole, they are responsible to the House.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Anyway, Sir, I request the Government as a whole to consider this.

MR. SPEAKER : Let not the Members instigate one Ministry against the other.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : This is the reply we are getting from the Minister on the floor of the House, that this has been referred to the Finance Ministry and like that. That is why I am making a reference otherwise I need not make a reference.

MR. SPEAKER : No, that is not correct. Your asking them to go to some other Ministry is also not correct.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Anyway, Sir I request that the Government as a whole should address itself to this problem.

MR. SPEAKER : You have made your point, please.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of External Affairs is sitting here. I would like to raise a very important matter here. About 5 lakh N.R.I.s are living in Saudi Arabia who remit huge sums of foreign exchange to India. The schools being run through the Indian Embassy are being closed by the Government of that country as a result of which 30,000 Indian children who study in those schools are facing great difficulty. The school in Riyadh has been closed down. According to the latest reports, notices for closing down of other schools have also been issued. I request the hon. Minister to make every possible effort to keep these schools running and if there is a need to talk to the Government of that country, please do it so that the study of the children is not affected. If it is not done the parents of those children will lose their jobs due to their children. When they will come back to India they will have face a lot of difficulties.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Would you like to respond?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : I will collect the requisite information and apprise the House about it.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Bombay South Central) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday we have come to know from the newspapers that five ISI spies have been arrested in Kashmir. During the discussion on the Charar-e-Sharief, it was stated that Pakistan is making allegations against India. According to BBC news, Pakistan is alleging that Indian have set fire to the Charar-e-Sharief. I would like to urge upon the Government as to whether we can not interrogate those five people who have been arrested to know the truth? We should expose the designs of Pakistan. Our lobby is becoming very weak. Intervening in the discussion on the burning of Charar-e-sharief, the Minister had stated in the House that the agents of ISI set fire to the Dargah. But how we are being implicated and it is being alleged that Indians set fire to the Dargah. Government should take steps to counteract this propaganda and expose the activities of ISI in regard to Bomb blasts in Bombay.

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already drawn your and the House's attention to the misbehaviour meted out to a BJP women M.L.A. in Bihar some days ago. It is very unfortunate that the incidents of misbehaviour with women are increasing in the country day by day. It has become an order of the day particularly in Uttar Pradesh.

In an unfortunate incident, a Dalit Women leader was kidnapped by a Samajwadi Party legislator and by his goondas. The new facts which have come to lights about this kidnapping indicate that she was kept at the official residence of a Minister of the Samajwadi Party for more than three day i.e. for 80 hours. In the meantime, an F.I.R. was lodged in which a Samajwadi Party M.L.A. was named but even then, he was not arrested. When no action was taken, a dharna and demonstration on behalf of all the political parties were held, only then the woman was freed. She divulged the name of that Minister in a press conference. If you allow me, I can give the name, he is the Forest Minister there...

MR. SPEAKER : Facts are not known to us in such cases, who is responsible in that case of Dalit woman and what is against her; we cannot say anything in that case upto when the facts does not come before us.

PROF. RITA VERMA : But I want to raise that matter through you, Sir, Rather I would request that Government should make a statement on it today itself. Though the women does not belong to our party but BJP do not politicise the issues relating to the honour of women...

MR. SPEAKER : A discussion on atrocities on women has been fixed for 25th May, 1995.

PROF. RITA VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would take one minute only. She was misbehaved. Her saree was torn. She was elected to the village Panchayat. She was kidnapped at gun point from the headquarters of CPI in order to prevent her from taking part in the

election to the post of sarpanch. The Samajwadi Party M.L.A. brought goondas in the jeep and she was kidnapped at gun point. You can understand how the honour of the women is safe there? She was kept at the official residence of the Minister and she herself given statement that she was misbehaved...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not go into the details. You also might not be knowing them. That is all right now.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : After that incident she was offered a sum of Rs. 2000/- by saying that the money was being given us compensation as her saree was torn. Have we stooped so low that we value the honour of women on terms of money.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the most unfortunate part of it is that this incident has happened in Lucknow which is my constituency. You can imagine the feelings of a person who is the representative from that area.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I can understand that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : That is a reflection on the Member of Parliament from Lucknow...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request that the Home Minister may be directed to apprise the House about the facts of this case without any further delay. That Minister should be dismissed and the Minister and the M.L.A. should be arrested.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the International Relations Committee of the American Congress has passed two resolutions. One is a punishment to India and the other is a reward to Pakistan. According to one resolution, it has been stated that the economic assistance being given to India under an agreement will be discontinued and in the second resolution, it has been said that the aid discontinued to Pakistan under the Pressler law will be resumed. The ruling party supposed and the Democratic party opposed it. We should thank the Democratic party for opposing those resolutions. We should not succumb to American pressure like this and in order to save our country the Government should not fall into American trap.

[English]

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS (Mysore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Karnataka-Maharashtra boundary

dispute has not been solved for several years. Though the Mahajan Commission has given its Report quite some time back, it has not been implemented so far. The border areas in both the States have not been developed and remained backward due to uncertainty. There has been tension prevailing in both the States due to public utterances. This is a matter of urgency. I would like to request the Government, through you, to see that this problem is solved so that both the States can come to the rescue of their respective area development programmes.

[Translation]

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH (Buxar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, every state is being supplied wheat, rice, Kerosene oil and coal for the Public Distribution System by Union Government of India but with great regret I have to state that the State of Bihar is not getting these things according to its needs. The position is that the quantity of coal being supplied to it in 1995 is less than that supplied some two years back whereas all the coal mines are in Bihar and the coal price is Rs. 80/- per tonne I would urge upon the Government of India to not only increase the quantity of coal supplied to Bihar, but the wheat, rice and kerosene oil also. 'Arwa' rice is not consumed in the tribal areas but it is only this rice which is being supplied through PDS. I urge upon the Central Government to ensure that adequate quantity of wheat, rice, kerosene oil and coal is supplied to Bihar for distribution through PDS. If this is not done, I fear that every state can become Kashmir. So, these commodities should be supplied in adequate quantity in the interest of maintaining peace there.

[English]

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA (Silchar) : Sir, goods are being exported from India to Bangladesh. As per the information of the External Affairs Ministry, goods like cement, stoned chips, steel billets, electric poles, white cements etc. are being exported. For exporting the goods from India, the communication system is not at all good, particularly in the North-East, 300 truck-loads of goods are being exported to Bangladesh. But there is no road. One road is there from Karimganj to Sutarkandi up to the border of Bangladesh.

This is under the State Government. The condition of the road is so bad that the trucks cannot move.

So, I demand that this road - considering it as a border road - should be constructed by the Ministry of Surface Transport at the earliest.

Secondly, from Calcutta to Narayanganj there is a regular steamer service. However, from North-East, there is not such steamer service existing at present. Earlier, from Karimganj to Bangladesh, the steamer service was regular. Now, this has been stopped.

So, I request that a steamer service from Silchar covering Badarpurghat and Karimganj upto Narayanganj

should be started, so that exporters can send their goods in an easier manner and at a low export cost. This is to be done in the interests of the exporters of our country, so that they can send their goods to Bangladesh.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as my friend, Shri Bhatiaji is sitting here, I want to raise a very important issue. I want to thank the Government of India for not succumbing to the pressure on the question of signing NPT.

[English]

Mr. Carlton Stoiber, Director of NRC's International Relations, said it was going to be difficult for the US to cooperate with India on nuclear safety after the New York conference this month.

Mr. Stoiber said and I quote :

"India could end up running unsafe reactors and its nuclear power programme might collapse by remaining isolated from the majority of nations that voted for NPT's extension."

India and the United States have for the last two years been cooperating on matters concerning the safety of nuclear power plants."

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise this issue because we could not get an opportunity to have a discussion on the budget of Ministry of External Affairs here. I want to tell Shri Bhatia that such threat amounts to a challenge to our sovereignty. The Minister of External Affairs is in USA for a visit. They have threatened that they will stop transfer the nuclear safety technology to us. I would like that Shri Bhatia should respond to it and tell the House that what the Government propose to do in this regard?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Syed Shahabuddin to speak now.

I think this matter was raised once.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : No, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the disturbances in Bhagalpur in 1989 were unprecedented in the history of independent India which caused a great concern in the country. The issue was discussed in Parliament also and the Central Government decided to provide relief to the victims. A Commission of enquiry was also set up. The Commission has submitted its final report in March this year after a period of 4½ years to the Government of Bihar, but no action has been taken on it so far. I want to remind the House that we are all concerned and want action on it

as early as possible. The report of the Enquiry Commission on Jameshedpur riots of 1989 was discussed in Parliament. This report should also be discussed. The people of the country have the right to know as to what and when Government propose to take action on this report.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now Papers to be laid on the Table.

12.35 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notification under Essential Commodities Act, 1995

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table : a copy of the Fertiliser (Movement Control) Amendment Order, 1995 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 383(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 1995, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1995.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7660/95]

Notification under Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 458 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958:
 - (i) The Merchant Shipping (Continuous Discharge Certificate) Amendment Rules, 1995 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 270(E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd February, 1995.
 - (ii) The Merchant Shipping (Continuous Discharge Certificate) for the Amendment Rules, 1995 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 270(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th March, 1995.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7661/95]

- (2) A copy of the Third Supplementary Agreement (Hindi and English versions) entered into between the President of India and the Governor of Orissa to partially amend and/or modify the Principal Agreement dated the 20th July, 1961 regarding Maintenance and Development of

Urban Links of National Highways in Orissa, under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7662/95]

Report of Comptroller and Auditor General of India Union Government (No. 13 of 1995)-(Commercial)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table : a copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India - Union Government (No. 13 of 1995) - (Commercial) - Modern Food Industries (India) Limited under article 151(1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7663/95]

Notification under Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims) Act, 1985

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Eduardo Falerio, I beg to lay on the Table : a copy of the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Registration and Processing of Claims) Amendment Scheme, 1995 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 330(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 1995, under sub-section (3) of section 9 of the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims) Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7664/95]

Annual Report and Review on the working of and Annual Accounts of National Federation of Industrial Cooperatives, New Delhi for 1993-94

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- 1 (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Industrial Cooperatives Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of Industrial Cooperatives Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94.
- (iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Industrial Cooperatives Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94, together with Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7665/95]

12.36 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

(i) Need to Set up an L.P.G. Outlet at Sihora Town, District Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL (Jabalpur) : Sir, the rural people of Sihora Tehsil of Jabalpur district suffer a great deal for want of a liquified petroleum gas agency in the area. In the present era of development, when we are marching into the 21st century, when for fear of over-exploitation of the woods and denudation of forest cover, even the rural people can no longer depend on forest-fuel, the people of Sihora have to carry gas cylinders for over forty-five kilometres, either from Jabalpur or Katni. Besides the fact that it is illegal to carry the gas cylinders by private means, it is equally dangerous.

Sihora is one of the biggest Tehsils of Jabalpur and Sihora Tehsil town, with its rural surroundings, comprises a population of around 0.5 lakh and has its own history. The people of Sihora had actively participated in the Freedom struggle on the clarion call of the Father of the Nation - Mahatma Gandhi. Their main occupation is agriculture.

It would, therefore, be proper to provide an LPG distribution outlet in Sihora town to cater to the pressing needs of the people there. I urge upon the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas to ensure that an LPG dealership is provided for Sihora town at the earliest.

(ii) Need to Widen Trivandrum - Kanyakumari National Highway

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil) : Sir, Trivandrum-Kanyakumari National Highway is one of the busiest roads in the country. Due to heavy passenger and vehicular traffic, there is continuous congestion and frequent blockages in the road, causing long delay in covering even short distances and thus causing much inconvenience to passengers. The width of the road remains narrow for long, which is too inadequate to meet the increasing traffic. The delay to widen the road result in accidents. Moreover, inadequate maintenance and upkeep of the National Highway in Kanyakumari district is causing concern to passengers.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps for widening and maintaining the road at the earliest.

(iii) Need to arrange Regular Supply of LPG To Pauri Garhwal and Chamoli Districts, U.P.

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been a great shortage of L.P.G. cooking gas in the Garhwal

division in Uttanchal for the last two months. The supply of L.P.G. cooking gas distribution in the Pauri Garhwal and Chamoli districts has totally been stopped. Neither wood or kerosene oil nor electricity is available there. Moreover, the inhabitants have to depend on only L.P.G. cooking gas as there is a ban on felling of trees. The people are facing a great difficulty due to delayed distribution of L.P.G. cooking gas there.

I urge upon the Minister of Petroleum to ensure timely supply of cooking gas in Pauri Garhwal and Chamoli districts.

[English]

(iv) Need to Connect Suburban Areas around Madras with Direct Dialing System

SHRI S.S.R. RAJENDRA KUMAR (Chengalpattu) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Chengalpattu constituency in Tamil Nadu is bordering the city of Madras. Madras city is a fast expanding metropolitan city and hence its limits are being extended into the district of Chengalpattu. Most of the new settlement areas along with new business centres, factories, educational institutions etc. are now set up in the suburban areas. Much development has taken place between Madras city and Chengalpattu town. Many people who felt inconvenience in residing in already-congested Madras city limits have shifted their residence to the suburban areas which is about 50 kilometres away from the Madras city centre.

The Madras telephone exchange and the Chengalpattu exchange lines are connected in the same place in most of the suburban areas. For example, a village namely Mambakkam, is connected with the Chengalpattu exchange where a call is connected to Madras city only by S.T.D. facility and the same village is also connected with the Madras telephone exchange where the same call is connected to Madras city by local dialling without using S.T.D.

I request the Minister of Communications to take necessary action to convert all the suburban areas around Madras city within 50 kilometres for providing direct dialling facility by connecting them to Madras exchange.

(v) Need to Provide better Air Services to Arunachal Pradesh

SHRI LAETA UMBREY (Arunachal East) : Sir, Arunachal Pradesh, the land of rising sun with one of the richest natural resources, remains the most backward State of the country. The State with international border on three sides with Myanmar, China and Bhutan, is yet to be linked to the mainland by air. Few small landing strips constructed for Vayudoot services are abandoned. The State capital, Itanagar has not even a small air strip. The entire population of the State, including Itanagar, have to travel all along to

Assam to catch a flight. The inevitable enroute in the trouble-torn Assam is a hurdle in the fast-developing tourism industry of the State. Even the roads to all the districts of the State are linked by Assam in different entry points and are not reliable due to its poor maintenance and also due to law and order problems.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to construct airfields at Itanagar and at Roing in Dibang Valley district. Existing small airfields of Ziro, Daporij, Machuka, Along, Tuting, Pasighat, Anini and Tezu should be upgraded for landing Boeing aircraft at the earliest to avoid travel through Assam and to boost tourism development in the State.

(vi) Need to Strictly Enforce the Provision of Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act

SHRI K.T. VANDAYAR (Thanjavur) : Sir, cows, buffaloes, oxen are transported from villages to slaughter centres from one province to another. In the movement of the cattle being taken by road for five or six days continuously, they are starved of fodder and water. Many of them collapse during the journey.

In order to put an end to this cruelty, the Government of India in the Department of Animal Husbandry should issue direction to all the concerned authorities that animals should not be transported from one province to another without providing basic necessities, for slaughter purpose, especially when it violates the provisions of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. The Government should formulate a scheme by associating Animal Welfare Board thereby putting an end to this cruelty so that the cattle, if required, hygienically slain and the frozen beef be transported from one province to another for a civilised dining. The S.P.C.A. can also be instructed to enforce this instruction along with the voluntary agencies so that besmirching slaughter is put an end to.

(vii) Need for Early Construction of Gas Turbine at Banskandi and Adamtilla, Assam

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA (Silchar) : Sir, foundation stones were laid by the Chief Minister of Assam for two Gas Turbine projects, one at Banskandi in the district of Cachar and the other at Adamtilla in the district of Karimganj in the month of April, 1995. As per information, a total quantity of about 25 MW electricity will be generated out of the two. But the people of the Barak Valley are still in suspense whether the construction work will be started soon or not. The M.O.U. was signed with a company of Delhi. But this company is still hesitant to start the work of construction as they have not got clearance from the O.N.G.C., whether they will continue to supply gas for 20 years as per the company's demand. It is learnt that this has not yet been finalised. This is unfortunate that foundation stones are laid but actual works are not started in many cases.

I urge upon the Central Government to remove all obstacles in the way of construction of gas turbines in consideration of the extreme scarcity of electricity in the Barak Valley of Assam and pave the way for immediate starting of construction.

12.47 hrs.

FINANCE BILL 1995 — Contd.

MR. SPEAKER : Let us take up the legislative business. Mr. Handique will speak now.

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE (Jorhat) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Finance Bill presented by the hon. Finance Minister, Dr. Singh. At the outset, I welcome the further concessions in direct and indirect taxes which the hon. Finance Minister announced while presenting the Finance Bill.

Sir, I will specially refer to his decision to further extend the five years tax holiday scheme for the development of transport enabling the entrepreneurs to avail themselves of the scheme within the first 12 years of operation. The present state of transport infrastructure in the country leaves it very badly in need of massive improvement. And the high employment potential of these investments, however, requires Government's appropriate incentives to materialise. However, Sir, there are certain points in respect of tax holiday, that merit addressing. This concession under Section 81 (a) of Income Tax Act as proposed in the Finance Bill particularly to large industries which invest in backward States and districts is expected to lead to regional development. This concession is, however, available to enterprises which build, maintain and operate infrastructural facilities for highways, expressways, new bridges, ports and rapid mass transport system. In the context of poor development of the North Eastern region where there is not infrastructure at all, these five years will just fly off while the infrastructure attains completion and before the proposed industry takes off. That is why, there were practically no takes for five years tax holiday in the North Eastern region when it was announced in 1993 and we, from the North Eastern region, have been repeatedly demanding it to be raised to 10 years tax holiday so that this backward region can attract investment.

Besides, Sir, in the North Eastern region air service specifically needs to be included in the infrastructure development. In view of drastic reductions of Indian Airlines flights in all sectors, proposed closure in some sectors, refusal of private airlines to operate in not so profitable routes and in spite of the fact that on this very condition these private airliners were given the trunk and profitable routes, a near paralysis situation has arisen in the air service sector of the region, which is not easily accessible. I urge the hon. Minister's attention on this point.

Sir, what is noteworthy about the indirect tax is, the concessions proposed by the hon. Finance Minister would all contribute further to liberalisation and greater competitiveness in the economy. Sir, detying all speculations and soothsaying of political pundits, and more precisely, their wishful thinking, the fifth budget of 1995-96 trots along the chartered course it took off in 1991. If you analyse, as in the last four budgets, the programme of reform is not only sustained, but is acquires a distinct dimension in this budget.

It is not a new dimension but a more pronounced one with special accent on the ultimate purpose of reforms, i.e., poverty alleviation. The major assault on poverty which the Budget launches makes the critics run away with the impression that this Budget is populist and election-oriented. Their logic, it appears, is that the cause of the poor needs to be put in cold-storage in the election year. Rather, it is the pragmatic approach of the Finance Minister to re-emphasise this element in the more pronounced manner. We have to be cautious on one point: that the road to reforms may not always be comfortable. In the transitional stage it may even hurt the most vulnerable. So, the poor who are targeted to be the ultimate beneficiaries of the reforms need to be cushioned till we attain our objective. Thus the Budget attempts to give a humane face to economic reforms and the Finance Minister unfolds a series of measures for social justice and poverty alleviation. Allocations for rural development, employment and poverty alleviation have been raised to Rs. 7,700 crore. We need to keep in mind that in the course of the four Budgets, if we analyse the strategy broad-based growth for macro economic reform has clicked. His first emphasis was on transfer of resources to the agricultural sector. So, there were successive increases in the foodgrain prices and the stepping up of developmental outlays. As a result, foodgrain production rose from 168 million tonnes in 1992-93 to 183 million tonnes in 1994-95. The growth rate of industrial production has risen from 0.5 per cent in 1991-92 to 8.7 per cent in 1994-95 and the employment generation from 30 million mandays to 60 million mandays a year. After triggering the growth process in agricultural sector, the Finance Minister directs his efforts to job creation, to substantial outlays in housing and to rejuvenating the tiny, small scale and village industries and the textile sector. For, these sectors have the best employment-capital investment ratio. They in turn will further boost the demand for wage goods and manufacturing goods and measures are also proposed for upgrading quality and productivity thereby boosting the exports from these sector. In this area, he also proposes a series of support measures for the small scale industry. The turn over exemption on 30 per cent profits from direct taxes have been extended for any small scale unit coming into production before April 1, 2000.

Sir, the second thrust area is infrastructural development for poverty alleviation. Through proposed

Rural Infrastructural Development Fund within NABARD. The most innovative initiative of all the new initiatives, the commercial banks will have to pump in about Rs. 2,000 crore to State Governments with a view to completing the on-going projects and Rs. 1,000 crore to Khadi and Village Industries Commission for financing the small enterprises, besides providing Rs. 500 crore through cooperative and commercial banks for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes beneficiaries in agricultural and other investment activities. Thus for rural development, the banks have been given a great responsibility.

But in view of the behavioural pattern of the banking sector, I have, however, certain reservations about the smooth and purposeful implementation of such a series of good measures as things stand today.

As regards the backs in the cooperative sector in the country, of the 1400 banks, nearly half of them are reported to be sick. Sixty such banks in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh have been put up for auction by the RBI. The cooperative credit variate was started to get the farmers out of the clutches of the moneylenders. Now, the problem is to get the cooperative movement out of the clutches of the vested interests. So, some corrective measures must be taken and ensured. Before I dwell more on this point, I have also taken note of the hon. Minister's laudable efforts for alleviation of urban poverty for which he proposed in the Finance Bill an amendment to insert a new clause, clause (e) in sub-section 2 of the Income-Tax Act. Under this provision, deduction will be allowed in respect of any sum paid by an assessee to the National Urban Poverty Alleviation Fund set up and notified by the Central Government. Thus, the Finance Minister extends a major role to the commercial banks in the area of rural poverty alleviation, and for dealing with urban poverty he creates a fund for which the provision for tax deduction will be an incentive.

Sir, theoretically it is correct to consider banks and financial institutions as legitimate instruments of social and economic changes. Even as banks expand their activities to meet the diverse credit requirements, attention must be paid to those sectors which have special need. It needs to be borne in mind that good banking should not be inconsistent with socially concerned banking. But in reality these norms are given a short shrift.

The high hopes which the late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi nursed that banks nationalisation would help percolate economic benefits to the poor and the needy went on the rocks because the banking sector could not rise to the occasion. Why are the banks unable to achieve their social goals? This question has been posed repeatedly in the past. But the time has come to make a serious reappraisal of the banking sector since a large area is proposed to be carved out for banks' support to poverty alleviation programmes. To seek an answer to this question, Sir, it is imperative to identify

the grey areas in the system and plug the loopholes. Firstly, there is an absence of relevant targets and there are more lacunae in the enforcement of these targets. Banks' take the easy way by preferring the better off sections because the risk factor is usually less. Secondly, they yield to pressure or even become a party to ganging up for increasing credit, though increased lending does not necessarily lead to increased development. It ultimately results in increased indebtedness with little regard for the social purpose of productivity for which the loan was advanced. Thirdly, very often, counter-productive targets are adopted. It displays lack of expertise in selecting the right projects. Fourthly, for extending the credit to weaker sections, the banks are required to earmark and fund equivalent to ten per cent of their net credits. For this purpose, banks must have a band of inspired workers who are committed to the cause of weaker sections. Even sections of the society but to arouse a sense of involvement in those people so that they participate in a spirit of give and take.

13.00 hrs.

Fifthly, despite more than a quarter of a century of nationalisation, banks have not been successful in providing the right kind of work force in rural outfits. The rural area needs personalised banking services with a local character to command the confidence of the people. Without such reorientation, even the proposed opening of 100 branches of public sector banks will not serve the purpose. I am afraid that unless the hon. Finance Minister has a very effective monitoring and vigorous supervision done it will not serve the purpose.

MR. SPEAKER : How much time do you need? If you need more time, you can start after the Lunch Hour.

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE : Yes, I will resume my speech after the Lunch Hour.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 P.M.

13.02 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.09 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after
Lunch at Nine Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

FINANCE BILL 1995 — Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, let us continue the discussion on Finance Bill. Shri Bijoy Krishna Handique to continue his speech.

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, before lunch, I was speaking on the role

of banks. I reiterate that unless a very effective monitoring and vigorous supervision is done by the hon. Finance Minister, the massive poverty alleviation programme that he proposes, I am afraid, will fall apart.

While on the subject of Banking, I would like to refer to the proposal for creation of a new bank, North-Eastern Development Bank with a view to accelerating industrial development in the backward region. It is sought to finance creation, expansion and modernisation of industrial enterprises and infrastructural projects in the region. This is, no doubt, a thoughtful and laudable proposal. But here too, unless the hon. Finance Minister takes interest in the project, it will lose itself in the general poor performance of the social aspect of the Banking sector. And since the hon. Minister belongs to the North-Eastern State, it is not an exact demand from the region to ask for his personal interest and intervention.

Sir, while dealing with the problem of urban poverty, Government should explore ways to provide more assured fund, not just depending on investment of individuals and corporate sectors in the National Poverty Eradication Fund, as proposed in the Finance Bill, thus, leaving the problem to fend for itself under a haze of uncertainty. However, we must not lose sight of some basic factors while discussing the problem of urban poverty. One of the reasons of growing apace of urban poverty is the fast drift of rural population to the urban areas in search of jobs. Unless, these rural poor are provided with jobs in the rural areas, the exodus to towns and cities will continue swelling the number of urban poor and the number of slum dwellers. In order to contain this population influx, industries which generate sizable employment opportunities need to shift to rural areas from congested cities. Since the bulk of the urban poor comes from the rural areas, the proposal to improve the lot of the rural poor by taking jobs to them is long overdue and merits serious thinking. So, merely tackling the problem of urban poverty in isolation will not resolve the issue.

Before I conclude, I must admit that the Finance Minister's dictum that better tax compliance, rather than higher taxation, is the guarantee for better collection of revenues, has once more proved true. There is an impressive increase in the revenue receipt from Rs. 88,770 crore in 1994-95 for the Centre to Rs. 1,00,787 crore in 1995-96 - an increase of 40 per cent. The Budget strategy of the Finance Minister is if you rationalise tax structure, industry grows faster and the rate of growth of the economy goes up. It is a fiscally prudent Budget assuming that the deficit declines to the promised level of 55 per cent. But at the same time it should also be borne in mind that too much emphasis on deficit reduction can harm developmental activities. Yet I must admit that a lower deficit should drive inflation down to single digit, helped strongly by lower excise and import duties. Lower duties in turn are expected to

bring down costs, making Indian goods more competitive to help continue the boom in exports. I am however convinced that slashing of excise and import duties, as proposed in the Budget, is bound to invigorate industrial growth and employment opportunities. The cost of production which is expected to go down, will make the products less costly and part of the benefits will percolate down to the people. This is one of the most effective methods of curbing inflation.

Thus, the 1995-96 Budget proposals, though presented against the backdrop of an economy troubled by double-digit inflation, the macro economic indications are positive on most fronts with industrial output at 8 per cent, exports rising by 17 per cent and a bulging foreign exchange reserve.

I once more support the Finance Bill as presented by the hon. Finance Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karolbagh) : A number of hon. members of the Congress Party have spoken but no one from BJP has been given the opportunity yet. You promised that you would start with the BJP member after the lunch break on Monday.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What happened today is that probably nobody expected that it would commence prior to the lunch break. It started before the lunch break. At that time you were graciously absent!

SHRI KALKA DAS : We should have been given a chance even if it started before the lunch break.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It started before the lunch break today. Okay, that is all.

PROF. RITA VERMA : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the very outset I wish to remind this august House of a quote from the speech given by our honourable Prime Minister, Shri Narasimha Rao at the Copenhagen Summit. I refer to it :

"For the past three and a half years we have embarked on a truly revolutionary reform of our economic and industrial policy. The process is irreversible with a national consensus backing it. At the same time those sections of the people who cannot in the very nature of things reap the benefit or the policy reform directly and in the short run, would certainly need a helpful, caring and enabling dispensation ..."

I repeat the words 'helpful, caring and enabling dispensation'.

"... so as to attain the levels of eligibility and capacity to find entry into the new system on equal terms. This would mean a massive and well coordinated programme, backed

with commensurate resources and other efforts, to lift the huge base of the pyramid to those levels within a reasonable time frame."

All this sounds perfect. But in actual practice, the Government seems to be pursuing policies that ensure that the base of the pyramid, the millions that toil and suffer in silence, the men and women who had the misfortune of reposing faith in the new economic policies of the Government are never allowed to rise above the quicksand of poverty. Sadly, in spite of whatever you do, the base of the pyramid is rapidly expanding.

Social conscience and national pride are the two things that seem to have been farthest from the minds of those who have drafted our economic policies. Along with the reduction in duty, not only most of the non-tariff barriers have been eliminated, but also the institutions regulating the trade have also been dismantled. These have exposed domestic industries to unprecedented and unfair challenges, particularly the challenge of dumping of foreign goods. Domestic industry is perturbed because many of the contributory factors are neither of their making nor within their control.

The issue that seems to have been farthest from consideration of this Government is poverty alleviation. The equitable distribution of the fruits of liberalisation has been ignored for too long.

The ruling party talks of liberalisation today. What does it mean to the common man? It means nothing. What does it mean to the Indian industry? To the Indian industry, it means an inequitable and unwarranted competition that threatens to wipe out its very existence. After enjoying long years of protection, licensing and regulatory measures, and at a time when the Indian industry is barely out of its infancy, we have opened the floodgates to put them in competition with the international giants. What is the result? The Indian products and the Indian brand names have to fight for their survival today. If this continues, they may even be permanently ousted from the market. The threat may not be to the 100 odd Indian giants who themselves are multinational corporations or are on the verge of becoming multinational corporations. The real threat is to the rest of them.

Some of the hasty, lop-sided measures taken in import duty structuring may well wipe out the medium and small scale industry. This will pose a major problem to our industrial economy and the level of employment. Take the case of small scale sector. The small scale sector has emerged as a dynamic and vibrant section of the economy during the 80s. At the end of the Seventh Plan, it accounted for 35 per cent of the total exports from the country. It also provided employment to around 140 lakh people. Instead of lending support to this sector and giving it greater growth impetus in order to increase employment and export opportunities, the new policy has threatened to wipe out some of the industries that

were exclusively reserved for the small scale sector. By enhancing the items in the OGL to 75, several products that have been reserved for the small scale sector have been opened for global entrants.

A case in point is the thermometer industry. Thermometer was one of the items of a total of 807 items reserved for small scale and tiny industrial units. Here, the basic raw material like capillary glass tubing, bulb tubing and mercury are imported. To encourage the industry, the import duty on the basic raw material in the year 1966 was 'NIL'. Today, the excise duty on raw material is 80 per cent of the C.I.F. value. For the Indian manufacturers, who are paying a high import duty on raw material, the cost of production is compounded. On the other hand, no import duty has been levied on imported thermometers, which has made imported thermometers cheaper than the indigenous ones. It is not that the manufacturers of the thermometers do not want to sell their products cheaper, but it is just that they are unable to do so on account of high import duty imposed on the raw materials. Today, we are faced with the possibility of the Chinese thermometers being dumped in the Indian market at Rs. 6/- a piece. The Indian thermometers are qualitatively superior and have a lot of value added to them. It is pertinent to note here that the Indian thermometer industry is highly labour intensive. Most of the labourers employed in them are poor women. If this industry is closed down, it will employ in them are poor women. If this industry is closed down, it will render approximately 10,000 women of the lower class unemployed. It is in the interest of the underprivileged and the women that this industry is allowed to survive. It should not be required to compete with imported thermometers.

Another case in point is the furniture industry, which the Ministry is proposing to open up for Export Oriented Units. The Department of Small Scale Industries in the Industry Ministry is of the opinion that no big company should be allowed to enter the reserved sector unless it commits to export at least 75 per cent of the production. The export obligation for the EOUs is at present about 60 per cent of the total production; the rest can be sold in the domestic market. The demand for such a high export obligation by the Small Scale Industries Department is likely to make a negative impact on the plans of the small scale sector.

A large multinational company like Ponds, which is wholly an EOU has been allowed to enter the thermometer industry. Today in fulfilling its 25 per cent obligation towards domestic sales, which in number accounts for the total production capacity of the entire thermometer industry, it has entered through the backdoor - the terra-firma which has so far been exclusively reserved for the small scale sector. Opening of sectors reserved for the small scale units to large units will in a way finish the small industry which will not have the funds to fight the might of the large units. The small scale industries department and the Commerce Ministry

seem to be singing different tunes. It is stated that the small scale industries policy framed under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act has a statutory force which is sought to be bypassed by mere policy. This is not permissible under the laws of land today. Such a policy which seeks to nullify and make an empty promise of the small scale industries policy which was statutory force is bad and deserves to be set aside.

Let us take the case of the agricultural exporters. The main demand of most of these exporters was that the import of capital goods under the EPCG scheme be permitted duty free, if need be with a better export obligation. The cruelest cut has been that despite the fact that duty free import has been allowed, the agri-exporters who are usually small scale processors have been kept out of the scheme, since duty free imports are allowed only for imports that exceed Rs. 20 crore. Rice exporters have been completely ignored and bypassed by the Commerce Ministry despite brightening prospects for rice exports.

Exporters of floricultural and horticultural products have also not benefited from the million of duty under the EPCG scheme since their imports too are unlikely to exceed Rs. 20 crores. Likewise, the enhanced benefits granted to holders of special import licence is expected to benefit only the large export houses. Yet another major disappointment for the agricultural export sector is the total silence on the part of the Government on the issue of oil seeds imports. The Solvent Extractors Association and the Indian Oil and Produce Exporters Association have specifically pleaded that oil seeds should be permitted for imports rather than edible oil. This would have enabled the industry to utilise its excess capacity since it is today running at 60 per cent of total installed capacity. Secondly, it would also have permitted similar traders to enter the market since import of edible oils has to be necessarily in bulk tankers and this trade is therefore in the hands of a few large trading companies.

It is stated that reduction in customs duty on resins from 65 per cent to 40 per cent will affect synthetic resin manufactures as far as products based on imported inputs are concerned. For instance, polyester resins, acrylic resin, epoxy resin, its hardener and polyamide resin now attract a duty of 50 per cent as against 65 per cent last year. For epoxy resin, the cost of imported raw material per kg. of final product is reduced by Rs. 8.35 per kg whereas saving to the importers would be Rs. 19.60 per kg.

The cost of imported raw material for polyamide resin is down by only Rs. 7.81 per kg. whereas the cost saving available to an importer to polyamide resin would be Rs. 18.90 per kg. Thus, the end-users would be at a far greater advantage by importing the products rather than getting it from the domestic manufacturers. Such anomalies in the rate of custom duties will result in heavy imports of synthetic resins and dumping by foreign manufacturers.

Apart from the resin manufacturers, this would also have an impact on Indian manufacturers who have recently started manufacturing basic inputs such as epichlorohydrin and bisphenol at huge capital costs.

Yet another industry which has been forced to fight for its survival are the gasket manufacturers. Anomaly in product classification has been one of the main factors which has hit the industry, apart from steep import duty reduction of finished goods. As per the component classification done by the Government, gaskets, if imported as a kit, attract 80 per cent import duty but the very same gaskets, if imported in pouches, envelopes and other similar packages, attract only 25 per cent duty. Taking advantage of this loophole in classification, gaskets will be improved in pouches and other such packings at 25 per cent import duty. The problem is compounded by the fact that this industry also uses a variety of raw materials for manufacturing its range of gaskets. The main concern of the industry is, however, not steep duty reduction but the failure of the Government to provide proportionate duty reduction on raw materials. It seems that the thrust of the fiscal proposals is to encourage the import of finished products rather than the components which are used in the manufacture of products by the small scale industry or medium industry. This is bound to have adverse effect on the indigenous units especially SSI units and their export potentials.

It is stated that 3000 unorganised paint units face closure as duty on their intermediate product, namely, alkyd resin, has been increased, adversely affecting only SSI units, as large units manufacture their alkyds-in-house. The steep duty reduction in the current budget on paints paralysed SSI units to such an extent that they have no alternative but to close down.

Over 700 secondary steel producing units in the country would have to close down unless corrective measures are taken by the Government on the 'ill effects of 1995-96 budget' on viability of the electric steel making industry. There is urgent need to impose anti-dumping duty on prima facie basis, pending final settlement of the issue.

It is submitted that the case study of the various industries hit by the reduction in import duty on finished products without reduction in import duty on raw materials have threatened the very existence of several industries particularly those in the small scale sector and the spectre of dumping looms large over the horizon. It is stated that small scale sector employs 140 lakh workers and accounts for 40 per cent of our total manufacturing and 40 per cent of our exports. Threatening the existence of the small scale sector strikes at the root of the promise made by the Government to provide employment. The closure of the various industries would pose a very serious problem in the form of large scale unemployment. In our anxiety to become a major player in world business and trade,

we cannot ignore the fact that, as one of the world's most populous country and the largest democracy, we must give top priority to employment. In our struggle for freedom from want, we cannot ignore social mobilisation. The endeavour should be to make each individual contribute to the nation's productive activities. By making the labour intensive small scale sector fight for its survival, the only sufferers are the large number of workmen employed therein. The policy, thus, while taking a very academic viewpoint, ignores the more realistic socioeconomic perspective.

A natural corollary of this kind of lopsided economic policies is dumping of imported goods in the Indian market. We have heard often enough now from all forums that India is being viewed today by the Developed countries as a large market. If we are today the consumers in this large market, and if the basic principle of market is that the consumer is the king, it is us who should be calling the shots and not the foreign companies. The situation today is just the contrary. I repeat, the spectre of dumping looms large over the horizon. In a regime of low tariff levels, international trade can be orderly only if there are adequate safeguards, against dumping of goods by a country in the territory of another country.

From an account made earlier of the injury and damage caused and likely to be caused to the domestic industry, it is evident that dumping is one fall out of the policy we have to deal with. How are we to deal with it when there seems to be no will to do so? There seems to be unanimity in the Ruling party only about dismantling the tariff barriers and apparently no concern over what that could lead to.

Indian industry has been pleading for a level playing field ever since the import duty structure has led to Indian products having lost their competitive edge in the market. But all its pleas seem to have fallen on deaf years. The Commerce Minister, in a recent address, had observed that money is money regardless of whether it is Indian money or foreign money.

Sir, I beg to differ here. Indian money that comes in the market stays here to generate greater levels of economic productivity. Foreign money with the much touted cliché of 'assured returns' goes out of our system. Foreign money has wings which have an inherent tendency to fly to safer havens.

Coming back to the injury being caused to the domestic industry, the real sufferers of this Policy juggling and experimenting with duty structure are largely, the workmen who will have to face retrenchment and unemployment. In our zeal to leap, we must not forget the 800 million people, the 800 million people whom we must carry forward too. A hundred Indian companies going global is a matter of pride, of course. But if in the process, millions are rendered unemployed, the Ruling party must hang its head in shame.

Law, legislation and policies must have necessarily a human conscience.

Only human face will also not suffice, and we in India with our sheer size of population must formulate all policies without losing sight of what repercussions it would have on employment.

To conclude, Sir, I submit the core issue that seems to have been forgotten by the Ruling party in its over-zealous attempt to become a global player in world business is that we are a country not of the size - in term of population, of course - of Korea but we are one of the most populous and poor States and the main issue that must be addressed is unemployment. The Government seems to have overlooked that it is duty bound to maximise people's participation in productive activities. What is required is the cohesive will to bring the maximum number of people into the socio-economic mainstream. Mere rhetoric that the present Government is given to indulging in, will not suffice.

Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to end my speech with a fervent appeal. We belong to a country where principles of Swadeshi and Self-reliance are intertwined in the psyche of the nation. That is our soul. That is the Mantra which has been taught by Lokmanya Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi. We have to see which wisdom really triumphs - the wisdom which we have learnt at the feet of these great men, or the new wisdom which we globalisation offers. May God lead us to the correct path.

SHRI B. RAJARAVIVARMA (Pollachi) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I rise to speak on the Finance Bill on behalf of AIADMK.

Though several suggestions from different sections have been ignored by the hon. Finance Minister, it is a matter of relief that he has at least accepted a few of them.

The additional duty of excise in lieu of sales tax imposed on cotton hosiery in the current year's Budget has been withdrawn. Any way, I don't think it amounts to giving any concession since it has only restored the status quo. The Finance Minister has announced reduction of excise duty from 20 to 15 per cent on kitchenware, tableware etc., made of glass. Even in the Budget, he had reduced excise duty on many goods like matches etc. But the market trend shows that the prices of goods on which excise duty reduction was given, have not come down. This is a paradoxical situation. On the one hand, the Government is losing revenue due to reduction of excise duty and on the other hand, benefit does not reach the consumers. Therefore, the very intention of the Government is suspect. I would like the hon. Finance Minister to tell the House as to whether the Finance Ministry has a mechanism to see that the benefit of excise duty reduction is passed on to the consumers. I can understand that in a healthy competitive market, benefit due to the reduction

of the excise duty is passed on to the consumers. But here, the businessmen are in collusion and the customers are cheated. So, I appeal to the Minister to clarify what he proposes to do on the matter.

The decision to include 34 more lifesaving drugs in the list of drugs fully exempted from export duty is a welcome move. Even some categories of medical equipment are being exempted from import duty. I appreciate the genuine concern of the Minister. But these equipment and drugs are mostly available only for the rich people in urban areas. I have nothing against it.

But I request the Minister to give a little more import duty concession to the hospitals and pharmacies in rural areas so that the poor people too get these facilities.

I want to say a few words about agriculture. Despite the repeated assurances of the Government to ameliorate the conditions of farmers, it is a pity that farmers continue to suffer. The Centre should realise that pumping funds for centrally sponsored schemes bypassing State Governments cannot help the poor. Our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi had already taken up this matter with the Centre. I hope the Finance Minister will advise the Government properly so that the powers of the States are not encroached upon by the Centre in the name of giving funds to poverty alleviation schemes in the States.

I am only trying to say that the question of withdrawing the concession given to farmers like the fertilizer subsidy should not even be thought of. Farmers are the worst sufferers in the country despite being hard workers who sweat their blood out to feed their co-citizens of this country.

That is why our hon. Chief Minister, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi has been giving free electricity to farmers besides several other concessions, like good seeds at subsidised rate and crop loan etc. Grants are given to small and marginal farmers time and again. Our hon. Chief Minister, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi has also launched welfare schemes for the masses at the cost of nearly rupees two thousand crore. But I regret to say that the Centre has not favourably considered the demand to Tamil Nadu to give financial assistance to compensate the loss incurred in giving free electricity to farmers even after several requests by our leader. I request the hon. Finance Minister to reconsider this matter favourably to relieve Tamil Nadu of the heavy financial burdens.

Hon. Members, cutting across party lines, have pleaded for raising the income tax limit. The salaried class, the middle class people find it extremely difficult to cope with the price rise and Income Tax deductions.

As demanded by all, it should be raised to at least Rs. 50,000/-. I hope the hon. Finance Minister will give a favourable reply to this while answering to the debate.

I take this opportunity to appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to increase the share to Tamil Nadu while

apportioning the excise duty and also clear all the projects of Tamil Nadu like Sethusamudram project at an early date.

Sir, with these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS (Jaipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Finance Bill and want to make few submissions before the House. We have been running many schemes in the country such as Anganwadis, Adult education but we do not have the feedback as to how far these schemes have benefited the people. If any survey is conducted or any discussion is held on that we find to our dismay that the data given does not reflect the true picture. The hon. Members from the rural constituencies know it very well that the persons working as Health Guides are paid only Rs. 50/- per month. My contention is that if they have to be kept, their salaries should be enhanced and they should be properly trained so that they may do their duty in a proper way. Anganwadis are becoming a bone of contention. Whereas in the Tribal and Scheduled Castes dominated areas, there is a provision of reservation for 45 days work, this is not followed in Anganwadi programme. In Tribal and Scheduled Caste dominated areas, 1 or 2 persons can be found but there number is not much because provision of reservation is not implemented there. More and more Anganwadis should be opened in the adivasi and harijan dominant areas. It is a matter of great satisfaction that Government propose to open more Anganwadis this year but it should also be ensured that these are run properly. Government should study the condition of the Anganwadis. The influential and rich people are taking the benefit of this scheme thus depriving the poor of their rightful due. Government should review the position from time to time for improving the conditions there.

The Adult Education has reached at the doorsteps of the people. Government should see to it whether the people are being benefited to the extent the money is being spent on this scheme. We have a number of such schemes which should be streamlined and the schemes not needed should be discontinued. Only those schemes should be continued which directly benefit the people. I am glad that Government have restarted some good programmes initiated at the time of the Shrimati Indira Gandhi. These programmes are for the welfare of poor people. These programmes will generate more work days but these programmes need reorientation. Take the case of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. What is happening is that if 10 persons are working, they get the thumb impression of 25 workers. I urged the Collector of my area to verify these cases and if anybody is found guilty, cases under section 420 should be filed. The Collector is to enquire into one per cent cases in the dry land and you have formulated guidelines in this regard which should also be streamlined. In each of the village committee, one women and one Scheduled

Caste man have to be nominated but in the contracts etc., this condition is not being fulfilled and it becomes difficult for the beneficiary to become member. If you make provision for five or seven members from amongst the beneficiaries, then it may benefit them. But, still contract system is prevalent there. You have made provision for 12½% in the Bill, but in the contract, the old system is prevalent. We have struggled a lot. Previously, income tax was levied. After one or two years period, they get the payment, but we do not know as to whether the payment is made to those to whom it should be paid. We say that there is no contract. If the contract is not there, then wherefrom payment is made to them. There used to be 90% pilferage under the earlier Orissa Government. I have written a number of times for JRY but nobody bothers about it.

As regards million wells schemes, an amount of Rs. 14-15 thousand is given under the JRY to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people. What is being done is that an amount for Rs. 2000/- is given and signatures are taken from them wherever necessary. Then they say that they have received the money. My suggestion is that where the population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is more, they should be allotted land so that they may have work. During the last election campaign, the people complained to me that they have no work to do. The Zamindars take work from them but do not pay them the wages. The Government should pay attention to it. The conditions are very deplorable in the Villages.

Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir, I was born in a family of bonded labour and that is why I become very emotional. The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are not getting their due rights. You have stated that they will be given employment under Employment Assurance Programme and identification will be done under that. We have seen that identification of each block in our area has been completed under Tribal sub-plan but no work has been done.

[English]

Fifty per cent of this amount should be spent on irrigation whether it is drip irrigation, whether it is flow irrigation, whether it is surface irrigation or whatever sort of irrigation it may be.

[Translation]

You may kindly formulate the guidelines. An amount of Rs. 14-15 thousand is not sufficient for any work in the hilly areas. You will have to allot more amount for that area.

The minimum wages should be enhanced in view of the steep rise in the prices. Many steps have been taken for land reforms in West Bengal. The Central Government is concerned about the poor. Why do they not formulate such a programme which may prove to be useful for them? Increase in minimum wages will go a

long way in benefiting them. They will cultivate their land and get the benefit of reservation also. This will not lead to much trouble.

15.00 hrs.

The rate of minimum wages has been raised from Rs. 15 to Rs. 25/- in Orissa. Why can't you give this rate of minimum wages? The number of agricultural labour is decreasing because of the mechanised farming. Now, the tractors are being used. In the past, agricultural labourers used to get foodgrains in lieu of the work. In our area, 3 1/2 kilograms of paddy were given and still this practice is going on. They are not paid in cash, as a result of which they get foodgrains as well as work also. In my view, the Government should make arrangements to give them foodgrains in lieu of work. Where the people want paddy they should be given paddy and where they want wheat they should be given to them as wages. In our Tribal Area, they are also paid Rs. 5/- per day to meet their petty expenses. In our area, another system is in practice, that if you want oil, you can get oil also. In our area people share each others' work. I want to give many suggestions here but the time is very short.

15.02 hrs.

(Prof. Rita Verma in the Chair)

The Government has introduced many new programmes. Government has also set up NABARD. We do not know much about its functions. Many persons are there like agents or middlemen and they get percentage. There are two-three organisations under the Welfare Ministry which give grant after identification. If there is one-window facility here, the people can really be benefited. You should make arrangements to ensure that the Scheduled Castes and directly benefited. Government gives money to NABARD, and then NABARD, gives money to the co-operative sector. There is a lead bank in every area and this money should be given to the lead bank. NABARD does not have any concrete role in the programme chalked out by you as it will not serve any purpose for the poor.

You have given money to KAJVIC through NABARD but you should have given money to it directly. The National Equity Fund will also not benefit the poor. There is a wasteland scheme. If tribals and people belonging to Scheduled Caste start work under this scheme, they are given 50% subsidy and to the extent of Rs. 50 thousand whereas in the event of the project being implemented by the general people, the amount of subsidy is 25% and the maximum limit is Rs. 25 lakh. Why this difference? I want to give a suggestion. In the SC/ST predominant areas, where adequate land is available, you can allot them one hectare of land and plant saplings on it. Then, they can be told later on that the land belonged to them. This will help in capital formation and thus improvement of their lot will

begin. Suppose the Government helps them in this manner, it will benefit every family and result in capital formation.

My other suggestion is that the landless labourers should be categorised as Class IV employees. Such employees in Government service are at present entitled for 38 benefits. The landless, small and marginal farmers should get at least 50 per cent of these benefits. Under the Employment Assurance Scheme, 50 percent allocation should be earmarked for irrigation projects. There should be some provision of benefit for the period when they do not have any work. Legally, the provision is there but unless it is implemented, these people will remain sitting idle for many a days. Today, every family is getting benefited by education and the Government should think about the children. If they are denied their due, they will be forced to snatch their right. There is confusion prevailing in every political party. Why don't you chalk out a programme so that the landless labourers could at least get class IV status?

It is provided that old age pension of Rs. 75/- p.m. will be given to the persons above 65 years of age. The rickshaw pullers, generally, die at the age 55-60 years. Likewise, the persons belonging to SC/STs live upto the age of 65 years. Today, the atmosphere is changing fast. The ozone layer is slowly depleting. The days and nights are very hot. Everything including air, water and food is impure. There is mosquito menace during nights. If things continued like this, there will be no need for family planning after 4-5 years. People will start dying themselves, and they have already started dying. My suggestion is that the family pension for SC/STs should be started at the age of 50 years.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already taken 25 minutes.

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : I am speaking on behalf of the Congress Party and am making very important suggestions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Other members are also there to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : The suggestions being made by me are different from those given by other hon. Members. I want to point out that the SC/STs are not in a position to set up industry but we must devise some ways to make them self dependent. The small entrepreneurs belonging to SC/STs should be exempted from paying sales tax and income tax for 10 years. In this way, the people will come forward to take SC/STs as partners and set up industries in their names. Moreover, they would be able to earn Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 thousands in this way. Presently, they are not getting any such benefit. That is why, I am giving this suggestion.

SHRI KALKA DAS : Why have you not formulated any such sales tax, income tax exemption policy for SC/STs during the last 47 years, to make them self-dependent?

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Let me speak.

[English]

This is Parliament. What is this? I am giving them a new suggestion.

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS : Why do not you formulate such a policy?

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : We do not formulate policies. These are formulated by the ministers*(Interruptions)* Why do you interrupt me. I know about Communists also. Every time, they get elected in the name of land reforms but in their areas, the dealership of PDS has not been given to any person belonging to SC/STs.

[English]

You do not go to other areas. How many of them now have become members of the Public Distribution System? I was the Chairman of the Civil Supplies Committee....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please address to the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Madam Chairman, I will take five minutes more. I want to say that whatever development has been made in the country, the credit goes to the Congress party. If they have good suggestions, they are welcome. We will not interrupt them. When I am making my suggestions, why do they disturb me?

Madam Chairman, huge sums to the tune of Rs. 6646541 crores and Rs. 162185 crores have been spent under IRDP and JRY schemes respectively so far. However, despite that, there has not been much development in the rural areas as these schemes are not being implemented properly. My suggestion is that the Government should formulate such a scheme in which the worker as well as the Government would contribute equally and everyday the money would be deposited. When this amount reaches Rs. 100/- it should be invested in some other scheme. In this manner, this money will go on increasing and the workers will start getting pensions automatically. The Government will not have to bear extra expenditure on this account and the deduction will also be less. Further, you will be able to give material components. At present, under IRDP, Rs. 12 thousand are given to landless labourers and out of this, 50 percent is given as subsidy. Again out of Rs. 6000/- Rs. 3000/- are pocketed by the middle-men. I want to suggest that they should be given a bond of Rs. 4000/- with 12 per cent normal interest on it. Further, 8 percent interest on subsidy should be given. Thus, the total percentage of interest comes out to 20 per cent. After 17 years, this amount will become Rs. 1 lakh and

this way, you can give a monthly pension of Rs. 1500/- to each family. There is a saying :

"Vanija Baste Laxmi Tadarth Krishi Karmani
Tadarth Rajaya Karmani, Bhiksha Naiva Cha
Naiva Cha."

The Government has introduced the old age pension scheme under the National Social Assistance scheme from the age of 65 years. My submission is that the old age pension for SC/STs and rickshawpullers should be from the age of 50 years as their average age is comparatively less than others. In addition to this, the provision of Rs. 5 thousand is also a good one.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can write a letter to the hon. Minister and he will definitely consider your suggestion. Now please conclude, otherwise nothing will go on record.

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : I wanted to speak on some more points but due to shortage of time, I support the Finance Bill, and conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM (Inner Manipur) : Madam, Chairperson, I cannot support this Finance Bill because it provides facilities for making the rich richer and the poor poorer. It is really the old wine put in a new bottle. It is with great conviction I am telling that in respect of all the North-Eastern regions of the country, particularly the State of Manipur, it is very much the old wine. It is only repetition of the last year. There is no new proposal in the Bill.

So, I rise to oppose this Finance Bill.

If this Bill is passed, it will facilitate only the foreign investors at the cost of our domestic investment. In the name of the New Economic Policy, the Government is fostering only the foreign investors and depriving the domestic investors of their rightful benefit. So, I would suggest that there should be change in the criteria for the distribution of public funds for development programmes to be taken up for the welfare of the country.

At the moment, there is no proposal for funding more money to make up the deficit of the backward areas and for providing more programmes to be taken up for the welfare of the North-Eastern region. No doubt, there might have been more concessions given this year by way of increase in the income-tax exemption limit or by way of exemptions in duties or some other concessions in respect of collection of taxes, but all these give no benefit to the North-Eastern part of the country. Even in respect of distributions of funds, people residing in the North-Eastern region are not benefited by the new proposals. So, there is always regional imbalance in the country because of the North-Eastern region being put to a very backward position and no programme being taken up to overcome these deficiencies.

Our hon. Prime Minister had announced in this House that he had adopted the North-Eastern States. But after that announcement, what development programmes have been drawn and taken up as a follow up action to that announcement? We have heard only about the establishment of a Development Bank for that region. Is that sufficient? They should enumerate what programmes have been drawn and taken up for the benefit of the North-Eastern States after their adoption was committed by the hon. Prime Minister.

As regards rural development, last year's programmes have been repeated again. The amount has been slightly increased but the implementing agencies remain the same. So, what is the use of it? Ever since the announcement made by the Prime Minister about the adoption of the region, no new programmes have been taken up. If the hon. Finance Minister has had the time to visit that area, he might have visited only Guwahati or some other places in Assam and not all parts of the North-Eastern region. If he goes to other places, he will find that the people there are suffering because of unemployment and other problems. At the moment, in that part of the country, particularly in Manipur, there is no drinking water or power, no rural electrification scheme is taken up properly because of the shortage of power, and so on.

As regards the transportation facilities they are also not maintained properly. The roadways are in a bad shape. Very recently Imphal was cut off from Guwahati. There are so many regional establishments like the Regional Development Bank, Regional Sports Centre etc. which are all located at Guwahati and Shillong. People from Imphal, who have to go there, have to go to Calcutta first and then from Calcutta to Guwahati. Likewise if people from Guwahati want to go to Imphal, they have to go to Calcutta first and then to Imphal. It costs a lot of money and at the same time lot of labour, energy and time are lost. This is the state of affairs.

If the hon. Prime Minister or any Minister visits that area they will find how bad is the condition of the airstrips at Silchar, Dimapur and Imphal. That part of the country is almost totally neglected. If they have not proposed any development for that part, how can I support this Bill?

I am now coming particularly to the affairs regarding the State of Manipur which are, at the moment, in a very bad shape, be it law and order situation or development programmes or any other thing. In all respects the people have been suffering. Nobody cares for that area. The Prime Minister did not visit that area even though there had been so many killings and there were incidents of burning of houses and terrorist activities whereas if such incidents take place elsewhere the Hon Minister or the Prime Minister will rush to that area. Is it not negligence of the North-East area by the present Government? That is my question to them.

Madam, I will not take much time. I want to mention about unemployment problem. It is so great now that there are more than three lakh educated unemployed people there. They are frustrated because their number is multiplying day by day. It is increasing by hundreds and thousands. Now it will increase and this figure will become five lakh. In the meantime the Government has banned all recruitments because Government has no funds for giving employment even though there is a necessity for providing employment to take the execution of the works regarding development programmes. Although new hands are required to be recruited, the Government is banning recruitment as there are no funds. The employment has been totally banned for the last three years and unemployment is there now. The schools are run without teachers and so many establishments are functioning without proper manpower. This is the state of affairs there. In the context of this state of affairs, the people are frustrated and they are even asking for secession from this country.

Lastly, I would request the Government to consider these things and change and amend their attitude so that the goodwill of the people of North-East is with them.

Until the present Government changes its attitude or amends its attitude towards that region, towards the people of that region, they will not get any support from that region.

With these few words, I oppose the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS : Madam Chairman, the Budget and the Finance Bill reflects the thinking and direction of the Government. It is indicative of the policies of the Government about the welfare of the poor and the rich. The hon. Finance Minister has presented the budget earlier but it could not be taken up for discussion due to certain reasons. Today, we are discussing it by way of Finance Bill.

If we go through the budget and the Finance Bill, we find them disappointing. The budget does not generate any hope among the poor, depressed classes, farmers, minorities and women of the country. The hon. Minister of Finance, through the jugglery of statistics, has tried to sugar coat the bitter pill. The economists of the country have commented in many ways on the budget immediately after its presentation. The critical comments on the budget have also appeared in the newspapers. If you permit me I would like to quote those comments.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may please put your own views.

SHRI KALKA DAS : While honouring your direction and keeping in view the paucity of time, I will not go into the details of these comments. However, as per the comments, the present budget is a disappointing budget.

As I have already stated that the budget of a good Government reflects its concern for the poor people of the country. The good budget contains the proposals for maximum realisation of taxes from the rich and providing maximum assistance to the poor so as to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor. I do not mean to say that the gap between the rich and the poor can be removed fully. All the budgets of this Government presented so far have widened the gap between the rich and the poor. The present budget also reflects the same trend.

We had high hopes from the Finance Bill. We were hoping that keeping in view the adverse comments on the budget, the hon. Finance Minister will do something for the benefit of the poor, reduce duties and impose taxes in such a way that the poor are not burdened. However, the things are just contrary to expectations. Duties have been reduced on some items like pressure cookers, T.V. picture tubes and on other important items but most of these items are not used by the poor. The position today is that even the common drugs are not available to the poor in the rural areas. However, I congratulate the hon. Minister for reducing duties on some items, but he has not paid any attention to those poor people, whom he exhorts to save his chair. These people are allured in one way or the other but the budget and the Finance Bill has not provided any relief to them.

Madam Chairman, the Finance Bill 1994-95 speaks about the allocations, mobilisation of funds, taxation and deficit financing, but it does not indicate anything about the relief for the poor. The rich are becoming richer and the poor are becoming the poorer. The rich are being given all sorts of reliefs. When the budget was presented, some relief was provided on cosmetic items. I do not oppose it. However, some women, including the wife of the Finance Minister, met him and told him that relief on cosmetic items was a welcome step but the prices of the items used in the kitchen have not been reduced. Use of talcum powder and lipstick is no answer to hunger. There is no relief on agricultural items and the eatables the prices of these items have increased considerably in the recent past. Earlier poor people used to eat pulses but now their prices have skyrocketed. Pulses are available at Rs. 30/- per kilogram.

Madam Chairman, the hon. Minister of Finance himself admits that the rate of inflation has gone upto 11 per cent. The value of rupees is going down. We thought that since the hon. Finance Minister has got a period of 2 to 2½ months for bringing this Finance Bill, he will definitely give relief to the small scale industries. But to our utter dismay, no relief has been given to them. The Members of our Party were hoping for some kind of relief to the salaried class but he has raised the exemption limit from 35 thousand to Rs. 40 thousand only. It may be mentioned that Chelliah Committee had recommended raising this exemption limit to Rs. 60 thousand. I would say that the salaried class is honest

class. Every details of their salaries, are in the Government records and that is why you are able to realise income tax from them. On the other hand rich people do not pay any tax and swallow crores of rupees by corrupt means. Persons like Harshad Mehta, who indulge in bungling of crores and crores of rupees, get every type of reliefs and concessions, which makes them millionaire. Today, the peon, clerk and the Assistants have to pay income tax. In this country, honesty does not pay, whereas dishonest persons are earning crores of rupees through corrupt means.

We have a number of scandals which are quoted all over the world. The scams like Securities Scam and sugar scandal were big scams. The poor people have not understood where the money is going. In the Finance Bill there is nothing to help the poor and save them from those elements who are bent upon looting this country.

Madam Chairman, I agree with the suggestions of Shri Anadi Charan Das. I opposed him on his plea that since he was speaking on behalf of the congress party, he should get more time.

MR. SPEAKER : You may put your own views.

SHRI KALKA DAS : I am putting my views. I agree with his suggestion but I also said that Congress has no right to give suggestions. The Congress Party is in power and its duty is to implement the suggestions because it is in a position to do so. However, the Government misleads the people by speaking in Parliament about their welfare. The position today is that poverty is continuously increasing.

Madam Chairman, more than 40 percent population is living below poverty line in the country. Even 47 years after independence they do not get one meal a day. India was once known as a golden bird but today most of its population is poor. A lot of money has been spent on education but only 29 per cent women are educated. There are total 48.1 per cent illiterates in the country. Half a century has lapsed. How much more time is needed for the eradication of poverty?

Once upon a time, India used to be considered a centre of learning and its civilization was a source of inspiration for other countries. Today, the same country has become a poor country in these 47 years. The poor are becoming poorer in the country. Mahatma Gandhi had said there should be more and more small scale industries to generate employment opportunities but today these industries are on the verge of extinction. Import duty is being reduced and custom duty is being increased. The rich countries of the world are being invited to set up industries here. This has resulted in competition among indigenous and foreign companies. In this competition, small scale industries have suffered the most and the workers engaged therein are likely to lose their jobs. The Government quote the name of the Mahatma Gandhi but do not follow his principles. It

mislead the people in the name of Mahatma Gandhi. In fact, they have stabbed Gandhiji in his back. Had the Government followed his principles. This situation would have not cropped up...*(Interruptions)* We taken his name with utmost respect...*(Interruptions)* You are supporting a Government which abuses Mahatma Gandhi.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kalka Das, please address the Chair.

SHRI KALKA DAS : I am saying that we venerate Mahatma and follow his ideals but they are supporting a Government which abuses Mahatma Gandhi. They should withdraw their support.

Madam Chairman, I was submitting that unemployment and poverty are increasing in the country. It has been stated that 2 crore youth are unemployed in the country but this is not correct. According to our estimate, there are more than 7 crore educated and uneducated unemployed youth. There is no provision for creating employment opportunities for them. Nobody is bothered about them. The people are befooled by raising the slogan of removing poverty. People think that they would get some benefit if the poverty is removed? However, they did get neither the means of livelihood, nor equality nor respect. The Government have done nothing to find solutions to their problems.

Madam Chairman, I want to submit that unless Government take measures for proper allocation of the funds, the poor will continue to become poorer and the rich, on the strength of their money, will keep on looting the Government funds, destroy the culture and prestige of the country. The Government has not done anything to ensure employment opportunities for the unemployed youth and social justice for the poor.

Have we achieved equality among citizens after independence? Mahatma Gandhi had given an assurance to Dr. Ambedkar that equality would be achieved within 10 years and there would be no inequality thereafter. But hatred and inequality have been increasing, among the people. A number of legislations have been enacted in this regard but they remain unimplemented. The Government is aware of the problems of the poor but its intention is not clear in respect of making them self-reliant.

Before Shri Manmohan Singh became Finance Minister, the scheduled castes people used to get credit upto Rs. 4 lakhs on nominal rate of interest but from the last one year, this rate of interest is not being given in the amount more than Rs. 1 lakh. What can one do with Rs. 1 lakh? They are interested only in votes and do not want to ameliorate the lot of the poor. When the conditions of the poor will improve and, they will awaken, the Congress party will find itself in the clock. That is why, this Government do not want to educate them deliberately and give them equal opportunities.

Even now-a-days Rs. 4/- per month is paid as scholarship. What can one do with Rs. 4/-? Similarly,

Rs. 40/- a year is paid to the students of fifth class. Gone are the days when people used to follow you blindly. Now, they have seen through your game. The recent elections are indicative of it. This is just a beginning. Congress Party has been thrown out of power in Gujarat and Maharashtra. In many states, you are not even in the opposition. You are on number three in Karnataka and Bihar. People have now become conscious and you should also do some introspection. You still have time to think about the economy of the country. On the basis of a good economy, the Government can help the poor people and raise their standard of living. If the intention of the Government is bona-fide, it can still do something, even after 47 years of India's independence. By manipulating the data, you have been misleading the people. Some sycophants may have termed this budget of Dr. Manmohan Singh as very good but the renowned economists of the country have commented adversely on it. The budget reflects the thinking of the Government.

My humble submission is that this budget needs reconsideration in order to put our economy on sound footing. The present economic policy is anti-poor, anti-villagers, anti-youths, anti-farmers, anti-downtrodden and anti-minorities. In favours the rich which run the Government but it is against those very people who have voted them to power. That is why these people have started alienating from this Government.

My submission is that there is a need to change this economic policy so as to provide employment opportunities to the unemployed youth, means of livelihood to the poor and respect to every citizen on the ground of humanity. Today 70 per cent of our people are living in villages. Government must help them. Our hon. Speaker had sought the opinion of all of us on the agricultural labourers. It is a fact that our farmers took the challenge and achieved the target of agricultural production so much so that today we do not have resort to more import of foodgrains. It is regretting that they are also not getting justice. The Government must pay attention to the lot of the agriculture labourers also. When it was demanded here to give them minimum wages, the Government did not provide them jobs. Today, the youth of the nation is facing starvation due to non-availability of employment opportunities...*(Interruptions)* There is a need to formulate such policies which could provide employment to the youth of the country.

It is a matter of great shame that even after 47 years of India's Independence, children born in the Jhuggie-Jhooparies die in the lap of their mothers in the absence of adequate treatment and availability of medicines. I have visited certain countries and found that countries which became free much later than India-particularly Malaysia which won freedom after 12 years...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kalka Das, you have already spoken for 22 minutes.

SHRI KALKA DAS : I want to submit, through you, that this budget is a fraud and the poor are now seeing through the game of the Government. If the Government think that poor people have not awakened, it is their illusion. The purchasing power of rupee has gone down drastically. The elders now recollect that earlier they used to earn Rs. 10 and now earn Rs. 15 but they are not able to purchase that much of items in Rs. 15/- which they used to purchase for Rs. 10/-.

The honest salaried class should be given some relief as they cannot conceal their income. The Chellaiah Committee recommended tax exemption upto an income of Rs. 60 thousand and all the political parties have required to extend the exemption limit at least upto Rs. 50 thousand. However, the Government did not bridge. The time is not far away when they will owe that they did not care for the timely advice of the Members. So, I want to make a submission to Government that this budget is anti-poor and it need reconsideration. Further, this budget will not generate employment opportunities for the unemployed youth since it is anti-small scale industries. Above all, it is against the principles of Mahatma Gandhi.

It is very unfortunate that even after 47 years of India's Independence, 48 per cent people are illiterate here. We will have to formulate our policies in such a way so as to ensure education and social justice to all.

I am sorry to say that this Government is leading in corruption. There have been many scandals so far in which Parliamentary Committees were set up to probe scams. These Committees pointed out corruption in their reports but no attention was paid on the Action Taken Reports. They are under the impression that since they are in power none can cause harm to them. But, I would like to remind them that they will have to go again before the people. Therefore, the Government should formulate an Anti-Corruption policy which may totally eliminate corruption. Unless there is corruption, the people will not be able to get the benefits of some of your policies already under implementation.

I again request our hon. Finance Minister, to extend tax exemption limit for the salaried class. The Chellaiah Committee recommendation for increasing this limit upto Rs. 60 thousand should accepted.

With these words, I thank you for giving me time

[Translation]

*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM (Arakkonam) : Hon'ble Chairman, I welcome the Budget proposals and the Finance Bill for the year 1995-96 and I extend my support to several social and rural development measures like housing scheme for the poor. You have announced that you are going to construct ten lakhs houses this year. But I would like to ask you a pertinent question as to how you intend to implement these

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

schemes intended to benefit the rural poor and other needy sections of the society. I would rather suggest to the Finance Minister to constitute Committees headed by the District Collectors and the Committees must include MPs and MLAs of a particular locality. I would like to impress upon you that such developmental schemes should be effectively monitored as they are implemented. Hence it is necessary to rope in the representatives of the people namely the Members of Parliament and MLAs. They should also be included in such Committees that would implement various rural development schemes. If the people's representatives are not roped in who would be there then to supervise the implementation of schemes like the construction and distribution of 10 lakh houses for the poor and the needy. Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people are there and poor among the other sections of the society are also there. They also ask for such housing schemes to benefit them. Likewise, we have thousands of freedom fighters and their families living in poverty in several villages. In my Constituency, good number of them are there and many of them are very poor. I wish the Government come forward to include them also in the list of beneficiaries under this scheme. They should also be provided with houses. So, I request the Government through you to formulate Committees headed by District Collectors to consider favourably such valid requests. You may even allocate certain percentage of these houses to the dependents and heirs of the freedom fighters. I wish to stress upon the effective implementation of several social measures envisaged in this year's Budget by way of including MPs and MLAs in various Committees that will have the function of monitoring the scheme implementation at various stages. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, MPs are never consulted or included in any of the Committees that will go in to the realisation of these goals in implementing various rural development schemes. This is happening not only in my part of the country but in several States. Only the MPs pass the Union Budget in the Parliament. So, it is quite logical to include MPs to supervise the implementation of these poverty alleviation programmes.

15.59 hrs.

(Shri Tara Singh in the Chair)

They would be able to give a proper feed back to the Union Government and the Parliament. It is unfortunate that at present MPs are not given this prerogative. The Union Government should send a directive to all the State Governments in this regard to include MPs also in various Committees that will go in to these programme. When late MGR was there, he gave due importance to the Members of Parliament. Alongwith the Panchayat union and Panchayat council Members, MPs and MLAs were also included in such Committees that would consider and implement various schemes carried out with the Central funds. Through

this august House, I would like to request the Finance Minister to ensure this kind of supervisory mechanism which was there in Tamil Nadu earlier. Such of the schemes that were recommended by such Committees were implemented then.

As far as sick industrial units are concerned, I now find that there is no use pumping in funds any further. The thrust of industrial growth lie in utilising sophisticated machines and modern technology. Large amount of money is already blocked. Hence it would be better you go in for selling off these unviable sick units. They may be auctioned and the money can be retrieved. Rejuvenating and revitalising sick units could not be carried out beyond a point. If we could sell off these sick units we could gather funds which might obviate the need to go in for foreign loans and getting into a debt trap. Nearly about one lakh crores of rupees has been blocked in these sick units. And I am of the view that there is no need to provide more and more of fund to these unviable sick units. There are units which are lying closed for more than five years, some of them eight years and ten years. Such units should be immediately disposed off. That would help improving our financial position for the better.

Hon. the Finance Minister increased the Income Tax ceiling limit upto Rs. 40,000/-. But I would like to request the Finance Minister to increase it further upto Rs. 48,000/-. Almost all the Members who spoke in this House on the General Budget and then Finance Bill have unfailingly been referring to this aspect. Hence I request the Finance Minister to still consider raising further the Income Tax limit.

There are several incentives provided to those who go in for Small Savings, National Savings Certificates and other savings schemes. Income Tax rebate is available to them. That too has a limit. That may be increased to Rs. 25,000/-.

Sales Tax on goods and commodities vary from State to State. The ST rates should be restructured and it would be better they are done away with because such taxation gives rise to price rise. Instead excise duty can be levied and distributed among the States. The Government may kindly consider the feasibility of this suggestion.

In this connection I would like to add that the reductions announced in the levy of excise duties have not yielded desired results especially to the consumers. The case in point here is that of Premier Automobiles. When automobile industry is given excise duty relief with the sole aim to increase their marketability and production, it has not been passed on to the buyer. Instead the prices have increased. Middle Class people would not get any benefit out of these central excise relief measures. Before announcing any reduction in any central excise duty, the Government must ensure that the prices of goods and products are not increased.

I may request the Union Finance Minister to invite the manufacturers especially from the automobile industry and ensure that the prices are brought down.

Cement price has increased now. They say that they were levied Rs. 20 per tonne as Central Excise duty. But in the market, the cement price has been increased by about Rs. 20 per bag. There is something wrong somewhere. The Minister claims one thing but the Cement Industry says something else. The Finance Minister may kindly take up this with the Cement Industry and may take efforts to bring down the price to its earlier level.

The Fertilizers subsidy which has been increased to Rs. 5800 crores from Rs. 5000 crores should be increased further upto Rs. 7000 crores. The Finance Minister may favourably consider this request made on behalf of the agriculturists. Villages are the backbone of the country. Agriculture is our main stay. Hence we need to shoulder the burden of our farmers.

In Tamil Nadu, Rs. 3.50 is charged per unit of electricity. Those who run Hotels, lodges and commercial establishments are the most hit. The Union Government may kindly take up this with the Government of Tamil Nadu. I request the Finance Minister to take right steps in this direction to bring down the electricity charges.

Insurance sector has the money flow that comes from the public. The Malhotra Committee Report on Insurance Sector Reforms is still under consideration with the Union Finance Ministry. The service to the client public should be satisfactory. There are inordinate delays in clearing Insurance claims and compensations. Such lacunae should be wiped out. Apart from that I would like to suggest setting up a separate Recruitment Board for the Insurance Sector. Insurance Companies are organising several public functions. Nationalised Insurance Companies should be directed to invite local MPs also while organising such functions meant for interaction with the public.

Nationalised Banks are providing loans to various industrial units. MPs should be included in such of the Committees that would consider the loan applications to grant loans. Respective local MPs should be included in the Committees of the Industrial Development wings of the Nationalised Banks.

The freedom fighters' pension should be increased by Rs. 500/-

The present Central Pension of Rs. 1500 should be enhanced to Rs. 2000/-. The dependents and family members of such freedom fighters should be given some kind of reservation or priority in getting employment opportunities in Banks and other public sector units. Hon. the Finance Minister many consider a 5% reservation in jobs in these institutions to benefit the descendents of the Freedom Fighters. Whatever we may do to the Freedom Fighters, it would only be a befitting

tribute to them. It is only through them that we won our freedom. Before I could speak, an Hon. Member from BJP spoke on this Bill. I was happy to note that he was referring to Mahatma Gandhi that we got our Freedom. He was finally shot dead by a fanatic. But still he lives. His descendents and followers are here. Those who have participated in the freedom struggle alongwith him are here. The number of Freedom Fighters presently living amidst us is not very big. I find many of them suffering. Their poor families are suffering a lot today. Hence I request the Finance Minister to increase this pension from Rs. 1500 to Rs. 2000/-.

The prices of Rice vary from State to State. This gives rise to an anomalous situation. People are greatly disappointed. States that sell rice at a lesser price should be given union assistance and grant. You may categorically announce whether it is possible or not. The rice is sold at different rates in different States like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. While Andhra rice comes to Tamil Nadu, rice from Tamil Nadu is moved or smuggled to Kerala where it is dearer. If there is a price fixation policy and uniform price for all varieties of rice like fine quality and coarse quality, the price fluctuation may not be there. It may not lead to confusion and anomaly. Otherwise Union Government must categorically announce whether they could give or not a subsidy to the States who sell rice at a lower price.

As regards to prohibition, Union Government should evolve a policy. During elections some political parties promise total prohibition. But after elections, they throw the blame on the Centre as it is not providing funds enough to tide over the financial loss that may accrue due to the total prohibition. Or else they resort to levying taxes that add up to the burden of the common people. Hence I request the Union Government to state categorically its stand on prohibition and its avowed policy in this regard. Such of the States should be adequately compensated.

The Nationalised Banks have recently restructured the interest rates. Housing loans should be given at a lesser rate of interest. I am not quite satisfied with the functioning of the Housing Development Banks. They do not have their Branches in many of the towns. Such of functions towards housing loans should be entrusted with all other Scheduled Banks. They will be on the reach out to the people through out the country with their vast network. Such a measure can be carried out with effective supervision and monitoring mechanism. The existence of exclusive Housing Development Banks are not known to many. They extend loans only to the affluent people in the society. You may wind up those banks and hand over their role and responsibility to the Scheduled Banks.

It is needless to emphasize the importance of Tourism in our country. It needs to be encouraged. Individuals and private parties who come forward to

construct hotels and lodging houses should be encouraged as they would promote both inland and foreigners' tourism travels. They should be given 25% subsidy and liberal loan facilities from the nationalised Banks. I request the Finance Minister to consider this favourably which would help promoting tourism that could earn foreign exchange for the country. This subsidy was earlier available. The 25% subsidy was taken away when Shri Vengal Rao was our Industries Minister. The Government cannot build up the infrastructure required to promote tourism. We do not have resources. But at the same time, the private sector can be helped with incentives to go in for constructing hotels and lodges.

The pension for the aged is a welcome scheme. I request you to lower the age limit to 60 years of age. MPs should also be allowed to recommend people who will come under the scheme.

The customs duty on life saving drugs has been reduced to 20%. I welcome this gesture. At the same time you must ensure that the prices are brought down accordingly to benefit the common man. The Government may constitute a Committee to keep a watch on the price movement. Officials should be entrusted with this responsibility.

The Regional Office of the State Bank of India functioning now in Madras should be shifted to Vellore. People from Thiruvannamalai District, Shabugarar District, Ramasamy Padayachiya District, Union territory of Pondicherry will be greatly benefitted due to this. Otherwise they may have to travel every time to Madras to meet top officials. You may alleviate this problem faced by the public from these places.

I have always been insisting that all the nationalised Banks should be totally computerised. They may then be centralised and effective check and balance could be there then. Strikes and dharnas in Banks would affect the Banking system. Hence the Government and the authorities should come forward to redress the grievances of Bankmen even before they could serve notice to the management that they would go on strike. The demands of the Bankmen should be considered as and when they come up. This would ensure public faith in the Banking system. Nationalised Banks are constructing their own buildings in many places to house their Branch offices. Recently one such building was constructed by a nationalised Bank in Wallajah town which come under my Arakkonam Parliamentary constituency. From Rs. 60 lakhs to more than a crore has been spent on such buildings. Not even an year is over now. But several cracks, leakages are found in the building. Even the local MP was not invited to attend the inauguration of that building. Such buildings constructed with such attitude are not constructed properly. These damages would cause huge losses to the Bank. I request the Minister to take note of this. If when MPs are kept informed they could keep watch on the development. This money belongs to the Central

Government. Who else other than an MP could give a feed back to the Centre about the activities that are going on in the Banking sector in a particularity locality.

Several Nationalised Banks including State Bank of India have taken on rent several buildings in many towns. They do not treat properly the landlords or the building owners. Say for instance if a land owner sends a letter stating that five year contract period had come to an end and the rent could be increased further, the Banks do not even acknowledge the letter. There should be fair play. In this regard there are several cases pending in many places. It has come to my knowledge that in a particular case, the Court itself directed the State Bank of India to vacate the premises of a building owner. This blow to an organ of the Government came about because of default in paying rent. Instead of entering into five years contract, Banks themselves should increase the rent atleast once in four years according to the prevailing market rent in those towns. The Banks must be fair to those who provide them the premises to operate. I would like to point out that the Ministry of Communication has decided to increase the rent payable by them every third year. They have rented several buildings for Post Offices and other offices throughout the country. I wish State Bank of India emulate this.

Now I would like to put on record the great service rendered by our Finance Minister. Now we feel proud and walk tall in the comity of Nations. He has able colleagues to co-ordinate efficiently the functioning of the Ministry of Finance. Because of the proud place he has carved out for us in the international arena, we are welcomed everywhere. We could attain self-sufficiency through the present leadership which is ably assisted by Dr. Manmohan Singh and thereby we could fulfil the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi to attend to the needs of all the people unto this last.

Requesting this august House and the Hon. Members to co-operate with our Finance Minister in all his endeavours, let me conclude my speech once again reiterating my support to this Finance Bill.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, I thank you very much for calling me to speak. This is the most opportune time for me to speak because the House has no quorum! I am not calling quorum just now because I will have to go out; and otherwise, we may have to wait for another two hours. I find that the Press Gallery is all empty! I am not sure that after I start speaking, the Television would not be turned off because last time when I spoke on the Defence Budget, it was turned off, for whatever reasons. I do not know, I might have been giving secrets to all the public! For another reason also, it is a very opportune time to speak because a few days ago, the death-knell of the Congress party has been sounded!

Therefore, the Bill which we are presently discussing and which is the policy and the handiwork of the Ruling

Party is for all practical purposes already dead, before it is passed! So, whatever we may pass, it will be a dead Bill or a dead Act. It will have no effect whatsoever in the ultimate reckoning in the polls because the Party will no longer exist by that time. However since we have an assigned task, we have to go on even with the post-mortem of the dead Bill.

Sir, a few days ago when the Financial Bill was yet to come up for discussion and the meeting of the 19th was yet to be held in Talkatora Stadium, I purchased two financial magazines which are glossy magazines which everybody knows. One is called *The Business India* and the other is *The Business World*. After I started reading and looking into the top cover, I somehow felt a little uneasy since something was missing here or something was wrong. Then I started thinking of what was wrong. Then it occurred to me that four years ago when this Government first came and when Budget was being discussed and when the Finance Bill was about to be discussed, these glossy magazines would usually be full of pictures of our illustrious Finance Minister, Mr. Mammohan Singh. He had an extremely photogenic face in those days. He used to stare at everybody who were looking at such magazines. These glossy financial magazines used to have his pictures on front cover. Now, what is there instead is a graph showing that the things are going down. This change in the perception of the very people for whom all these changes have been brought about over the last 40 years. This is the perception now. The other magazine has the picture of the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India with a big caption, 'Taking Tough' and underneath, it has, 'How effective is it in policing the financial system'. This is the perception now of these magazines, the people who write them, the entire financial world for that matter, that this Government has not been able to do anything that it set out to do. It said it would do; it first started with its 1991 Budget and it has failed. In all the articles inside, they only say as to what has failed, why it has failed, what has gone wrong and what should have been done, etc. So, this is the present position of the financial policies pursued by this Government.

The main instrument of industrialisation or development or modernisation, globalisation, liberalisation and what not, of this Government has been to depend on the private sector and as much as possible, on the public sector. First of all, in not letting it go, then squeezing it, closing it down, to sell the shares to the public wherever possible, privatise it partially or wholly or whatever it is - this is the policy. To carry on the business, the private people have to get the capital.

We have always been told that this is one burden off our shoulders. No investment need to be made to the industry from the Government sources by taxing people. So, the money coming out of taxation can then be used for the purposes of social development, health, education and what not. The Prime Minister was saying

about it the other day also. But Sir, what has been happening to the method, to the mechanism by which private capitalists are supposed to raise their money? That mechanism is the stock exchange. Within one year of this Government coming into existence, there was a big scam. It took another one-and-a-half to unravel that scam. What had happened? It was discovered that the financial institutions of the Government, including the Central Banks have all been responsible in one way or the other by negligence or direct involvement in the conspiracy. Whatever it is, they have all been involved in this. Nothing has happened to any one of them. Even after the scam was discovered, we found that the share prices soared sky-high in those days, I think, in April, 1992. Even after that scam, some capital came from somewhere. We were told that financial institutions following institutional investors started coming. They found India a very attractive place and in fact, share prices again went up. We were told that the UTI also did its bit. The UTI is a very very large concern. I am told that its annual turnover is something like Rs.60,000 crore. *...(Interruptions)*... Then, what happened was that this institution also seemed to have failed. First of all, the scam has shown the inside of the financial institutions — how they operated the whole mechanism such callously and negligently, when they had been entrusted with other people's money. Thousands of crores of rupees have been lost. I am told that the figure is Rs. 3000 crore to Rs. 10,000 crore. It is anybody's guess as to how much it is. A lot of people lost their money. A lot of people, who went to the market seeing that there was a profit to be had within a short time, mostly small and middle class people, lost their money. They used to queue up. There were hundreds of queues. These people have lost their money. They went to buy shares towards the end of the scam, when the share prices were rising. After they bought the shares, the share prices started falling and crashed. So, they lost their money. I do not know how much it was. Nobody will, probably, know it. Now, again, for the second time, the prices rose and everybody took credit. The Finance Minister also took credit. He said that not only the first time and the second time but every time, it was the result of the policies being pursued by the Government. Well, now that the prices have gone down, do they say that this is also the result of their policies? If it goes up, then the credit is theirs; if it goes down, do they own up their responsibility? I do not think so. I have not heard anybody saying that....*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Because of the fall in prices, the foreign financial institutions have lost and he has a tremendous amount of foreign exchange. In fact, I suspect his hand in it *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I do not know to what extent it is, because I do not know how much money is there, how much money has been taken away. Because of the taking-away of that Money, the prices fell. I do not know that. If the Finance Minister is so convinced about it, let

him publish a Paper - White or Green or whatever name you can give it. Let us know about it. I will be very happy if he had been able to squeeze the foreign financial institutions. But if that was so, he did not welcome them when they came here because they were making losses. He thought that they will come and give us support - a support not for six months or eight months but a support which will be for years together.

That must have been the reason for welcoming them at that time. I think that he will not deny that even now. So, they have gone back. Are they going to come back again? I somehow do not think so. Let us not be in a hurry. They may really turn the corner. Another Government will come; another policy is expected in two years' time. We will see, what they do. It seems they are not coming back in hurry. This country's prime institution, the UTI is also, I am told, in a financial crunch to redeem some of their debts which fell due very recently. Something like Rs. 6,000 crore, they had to redeem or they will have to redeem ultimately, during this period. They had to sell shares that is what the market shows. The Chairman denies stating that 'we are not selling shares, we have been led by buyers in the market' and so on. Nobody believes him. So, this is the type of credibility our institution have built up. When the Reserve Bank says that 'we are going to enforce this and that', nobody believes the Reserve bank of India. Nobody believes the SEBI. This is the prime institution; it regulates the stock market.

So, this is the end result. Without that belief or credibility, how will a financial institution ever be built up as long as the Government is there? It may not be just lack of integrity; it may be sheer callousness, negligence when you are not able to understand how the mechanism works. I am not going to blame anybody. But the entire system is to be blamed - 'The system failure' the term as have coined! - but this failure also belongs to those people who have set up the system without understanding what the system is. That is bound to fail.

Sir, not only the secondary market where actually this kind of spurt has come twice during the last four years but the primary market where the new capital will be garnered from the market by the new industrialists or industrialists who are trying to expand a sort of new industries and so on, are also in a soup, and the people who have not been getting ready to float the new equity issues in the market are held back now because there is not much chance of their being subscribed or if their subscription is below a certain percentage, then they have to return the money and all that.

What I am saying is that this Government has been a complete failure on the standards which it set for itself. I am not going to waste my time saying that they have not done anything for the poor people. It was never expected to do anything for the poor people. They say it but they never try to do anything for the poor

people. Their whole attitude was liberalisation, globalisation, modernisation and to catch up with the advanced countries in a short time and to make the Indian capitalists a world class capitalists. Some of them take pride and some of these capitalists have become multinationals, the Indian multinationals. How many are there? Fifty or something, the Indian multinationals. Wonderful. But we are not concerned with that. We thought that any Government's duty is to do something for the people of the country and the people do not consist of 70, 80 or 100 families who rule the industries, commerce and business of the country. But the Government stands for them. But they could not accomplish even that.

Therefore, the pictures of the Finance Minister disappeared from these magazines now. I even took the trouble of going through them to see any picture inside! ...*(Interruptions)*

So, there are many things in the country. I am just on the point of how the Government could raise its finances for the industrial capital. There are many other instruments which could be thought of. I just wanted to give the suggestion. There can be a new debt instrument and there can be bonds issued by the Government which will give security to the investors.

I am thinking in respect of large investors. I am only thinking from the perspective of small investors, middle class salaried people who want to save some money and not be losers because of inflation which is running at the rate of around ten per cent. Here, I am not entering into a quarrel whether it is above ten per cent or whether it stands at 9.6 per cent or so. But it is a fact that people who are saving are losing because of inflation. If such instrument of debt are devised whereby they do not lose because of inflation and get some reasonable return on their savings, I believe many people will be tempted to invest in that kind of a thing. That will give necessary capital though saving for business and commerce. But what is happening today? If you put your money in the bank, what is the return? What is the rate of interest of savings? Even on FDR, the rate is about 11 to 12 per cent, but one is really getting only two per cent. Even with that kind of two or three per cent return, investors are happy if the inflation is taken care of. That kind of a mechanism can be devised which will be more appropriate to the Indian situation.

Moreover, in the money market there are many devices. For example in other countries, there is secondary market for mortgage house building and so on. But here, we have nothing of that sort. With great experience, I thought the Finance Minister would have introduced all these things such as floating rate of interest on bonds, etc. But apparently, he has got stuck with the ideas with which he started four years ago, and he has not made much progress.

Take the chit fund for example. Chit funds are found in this country alone. No other country has such a

device. I understand that the chit fund companies are raising a lot of money. I don't know whether it is true because statistics cannot always be relied upon. But I am told that Rs. 10,000 crore are raised by chit funds alone. Then, there are the saving companies also. All these have to be properly regulated. The difficulty is that there is no regulation. There is not proper legal framework. Even if there are some norms, they are just not enforced. I had an occasion to ask the Reserve Bank interacting with them about the reason for the failure of financial institutions. I am referring to the failure of the non-banking financial institutions which occurred at that time, say two years ago, in West Bengal. I wanted to know why those companies were asked to close down. I understood that their monitoring is done once in a year. Even that was not carried out properly. Somehow, the Central Banking Institution is not really discharging its duties fully. It should be more vigilant. They should have more staff. If they do not have adequate staff, they could appoint people. Professionals, chartered accountants and lawyers who are well qualified for this sort of work are available. But nothing is being done in this direction.

Similar is the case with SEBI. I know of a case where SEBI has approved the floating of a new issue on the basis of the prospectus which contained a list of the assets of the company. Some properties which did not belong to that company were also listed. They simply said that those were the properties of the company and in the footnote, it was indicated that there was some litigation pending in respect of the said properties. The property was a very good asset, valued at Rs. 10 crore. But nobody tried to find out what the litigation was about. The contention was that the property which was registered in the name of the company should be de-registered and it was de-registered. The Company has gone into an appeal against the de-registration. While this was the substance of the litigation, all that was put in the footnote was that the property was under litigation. So, SEBI's business is finished. The investor banks' business too is finished. It is because they did not inquire into it to find out whether that property could actually be included in the list of assets. Complaints were made but not heed was paid to them. This is the type of institutions which have been built up. They cannot really lead this country to any kind of progress in this field of generating capital for the purpose of investment in the industrial sector or for that matter in any other sector.

I have mentioned the Chit Funds because I think the Finance Minister must be knowing about these aspects. There was Committee chaired by Shri A.C. Shaw which also recommended that Chit Funds need not be abolished. They could continue if there could be proper regulations imposed for their proper functioning.

I think, this is one way in which, at least, the middle-class businessmen who cannot go to the bank or cannot fulfil the bank's requirement of security after security -

which of course, the banks ask only for such people - could benefit. But if it is a businessman dealing with a five star hotel business, they do not ask, rather do not dare to ask, for securities from them. Sometimes, I was told by a Chairman of a bank himself that if I ask for security from them, they say, it is not the policy of the company to give any personal security of a Director. If I still insist for a personal security from the Director, then they would go to some other bank and I would lose my investment. So, I fall in line for that. That is the kind of a thing which is happening in the country. It is really being run by a handful of people at the top. They dictate the policy, of course, subject to the approval of the masters abroad.

Sir, I would like to mention a small point about devolution of taxes. This is about a recommendation on taxes, which I read in the report of the Finance Commission, which I think, should be taken note of. What is happening for so long - after the formation of the first Finance Commission till now is that the excise duty and the income tax which are being devolved to the States are being devolved at different rates. At present, 85 per cent of the income tax and 40-45 per cent of the excise duty are being devolved to the States. Now, the suggestion given by the Finance Commission is that there should be one rate for both. The income tax and excise duty should be lumped together and one rate should be applied in both the cases. It is a very sensible suggestion. In that case, there would not be doubts that we have today. I must admit that with every Budget presented by the ruling Party, there is a feeling that there is some kind of a trickery somewhere when the Central Government is foregoing a share of 85 per cent in income tax. The Central Government is not as careful in applying the income tax law and collecting the taxes when they are giving the States, a share of 85 per cent in income tax; as they are in case of the excise duty where they retain a major portion of the share. That kind of a suspicion can perhaps be avoided if this suggestion of the Finance Commission is accepted by the Government.

Sir, I would like to mention about some policies, where I feel, something should be done even now. If something is done now, then perhaps, a lot of money could be saved for the country. We all remember the sugar scam which took place only last year. This sugar scam has cost the country a lot of money because there was no policy. When finally the orders for import of sugar were made, the world prices for sugar had already gone up by that time, because while we were dilly-dallying, everybody knew that we would ultimately be compelled to buy a certain amount of sugar and prices were going up. Now, what has happened is, probably as a result of the high prices of last year, this year production of sugar is going to be very high. It is going to be as much as 140 lakh tonnes as against 98 lakhs tonnes last year. This would be 42 lakh tonnes higher than last year. The demand is about 120 lakh tonnes.

So, there would be a surplus of about 20 lakh tonnes. Yet it is being said by the Minister in-Charge that the department would have to import four lakh tonnes of sugar. Certainly it is not for the Finance Minister to determine the necessity for import of sugar, but here is a case where the Finance Minister could put his foot down and say, 'No import of any amount of sugar because this year we are going to have, according to estimates, 20 lakh tonnes in excess after this year's production of sugar comes in.' Something should be done to prevent yet another sugar scam which may otherwise take place next year. The country's foreign exchange should also be saved. The other thing in this respect is to take note of an observation in the Gian Prakash Committee Report which said that there was no scientific method for forecasting the production of sugar. I do not know whether the Government have started devising any proper scientific method for that purpose or not.

This was recommended and possibly accepted by the Government. But the Government quiet often accept the recommendation and then sit quietly.

The other thing is about paper prices. Paper prices have gone up by 11 per cent or so. All kinds of paper prices have gone up by 11 per cent in the last two years or so. Newsprint prices have gone up sky high. It has gone up from as low as Rs.17,000 last year to about Rs.27,000 this year. So, there is about 80 per cent rise in the prices of new print and, therefore, the newspaper owners had given a threat to go on strike. Just before the strike was to take place, the Commerce Minister conceded to their demand to put the newsprint on OGL and at zero duty. The Finance Minister must have agreed to it.

In this country if we are go in for the education of masses, then we require much more paper of all varieties and also the newsprint. The Government has not taken any concrete step to increase the supply of the raw material because even today the paper mills are using wood or wood pulp imported from abroad. This country has got one of the best climatic conditions for growing the species of trees which are required for the manufacture of paper but we have not taken any step to augment the supply of our raw material. This is to be noted and something should be done by way of giving necessary incentives, if necessary, to paper mills themselves making it obligatory for them to produce the amount of timber they are going to consume and they should consume only that amount of timber and not more. Something like that has to be done. But I do not see any sign of that. This is very very essential because we in fact are using very very small quantity of paper per person compared to the international standards. After all, 60 per cent of the people of this country are still, illiterate. They have no connection with paper. This I think should be taken note of and something should be done about it; otherwise, even by putting newsprint on OGL, we will not be able to get the supply of newsprint for the purpose of printing paper at a cost at which people can buy it in future.

We have got the best climatic conditions in the whole world for agriculture. I do not know whether it is understood or appreciated by this House or by the Government, including the Ministry of Agriculture. Somehow, I have a feeling that the Ministry of Agriculture is least interested to expand the agricultural base. Whatever is happening in this country is happening despite the Ministry's effort to see that these are not expanded. We have 160 million hectare of land under foodgrain production and China has got only 100 million hectare. Last year China, produced 450 million tonnes of foodgrains and we produced, with 60 per cent more land, only 185 million tonnes of foodgrains. Is it not unfortunate? In most parts of China there is only one crop annually because winter is very severe. We do not have that severe winter even in the North. He can produce two or three crops annually in most part of our land provided we do the needful. But we are not doing the needful. From 1978 China's production has jumped from 250 million tonnes to about 450 million tonnes in 1994.

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV (Machilipatnam) : They are importing foodgrains.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : They may import. They eat more. What does it matter. You see what they are producing. The question is that we are not eating. I saw Mr. Nirmal Chatterjee's speech which he delivered in this House on Thursday where he has given certain figures and usually he is a genius statistician.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : You can hear a speech but how can you see it?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I saw it in print.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wind up now.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, I am already wound up. As I have already said, I am doing a post-mortem. It is already wound up, Sir.

In this country we have an institution called Indian Council for Agricultural Research, ICAR, which is probably the only institution with the responsibility of doing research. There are 50 such institutions under this institution with the responsibility of extension, with the responsibility of marketing not only agricultural but all kinds of allied products like fish, poultry, dairy etc. Unfortunately, this is some thing which people should start thinking now, the whole range of things cannot be under one umbrella. Maybe under one umbrella but cannot be dealt with in detail by one institution where most of these subjects are not receiving any attention.

For one thing, I know, in my State there is only one such institution. As you know, Sir, my State has been deprived of all - no CSIR, only one ICAR, no defence research laboratory, nothing. That used to be called Jute Research Institute but now the name given to it is Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres. This institute has been neglected. The way it has been neglected is unbelievable. There is no proper Director.

The person who became its Director drove out the scientists. This is the kind of thing which has been going on for four years. A Member of Parliament of that area is also involved and when he went there, there was an attack on him by the scientists. All kinds of things have happened. It is remarkable that jute is a product of eastern India where on jute depends the livelihood of two lakh peasant families and many workers also. The number of workers used to be more than two lakh earlier but now the figure has gone down because of closure of several mills, retrenchment etc., - thanks to the policies of the Government, policies pursued and policies not pursued. I have been to the institute earlier also and I have seen this example with my own eyes. I have seen what has happened there. But in other institutions also I know that no systematic research is carried on. What research is done has nothing to do with what is needed in the field. If something is done by chance, accidentally, which may be used in the field then there is nobody there to take it out because they say "it is our idea, we are scientists, we are working here, there are no people, no extension workers. Why is it that no extension workers are there? I did not know until I was first told by the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research in Uttaraghatta, Bangalore, that extension work is also a mandate of ICAR. I have been elected by Lok Sabha, through this House to ICAR and there I find that they are so un-serious about everything that in the Annual General Meeting they confronted me with the annual accounts which gave no picture at all as to what they are doing. When I said, "What is it for? You are concealing everything", they said, "it is the format given to us by the CAG".

I said that then you will have to talk to C&AG and give us a format of accounts disclosing everything and concealing nothing. Since many people are raising many issues before him I do not know whether the Finance Minister is aware that this type of thing is going on there. But something has to be done.

In this year's Budget, you have allocated Rs. 2300 crore. If things are allowed to carry on as they being carried on now, I am afraid that spending of this money will do a very little good to the people of this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Datta, you have taken a substantial time. Please conclude.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, just one point. This is concerning the Finance Minister. He should know this. He is the note sender. He is the heart of his Finance Ministry. He is the heart of the whole Council of Ministers. It is because he can stop and start anything. The Finance Minister has got more power even more than the Prime Minister. I hope he will give us something now.

Sir, last but not least is the danger or obstacle coming in the way of expansion of agriculture, particularly, by the smaller farmers. In my constituency, the average land holding is less than one acre. There

may be one or two big farmers even having the acres of land. But I find, amongst our supporters, there is nobody having even half an acre of land. That is the condition. So, I have to speak for them. We got them some new hybrid technology.

Sir, you come from Punjab. You know very well that farmers of Punjab are making lakhs or rupees in one acre of land by growing tomatoes. They have also started doing that now. But, where is the money? They go to the banks. The banks ask the farmers whether the lands in which they are cultivating belong to them. They will say that the lands do not belong to them. They have taken them on lease from somebody. Then the banks will ask them to show their lease. Nobody is giving them a signed lease for three months or four months. So, it is only an oral lease. What is the scale of finance? The scale of finance is Rs. 2600 per acre. On one occasion I had to react to the Reserve Bank of India people. I told them that this is the problem. Then, they said that they will talk to NABARD to change there scale of finance, this and that. They did nothing. Neither did they talk to the RBI nor to the NABARD.

I wrote a letter to the Finance Minister two years back. Then I caught hold of the bank itself and shouted at everybody, including their Chairman. That is why, I got the scale of finance increased from Rs. 2600 to Rs. 15,000. That is the scale of finance required for one acre of land. They were only prepared to give Rs.2600. There were other legal conditions. The legal conditions were also changed. Even then there were problems. The problems arose in this way. After the money was given, nobody from the bank ever went to see what that farmer is doing. When the time came for them to give further loans they said that they cannot give any loans. I asked them why can they not give loans? They said that it is because nobody returns the money. I told them to give their names. It took them one month to give me their names. After that I sent my people. Then they said that they are prepared to give loans but nobody is asking them to give loans. The village people said that until the bank people ask us money why should we pay? So, we got them together, invited the banks and then the payments were made. If a person is earning Rs. 1 lakh from one acre of land there is no reason why he is not prepared to pay that Rs. 15,000. They are not crooks. They are honest people. They are prepared to return the money but the banks are not willing to go and collect their money or ask them to pay their money. So, this is the kind of thing which is going on. I have tried to impress upon the hon. Finance Minister to look into the affairs of the smaller farmers in our countryside. If it is done, then a lot of developments can take place.

If the Agriculture Minister or the Ministry becomes an obstacle, even then improvement can take place. But without finance nothing can be moved. That is one thing. Sir, I am very grateful to you that you have given me sufficient time to speak. With these words I finish my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA (Salumbar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Finance Bill. I have been elected from a rural constituency. Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the rural areas. Many hon. Members have expressed their views here. I will not go into the details but speak in brief about the rural areas only. The hon. Finance Minister has earmarked a substantial sum for the development of the rural areas, provided facilities to them and formulated new schemes for them on the Congress Government had promised to develop the rural areas but those schemes were not properly implemented because the middlemen pocketed most of the money released for the schemes.

In our area, some are given oxen, some oxen cart and some others pumping sets, under the self-employment scheme. I would like to illustrate my point by an example. If the prevalent market price of a pumping set is Rs.8 thousand, its price is quoted at Rs.12 thousand by the Panchayat Samities under DRDA. The amount of Rs.2-3 thousand given as subsidy is pocketed by the middlemen. The Government should check such type of irregularities to ensure that proper benefit of these schemes reach the people.

Our former Prime Minister, late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had visited tribal areas in Rajasthan 3-4 times. He visited the hamlets of tribals and saw their plight. He formulated many schemes to improve their lot. Now, Shri Narasimha Rao want to implement those schemes. He has formulated such developmental schemes and launched them in the tribal areas. I want to submit that when the money sanctioned by the Government of India under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana for the construction of houses, school buildings and roads reach Rajasthan, where BJP Government is in power, the worker of BJP goes there and says 'say with pride....(Interruptions)' bring work...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the name should be expunged from the proceedings.

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Then that worker says that the work cannot be started until and unless he is given his commission. I am telling a fact to which I have been an eye witness. The hon. Members also know that I never tell a lie.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not name anybody.

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : The name may be expunged from the proceedings of the House. Whenever we put a question here, the hon. Minister says that it is the subject of the State Government whereas the State Government puts the responsibility on the Government of India. I feel much grieved when such things happen even after the funds are released by the Government of India.

Not Recorded.

17.00 hrs.

I urge upon the Prime Minister in particular to ensure that the Central grants are utilised in the developmental schemes formulated of the State. I have no intention to put hurdle in this work, but the Members of Parliament, irrespective of their political parties, should be consulted before granting money to the State Governments and thereby the poor should be benefited.

Opening of schools and education of illiterates is prerequisite for rural development. In the schools located in rural areas, teachers with urban background are posted there. Only affluent villagers can afford sending their children 10-15 kilometres away for schooling. The matric pass person of the areas are not considered qualified for jobs. Then another aspect pertaining to S.Cs and S.Ts also crop up. The children are not taught there properly with the result that sometimes, all the children fail in their classes. On the one hand, we want that our country should progress and people also set education but on other hand, the standard of education is going down. The rural children cannot progress and will not get any benefit. I want to point out that when we are going for liberalisation Privatisation will increase and then only the educated and ITI trained persons will get employment tribal people and persons from rural areas will not be taken in jobs only resourceful people will get them. That is why I want to urge upon the Government that more funds should be granted for education in the rural areas and it should be under the direct control of either the Central Government or the State Governments and thereby rural children may become educated and progress.

On this occasion I would also like to forecast that in the wake of privatisation, new industries would not generate much employment opportunities, even the existing industries are being closed down. Moreover, new industries would be set up around the urban areas having all kinds of facilities and it is but natural that urban people would not get employment and these remain idle and would ultimately be booked and prosecuted on charges of terrorism and naxalism. So, as far the privatisation in the rural areas is concerned Government should exercise direct control so as wield its pressure for providing employment to the local people. Now I may tell you of my area. On my way from my area to Delhi via Jaipur, I see many new industries coming up but after Jaipur, in the tribal areas, no industries are being set up. Even if some of the industries are set up there, the facilities such as water and electricity are not available there. I urge upon the Government to take measures for the development of the rural areas so that new industries are set up there also.

Many hon. Members have spoken about the plight of the farmers and I agree with them. The farmers are not getting remunerative prices for the foodgrains which they otherwise deserve. The agriculture land in tribal

area in my constituency is very less. People have small holdings, ranging between half bigha and one bigha with no irrigational facilities. So the yield is very less and the people have to purchase foodgrains throughout the year. I would like to request the Government that subsidy should be increased under the Public Distribution System so that these people can purchase foodgrains at cheaper rates. I have been working among the workers for the last 50 years and I am the Vice-Chairman of INTUC in Rajashtan. The Government have set up a Tripartite Labour Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Ramanujam. The Committee will consider the questions relating to payment of enhanced bonus to the workers of the undertakings and factories, raising of tax exemption ceiling on their income, payment of dearness allowance according to the price index and payment of pension to these workers. The committee has already unanimously decided on these issues. The hon. Minister of Labour, on behalf of the Government gave an assurance for implementing this decision at an early date but no action has so far been taken which has resulted in discontentment among the workers. The Government employees get half-yearly hike in their pay and other facilities also but the industrial workers do not get such benefits which create discontentment among them. The industrial workers generate revenue for Government whereas the Government employees take salaries from the Government treasury, I am not opposing them but only saying that they are paid bonus and other things. The industrial workers generate revenue by dint of their hardwork and if there are losses in any industrial unit, it is not because of them but due to certain other factors though still they are blamed for it. The industrial workers want those facilities which are being given to the Government employees.

17.07 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Shri Manik Lal Verma and Shri Mohan Lal Sukhadia in Rajasthan created a new awareness and implemented many schemes in our area for the development of adivasis. They are no more with us now and the schemes framed by them are not being pursued. Shri Rajiv Gandhi also did make efforts but he is also no more with us. Shri Manomhan Singh is with us. Shri Rao has also formulated many rural developmental schemes and I am happy to say that whenever I have raised this issue, our Prime Minister has doubled the allocations for the rural development. I hope that the hon. Finance Minister will pay more attention to the rural development this year also to tackle the problem of unemployment there. Well, the urban people will manage jobs for themselves by their dints.

I urge upon you that the industrial workers should be given dearness allowance pension and pay hike as per the Ramanujam Committee recommendations and a decision should be expedited for their benefit so as to eliminate the apprehensions panicking them, creating panic among them.

At last, I would like to say that more and more reservations are being provided in the wake of the Mandal Commission report. The position is that the jobs have not been given against the backlog while some new castes are being included for reservations: I am not against including new castes for reservations but where are the job opportunities? There are limited numbers of job opportunities in the Government offices and the public sector undertakings are also gradually being closed down. The people from the rural areas would not get jobs like this. If job opportunities are to be increased, reservations should be made in the private sector also, otherwise, nobody will get benefit of reservations by only mere talks of reservations.

While concluding I thank you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR (Khargone) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many hon. Members have referred to the corruption charges against the Government. Shri Arjun Singh has pointedly charged the Government of bungling to the tune of Rs. 90,000 crores. Sir, it is a predominantly an agricultural country but, it seems that it has become a predominant bungling country. I am at a loss to decided whether to felicitate the Government for changing the character of the country or what else to say in this regard. There have been scandal after scandal, such a churhat lottery scandal, sugar scam, public sector shares sale scandal, Bofors scandal, Hawala transactions, ABB Railway engines purchase scandal. The Congress party has become a synonym of scandals and scams.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to refer to two scandals here. The hon. Minister of Finance is sitting here. A few days ago, it was stated that the subsidy being given to farmers on fertilizers is too much and it should be discontinued. But how the industrialists take advantage of this subsidy was pointed out in the 21st Action Taken Report of PAC of the Ninth Lok Sabha. It is stated in the Report :

[English]

"There was excess outgo of subsidy because of failure of FICC to revise the retention prices. No action was taken by the FICC though units made provision for refunding excess subsidy."

"Actual expenditure incurred by the units including expenditure on excessive staff and leading to excess outgo of subsidy amounting to Rs. 63.55 crores during the years 1988-89 to 1990-91 in respect of 45 plants."

[Translation]

If an excess of subsidy amounting to Rs. 63 crores can be received on fictitious items of expenditure during a period of two years, then you can well surmise the extent of subsidy bungled over all these years. But bungling of this Rs. 63 crores on subsidy fades before the big scandals which are happening day in and day out.

Sir, I want to attract attention of the House to a fact that a fertilizer factory with a cost of Rs. 800 crores was set up in Haldia in West Bengal during the late eighties (1989) but due to mismatching of machines, the production could not commence. Officers and employees had been recruited prior to that i.e. in 1988, after that, experts from abroad kept on coming and reporting which cost crores of rupees. The Indian experts finally gave a report that the factory could not be run and it should be closed. But as the case was referred to the BIFR, the plant is not being closed down but fertilizer is not being produced in this Rs. 800 crore plant whereas the officers and the employees are getting salaries, bonaus, promotions etc. regulations etc. regularly involving an annual expenditure of Rs. 18 crores like this. In such cases, Government should take immediate decisions in order to save the money. One of the hon. Members was referring to the provision made by the Prime Minister for the benefit of the farmers. But I would like to tell the actual position. There are 70 per cent farmers in the country and 30% of money is in the banks for credit facilities to them but only 15 per cent of it has been given to them. Moreover, only 18 per cent of the total power production is supplied to the farmers and 70% of it to the industries.

The hon. Finance Minister has been curtailing the allocations for the agriculture sector. I would give an example in this regard. The agricultural production has become static at the figure of 18.360 crore tonnes and there has been decline on capital investment on the agricultural production in the country. The institutional credit facilities and grants have been curtailed in the name of economic reforms. Simultaneously the Government grant for agriculture sector has also been curtailed. Due to good rains, the agricultural production was satisfactory during the last 5-6 years. If the rains are not good in a year, the agricultural yield will be affected which may result in famine conditions. Neglect of agricultural sector can lead to dire consequences.

You have curtailed subsidy on fertilizers as a result of which the price of DAP fertilizer have further gone up. The farmers are using urea in place of DAP and phosphate. The ratio of chemical fertilizers should be 4:2:1 for Nitrogen, Phosphate and Potash respectively. That was the ratio in 1991 but later on, control on DAP was lifted which pushed up the prices of DAP and the ratio became 9.5, 3.02 and 1 for phosphate and potash. The cultivable land is degrading due to overdose of urea which will ultimately lead to great problems for the country in future.

In India the entire investment is centred on industries and the agriculture sector is being neglected. Neither the public nor the private investments are made in the agricultural sector as there is no remunerative return on capital investment on it. According to the Economic Survey for the year 1980-81, there was no increase in the capital investment in it. During the year, 1981 the capital investment in the agriculture sector

was to the tune of Rs. 4636 crores and it was only Rs. 4617 crores (at the 1980-81) price level in 1992-93. It was 18 percent of the total investment which further declined to 9 per cent in the wake of economic reforms. When you are investing only 9 percent for the 70 per cent of population, how can you term these measures as economic reforms. The programmes being undertaken for the eradication of poverty and rural development are of the nature of fire fighting which may never lead the country to self-reliance.

A few days ago the hon. Finance Minister in this budget has announced major relief in excise duty on T.Vs, air conditioners and other consumers items and in custom duty on some goods for the industrial development and for the benefit of consumers. But the reliefs given in the budget for the year 1993-94 and 1994-95 have not percolated to the consumers and the industrialists and traders have swallowed a major chunk of these concessions by saying that they are not bound to give these benefit to the consumers. I urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to take stringent measures so that the benefit of these concessions percolate to the consumers also.

Sir, I want to make a few suggestions for arresting the spiralling prices. The Bhartiya Janata Party has proposed setting up of a commission for fixing administered prices of essential items and suggested that no price increase should be done without the recommendations of the commission and without their being considered by the Parliament. It has also been proposed in the BJP budget. That a National Debt Redemption Fund should be set up for further strengthening the public sector and redeeming the country from foreign debt. The money realised from the sales of public sector shares should be utilised not for making up the deficit financing but for redeeming the country from foreign debt. Only then the problems of the country can be solved.

Sir, before concluding, I want to give one more suggestion. The work on the Narmada Sagar dam now named as Indira Sagar dam in M.P. was started fifteen years ago, i.e. in 1980 but not much work has been done on it so far because of the paucity of resources with the M.P. Government. The State Government want this Narmada Sagar project to be declared as National project and the Central Government should give financial assistance to the State Government as is being given to the Gujarat Government for the Sardar Sarovar project so as to expedite the work on it.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : Is the State Government bearing all the expenditure on the Narmada Sagar project?

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Yes. If it is declared as a national project, it can receive financial assistance from the Central Government.

I want to give one more suggestion. The farmers in Madhya Pradesh undertook lift irrigation schemes on

Narmada and other rivers by taking loans from the banks some time ago. They worked hard and spent their savings for increasing the irrigated area and the foodgrains production. But due to high rate of interest on bank loan, they could not repay the loan as a result of which the amount of loan kept on increasing. The farmers are unable to return these huge amount of loan because of their poor financial condition. They cannot repay loan even if they sell their land and pipelines. This schemes has proved to be infeasible. The bank officers chalked out schemes for them, and gave loans to the farmers by terming the those in-feasible scheme as feasible scheme. It costed dearly to farmers so much so that they found cultivating a loss making activity. The Central Government should write off the interest and adjust the principal amount of loan against grants through the Reserve Bank of India with a view to provide relief to these farmers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I could raise many issues but for the paucity of time. I express my gratitude for giving me an opportunity to express my views. I cannot support this Bill because of the points I have tried to raise here.

[English]

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI (Kodarma) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Finance Bill 1995. This Finance Bill contains so many provisions which are objectionable from our point of view and our policies.

So far as the direct tax is concerned; we had appealed to the Finance Minister time and again that the exemption limit should be increased from Rs. 40,000. But, as per the declaration made in the Budget speech by the Finance Minister that exemption limit is Rs. 40,000 only. I would once more like to appeal to the Finance Minister that it should be raised from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 50,000 because this will give a lot of relief for the investment and for the industrial climate of the country and it will just create conducive atmosphere in the country.

So far, the Finance Minister is interested in increasing the income tax rates and direct tax rates. Many smaller savings and many professions and vocations are going to be brought into the tax net. I would like to point out here that it is better to avoid tax evasions because whatever tax evasions take place in the country, that goes up to Rs. 5,000 crore. So, my humble suggestion is that the Finance Minister should try to plug all the loopholes in respect of income tax evasion because it goes upto the tune of Rs. 5,000 crore, approximately. Similarly, whatever standard deduction has been suggested by the hon. Finance Minister, that is also low and this should also be raised. These are my suggestions in connection with the direct taxes.

Similarly, in respect of the indirect taxes which have been proposed by the Finance Minister I would like to say that the floodgates have been opened by lowering

down the customs duty on imported goods and services and it is very much surprising that the goods and services and all the commodities which are being imported from foreign countries, they do not being to the category of capital goods. Here, our country is suffering, our industries are suffering, our production is suffering, our people are suffering, but the Finance Minister has opened the floodgates by decreasing the customs duties on items like tooth paste, soap and various other items of consumption which are being imported from the foreign countries. Every year he is decreasing the customs duties on these items and this year also the customs duties on these items have been decreased by the Finance Minister. So, the Finance Minister has opened the floodgates to the foreigners and to those persons who are interested to import luxurious items like car, refrigerator, soap, tooth paste and various other items of consumption which can be easily produced here in our country.

So, all these financial measures, I think, are deadly opposed to the *Swadeshi* movement. We want to be a self-reliant economy in our country and we want to build our economy very strongly. But these measures are against all the tenets and principles of self-reliance and self-dependency. Due to all these measures, there will be a plethora of unemployment in our country, various items of consumption will be imported in our country and so many of our production units will be closed down. This point is not being taken into consideration by the Finance Minister. I do not know what is compelling our Finance Minister to reduce customs duties on these items. So, I appeal once again that the customs duty should not be reduced to such an extent so ruthlessly that all our production units will suffer, they will be closed down and there will be a lot of unemployment in our country.

Similarly, the Finance Minister has granted concessions in respect of certain items like refrigerator, television and different other items which are considered to be luxurious items and concessions have not been declared for the items of necessary consumption. So, these concessions which have been given by the hon. Finance Minister in respect of all these luxurious items are unnecessary and uncalled for and they should not have been given. Rather, the Finance Minister should have taken into consideration the basic financial precept and the principle to tax all the luxurious items much more heavily. But the Finance Minister is rushing against all these principles and he is trying to tax all the necessary items of life. He is trying to grant all the concessions to the luxurious items. I fail to understand as to what sort of steps are being taken, what sort of economy is going to be built up, what sort of facilities are going to be granted and which sections of the people are going to be benefited by all these financial measures which are being taken by the Finance Minister.

So, these are very paradoxical state of affairs and we as students of economics also fail to understand all these things.

Similarly, the incidence of whatever concessions—the so called concessions have been granted by the Finance Minister for the necessities of life—is going to be shifted by the producers to the consumers and it is ultimately the consumer who is suffering. It is the consumer who just makes payment of all these taxes. The relief is not going to reach the ultimate consumer, the common man and the general people of the country. The taxes which have been imposed by the hon. Finance Minister on different items are just going to be shifted to the common man and ultimately it is the last consumer who is just paying the taxes. So, this sort of trick which is applied by all the producers and this sort of fraud which is being committed by a large number of producers on the consumers must be held up and checked by the hon. Finance Minister. He should also take into account how this thing can be stopped and what steps should be taken in this regard.

Similarly, day in day out we hear that the inflation rate is decreasing and this is just single digit inflation and it will never go to double digit. I fail to understand what is the method of computation of inflation rate; whether it is on the basis of a wholesale index or a retail index or a labour index or a consumer price index. For, when we go to nook and corner, the remotest part and the village areas of the country, we find that the prices are going up daily. The prices of the commodities of daily consumption as well as goods and services which are considered to be very necessary for the common man are rising rapidly. There is nothing sort of thing that the Finance Minister is going to compute by taking all these things into account for determining the inflation rate. What steps are being taken in this regard? Some praise is being showered upon him and appreciation are also being made for the steps taken by the Finance Minister. We also appreciate some time because we also see daily in the newspapers that the inflation is being kept within single digit. We are not interested in whether the inflation is being calculated on weekly basis or on monthly basis or on six monthly basis, whatever that may be, but what we are interested in is that all these reliefs and benefits—if the inflation rate is actually declining and if the index is showing decreasing trend—must go to the lowest man of the society because these are the persons on whom the benefits must devolve. So, this is also a paradoxical situation and I would like to appeal to the Finance Minister that this should also be taken into consideration. We would like to know as to what is the statistical method of computation of inflation rate, how the average prices are collected, how the compilation is made, how the goods and services are represented and accommodated in that index as it concerns the common man. A few month's back, this question was raised in the Question Hour also. The hon. Finance Minister has replied that we are not in contact with all these authorities because all these things are computed by the statistical department. These things may be computed

by the statistical department but the ultimate and the net result is coming to you and you are getting appreciation and all sorts of praise in being sung by all the persons buy just cutting across all the party affiliations. So, you must see that the actual compilation takes place, the actual computation of the inflation rate is done and the benefits must go to the lowest man of the society. The actual benefit must be visible through the country and in the actual market of the country also.

So far as the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana is concerned, our friends from the Treasury Benches, all the time, are making very loud claims and counter-claims that the Prime Minister had announced so many programmes, so many measures, so many policies and so many promises to the youth of the country. We would also like to praise him if it is done, if one lakh rupees are granted to each and every youth who is unemployed so that they will be in a position to start some sort of business or avocation. But this is not going to reach the actual beneficiaries or the youth of the country. So, I would like to appeal to the Finance Minister that this should also be taken into consideration. Once the Prime Minister makes a promise, that promise must become a wholesome truth because the Prime Minister's promise is a promise which must be trusted by the countrymen. And therefore this scheme of giving one lakh rupees under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana must be translated into a reality so that it up to the grass-root level and ultimately the beneficiaries.

So far as the banking system in Bihar is concerned, it is in a deplorable condition because the C.D. ratio is only 32.70 per cent. Hardly 30 per cent investment is made in Bihar whereas a huge amount of money is being collected from the poor farmers and from various other categories of persons in Bihar. The investments are being made in various other cities of the country and the investment is not being made in Bihar. HEC, Ranchi—Shri Choudhury represents that constituency—had extended a lot of cooperation in the establishment of Bokaro Steel Plant, Rourkela Steel Plant and so many machines manufactured there were exported to foreign countries also. But today it is in a deplorable condition and it is dying out. HEC is an important factory in Bihar which can be considered as the mother-industry which had helped in the establishment of so many steel plants in the country and which was exporting so many machines to the foreign countries and developing countries. Now, it is languishing like anything; people are crying; people are holding dharnas and protests; they have come to Delhi also and they are rallying here. But no heed is being paid to them by the hon. Finance Minister.

Similarly, so far as this priority sector is concerned, an announcement was made by the Reserve Bank of India and by the hon. Finance Minister also that priority sector financing will get priority over other investments. They say that priority will be given to agriculture, priority will be given to small scale industries, priority will be

given to educated unemployed youth, priority will be given to small transport operators, but these are just taking a back seat; they are being relegated to the background; they are not getting any priority. It was said that 40 per cent of the total investment made would be in respect of these categories. Perhaps, this was the guideline which was announced in the year 1969-70, when the banks' nationalisation was made. But this also is not getting any priority and this is not being translated into reality and action. So, I would like to appeal to the Finance Minister that this priority sector financing should also be taken into consideration and at least the priority sector financing must get priority over other sorts of investments.

Similarly, subsidies have been cut and subsidies have not been given commensurate with whatever demands have been made by different Members on food, on power, on fertilizers etc. So, I appeal to the hon. Finance Minister that these subsidies must be given because here are the really poor beneficiaries, here are the really poor persons and here are the really poor Indians who are crying for this thing. This is the current need of the country and that is why, heed should be paid to whatever the people are asking, that is, the subsidy on power should be increased.

Fertilizer subsidy should be increased. A cut motion was given on food subsidy. This motion was not moved and that was also not taken into consideration. I would like to emphasise that this subsidy on food should be increased. These are vital sectors and vital parts of the economy. These are infrastructural facilities of the country. Unless and until the hon. Finance Minister pays attention to all these infrastructural facilities, our country is not going to develop. That is why, whatever subsidy has been curtailed by the Finance Minister should also be increased.

A large number of Members have spoken on banking system which should also be streamlined and improved because this is the life-blood of the economy. The banking system is committing a lot of irregularities. Many frauds, misappropriations, forgeries are taking place and thousands of crores of rupees are being misused and defrauded by the people.

My appeal to the Finance Minister is that the banking system should also be streamlined and improved and it must be made very transparent and accountable to the countrymen, the authorities and to the Finance Minister himself.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI M. KRISHNASWAMY (Vandavasi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak.

I rise to support the Finance Bill moved by the hon. Finance Minister.

I support most of the proposals made in the Finance Bill. For example, there is extensive reduction of excise

duties in order to reduce the cost of domestic production and to increase the rate of growth of industrial production.

The Finance Minister also proposed in the Finance Bill a five year tax holiday to enterprises which have built up, maintained and operated infrastructural facilities such as, constructing new bridges, highways, air ports and ports etc. These are all, of course, very essential. But, in Tamil Nadu some airports have been constructed and they are not used. Funds are allotted for constructing airports. Before allotting funds, they must see whether there is viability. Some airports are constructed by allotting many crores of rupees, but they are not useful at all. In Tamil Nadu, three airports have been constructed. They are not used now.

I would like to give these suggestions for the consideration of the Finance Minister who may react at the time of giving his reply. In view of the erosion of rupee value and inflation, the value of rupee in real terms has come down. Therefore, it is justified that income-tax exemption limit should be raised to Rs. 50,000/- at least so that some relief is provided to salaries class, the lower class and the middle-class people who are the worst sufferers because of inflation.

I would request the hon. Finance Minister to strengthen the machinery for raids, searches and seizures in order to book those who evade income-tax. Tax collection machinery should be effectively streamlined.

The house of a Health Secretary in Tamil Nadu was raided and they seized goods worth Rs. one crore and he was placed under suspension. After some time, now I understand, he has been reinstated. People suspect. Why? It appeared in all newspapers that his house was raided.

They seized some incriminating documents, some American dollars and some Indian currency notes worth about rupees one crore. How has that man been reinstated? This is the question raised by the public. So, I would request the hon. Minister to look into this. People know that our hon. Finance Minister is very efficient, very honest and very sincere in his efforts. But they doubt why this man has now been reinstated. The money is there. It is lying with the Income-Tax Department. So, in such cases, our Ministry should take initiative. They should be very harsh in dealing with these matters.

Apart from that, I would like to suggest that the taxes collected through various sources should be utilised properly for the prosperity of the country, for the defence of the country, for the social sectors, for poverty-alleviation programme. In this respect, I would like to mention that the rural areas are exploited by unscrupulous traders and black-marketeers. The amount provided for subsidy is inadequate and the farmers are finding it difficult to get fertilizers at reasonable prices for farming activities. The standard of living of the

farmers is very very low compared even to a small trader, a pawn-shop man. A pawn-shop man can celebrate his daughter's marriage by offering 10 or 20 sovereigns whereas a man in Tamil Nadu owning about 20 acres of land is not able to celebrate the marriage of his daughter by offering even five sovereigns. That is the condition of the farmers. So, I request the hon. Finance Minister to consider these aspects. The subsidy should be given to the farmers so that they would be benefited. Even after 48 years of Independence, their condition is worse than anybody else. So, I request the hon. Finance Minister to see that the subsidy is increased to all the farmers.

Sir, I welcome the new scheme, namely, the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund being set up within the NABARD institution. But as in every rural scheme, implementation is very important since the funds do not percolate down to the beneficiaries. There should be a proper monitoring agency at the State and Central levels to oversee these projects. I know that the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and other rural development schemes are being implemented. We are giving money. The Central Government is giving money for the implementation of the programmes in the villages. But we must see whether the schemes are monitored properly or not because so many things are there. I know what is going on in our place. You give the money. Of course, the Central Government is giving 80 per cent and 20 per cent is given by the State Governments. But the implementation is with the State Governments. When they implement, there are so many loopholes. Suppose the grant is Rs. 2 lakhs for laying roads. Out of that, not even Rs. 80,000 is going towards laying the road. That is the state of affairs in our State. So, please see that the amount is being spent properly. Some agency should be there. Some respectable persons from the villages can be appointed to see whether the schemes are implemented properly in the rural welfare centres or not. At the same time, the villages are neglected in respect of the health programmes. The health centres are not provided. The death rate is also very high in the villages compared with towns. So, the health centres should be constructed in all the villages so that at least they can have good facilities, they can get their health conditions improved.

Similarly, water is also a resource. It should be harnessed properly like power or natural gas. I have been telling every year in this Parliament about this. The proposal for the linking of the peninsular rivers in the Southern States is pending for a long time. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, there is no other source. We are depending only on rain water. If there is a monsoon failure, all crops fail. So, the people are suffering like anything. We know about that. The farmer raises crops like groundnut or something like that in a particular year and if the rain fails, he loses everything. Suppose it happens for two or three years consecutively, then he is burdened with debt. A huge debt is there. Ultimately, he is not able to recover from his debt and

he is ruined. This is the position. Therefore, we must link the peninsular rivers. For that, whatever amount is required, we can provide. There need not be any other development for five years. This is my suggestion.

There need not be any school; there need not be any telephones and no other thing. You just stop everything for five years and utilise the fund for linking the rivers because I know in Tamil Nadu people are suffering even due to lack of drinking water. If the rivers are linked, I think the Southern States will be benefited very much. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to allot some funds for at least surveying the proposal to see whether it is possible or not. I request the hon. Finance Minister to bestow his attention in this regard.

Further, as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, there has not been a major industry since 1967. There were some major industries established during the Kamraj period like the Integral Coach Factory, Manali Refineries, Heavy Vehicles Factory, clothing factories, BEL and so on. There has not been any heavy industry established in Tamil Nadu for the past 28 years. So I request the Finance Minister to consider this aspect of setting up of heavy industries. In my district of Thiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar in Tamil Nadu, there has not been a small industry not even a cottage industry. So I would request the Finance Minister to consider setting up some industries in my district as it is the only district in Tamil Nadu which has not small or cottage industries. So I request you to consider this aspect of setting up of one industry in my district and one heavy industry in Tamil Nadu.

Now the loan is sanctioned to set up heavy industries. Some business people approach with their project proposal and get the loan sanctioned. Then they declare their industries as sick as they divert their funds to some other places thinking that they can cheat the Government, cheat the public institutions. In such cases, they should be punished according to the criminal law. If a man steals a tumbler worth Rs. 5, he is sent to jail whereas these people are stealing hundreds of crores of rupees and they should be sent to jail. I request the hon. Finance Minister to consider these aspects because the Finance Minister is the only person who do it. People depend on you. People respect you. They have faith in you; they have confidence in you. Of course, our country is going in the right direction under the able guidance of our Prime Minister and the Finance Minister is doing his best to improve our standard of living.

I thank you very much for introducing the Finance Bill. I support the proposals moved by the hon. Finance Minister.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, from the dawn of Independence, successive Finance Minister have assured us that the tax system would be rationalised; it would be

streamlined and the structure would be simplified. I am conscious of the fact that the hon. Finance Minister for whom I have got the highest personal regard, but whom I regard rather as an innocent academician who has been lost in the maze of politics, has tried his very best to simplify the structure. Now his time is coming to an end. If I were to judge by the structure that he is presenting us today, I do not see much success. There has been some development but not to the extent I would have expected from him, during his period in office as the Finance Minister.

I would like to suggest a conceptual framework perhaps to make his task simpler. A lot has been said of late, that unity lies in uniformity. Now I imagine that the Finance Minister could apply his mind to the evolution of a uniform tax code so that the concessions and facilities that are available, say to one class of people, namely, the Hindu undivided family, are no longer there.

I think it is in a way discriminatory; it is in a way violation of the principle of equality under the Constitution. That is one of the thickets that he has to remove from this tax jungle; one of the land-mines that he has to remove from the arena of the tax system.

Secondly, it should be absolutely clear that all incomes, direct or indirect, from the country or outside, from any source whatsoever, agriculture, industry, playing with the share market, all incomes should be aggregated and taxed. No income should be exempted. No income should enjoy the privilege of being exempted from this computation.

Thirdly, all citizens should be taxed uniformly and should be subject to the taxes on their world income because we have a growing number of people who derive part of their income from outside. Therefore, all citizens should be taxed on their total income.

Another thing I would like to say is, another general principle, that these exemption limits, or the deduction limits or the various financial limits that go on changing from year to year in a rather arbitrary manner depending upon which side of the bed the Finance Minister happens to have woken up in the morning on the day he presents the Budget proposals. There should be some method to it. They should be indexed to inflation. Let us take the 1951 as the starting point. Indexation of such limits to inflation from year to year, will be automatic, nobody can complain; nobody can call it arbitrary that would be another general principle - that I would like to place before him for his consideration.

Something more, there is a system of the advance tax, of the DTS system - all this was evolved at a particular time when we were facing the financial crisis - I do not see over a period of time any particular benefit from it. You will receive some money in advance which you would have received at the beginning or at the end of the financial year. I would always say that

this means unnecessary harassment for the honest tax payer. He has to maintain records for the advance tax he has been paying. etc. I would suggest that except for the companies, this system of advance payment etc., should be abolished. Maybe it can be retained for people who are in very high bracket but the people who are in the ordinary tax bracket, should be exempted from this procedure because it causes unnecessary and cumbersome difficulties which are avoidable and do not really add to the money at the disposal of the Finance Minister. What he loses this year in any case he gain next year.

Sir, there is a lot of lack of transparency in our tax system, it lends itself to a lot of fraud on the public on the exchequer and on the system. Sir, I would suggest for his consideration a system of social control. Let the list of tax defaulters, list of those against whom banks have filed a case of fraud or for recovery of bad debts those names be publicized. I think that will generate the greatest possible social pressure on such people. I know this system is operational in some countries in the West. The local municipal office for example, in France, produces a list of the people who are in default and behold, they are then pressurized by the public opinion into making the payment! I would say that transparency coupled with social control can achieve wonder and I think it should be given try by the hon. Minister.

Sir, I would now come to some thoughts that I have about the question of excise duty. It is true that finally the burden falls on the consumer and the Finance Minister with the best of intentions cannot avoid this from happening. I would suggest that at least on items of mass consumptions from the state of raw material to the state of the finished products let it be completely tax-free...*(Interruptions)* If that is possible. I am only speaking for the common man, I am only mentioning for example the coarse variety of cloth which the ordinary man needs for his shirt, for his *pajama* and *saree*. Nothing more...*(Interruptions)* But this is only an example I am giving but for various products of this nature, the tax structure can be examined.

Therefore if there are items of mass consumption, then they should be completely free. If you accept this general proposition, I am very happy.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Just a minute. Is it the desire of the House that we shall sit one hour more, so that many hon. Members can participate in the discussion? Does the House agree to this?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : So, the sitting of the House is extended by one hour.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : About the Customs Duty, for example, in the same way, there are certain items of mass consumption. One example I would place before the House is newsprint and paper which is an

essential item for a developing country which has staked its future on the question of mass information and mass education. Now if such an essential item is in short supply and the demand cannot be met by indigenous production, then in that case, as a matter of principle, without our raising the question in the Parliament, without any fuss, without any agitation, such items should be immediately made duty free. There should be a conceptual breakthrough in this field. That of course already applies, I am sure, the hon. Minister has in mind, to a large extent, to industrial raw materials which are needed for production purposes and for re export.

There is a lot of black money floating around. In fact the Government has given up on this. It does not even estimate the quantum of the black money economy that is now in operation. Some say it is almost like a parallel economy, almost equal in size to the GDP. I do not know. I am not an economist. But some time back I had read a book which had given this sort of dimension. I do not know whether it is directly related to the high level of corruption in our society. I must say that it is the political system which is the source or spring of corruption in this country. Therefore if the Finance Minister is sincere and serious about it, he must persuade the Government to enact a law that all public servants and all those who are in public life must publish a statement of assets, whether moveable or immoveable - I know the catch; moveable and immoveable - place it before the public when they enter into the public service or when they enter into the public life. Perhaps it should be made a compulsory requirement for everyone who is elected into the Legislature. If this is done, perhaps you might be able to cover some of the ground that we have lost through corruption. There may be other ways, but corruption is a very insidious phenomenon and perhaps it may not be possible to banish it. I know that one rupee which the Finance Minister invests in a given project, finally at the grassroot level, boils down to maybe ten paise or twenty paise. Somewhere along the line leakage takes place. I do not think it is physically possible to institute an Inspector Raj because Inspector Raj means many more persons sharing the booty. But sometime I think our mind should be applied and I have great faith in Dr. Manmohan Singh that he would find a way out of this prevalent and flourishing corruption that is virtually eating into the vitals of our economy.

There should be, in my view, a certain agreed pattern of general exemption from income tax. As he has already announced, in principle, I would say, for any investment in social infrastructure. This I had suggested many years ago and I am happy that some of these ideas have caught on. For example, I would particularly insist on housing which is a major problem. The hon. Minister for Urban Development is here. She knows that the gap in our country today is of the order of one hundred million dwelling units. One hundred million dwelling units simply are beyond our national resources. Therefore, if the hon. Minister were to say

that any money which is invested in the single room tenements as was done by the famous Mayor of Marseilles who later rose to become the President of the Republic of France, that he would not tax it or ask about the source of that money. Something of that sort should happen in order to attract this black money reserve into a socially productive and useful channel.

A certain percentage of any expenditure on higher education or maybe on specialised medical treatment, maybe 50 per cent, should be allowed. But not ordinary expenditure on education and not ordinary expenditure on medical assistance. I am speaking of a level which demands a very high expenditure.

My Third point is about investment in 'no industry' district. Just now we had one hon. Member pleading that his district should have small scale units. The word 'area' is very vague. I would request you that it should be more specific and brought down to the level of 'no industry' district and the concession should be available only to units, not any where in an underdeveloped State, or a backward State, not even in a backward region, but in a backward district. Then only the remedy will go the part which really needs it.

I would say that as a general principle 25 per cent of any profit from an export undertaking should be exempt so that there is an impetus for export. I would add one more item for tax exemption, for the consideration of the hon. Finance Minister institutionalised charity. There should be a system of registration or something like that. If an institution is organised and recognised, then automatically a certain percentage say 50% of all donations to any organised charity for the general welfare of the people should be completely exempt from tax.

Finally, if I may be bold enough to make a suggestion, I would say that all political contributions by companies should be exempted and go into a common pool and that should be distributed to various political parties in a certain proportion which can be agreed upon in order to finance our political machinery.

Now, there are certain facilities that we provide for our distressed, disadvantaged and deprived population, the aged, the disabled, the victims of natural disasters, the victims of man-made disasters like atrocities and massacres and the victims of the economic system like the unemployed. These facilities vary from State to State. Why can't the hon. Finance Minister devise a national system of relief for all these groups, as he is trying to do in the case of the aged? In the case of the disabled and in the case of the unemployed also, he should tell each State that for each rupee put in by the Centre, the State should also put in a rupee. Let it be a joint operation by the State and the Centre. There should be a uniform rate of assistance throughout the country.

Then, there is the question of flow of credit. I am sure that the hon. Finance Minister knows - I need not give him the data - that the disparities are rising from

State to State, and even within the State between the districts. In fact, it has been pointed out that the benefits of the system of differential rates of interest are not reaching out to the people. The hon. Finance Minister has a list of the districts of minority concentration. I am sure that that list has been most unscientifically drawn. The entire minority population of these districts covers only 35 per cent of the total population of the country. Why should it be so? This has been done on the basis of the percentage of the minorities in the total population of the district instead of taking the absolute population. If you took the absolute population, it would cover a larger proportion of the minority population. There are some backward sections which are not receiving the due amount of credit in the rural areas as compared to the urban areas and for certain activities as compared to other activities. This has to be looked into. The flow of credit has to be adequate in order to give everyone a sense of participation and a sense of belonging.

I would also say that one must keep an eye on the pattern of national expenditure. I am not asking it to be taxed - but certainly the flow of expenditure has to be monitored. I think I will not go into a debate whether it is of a social expenditure should go up in the totality of national expenditure or whether our defence expenditure should be cut down. I hope a day comes when we can create a zone of peace in the subcontinent and our defence expenditure can automatically come down and thus make more funds available for the social and economic development of the country.

But, I would still feel that the policy-makers must keep in view as to how and where the national expenditure is going. Is it going for social purpose? Is it going merely for subsidising consumption? Is it going for non-productive expenditure? Then only we shall be able to achieve some position. I believe, that under the present Budget, the social expenditure has suffered. The relative outlay on education has come down; and the total of what I would call, the social outlay has - some experts have said it - has come down as a percentage of the total Budget. I hope that the hon. Minister will explain the position to us.

The financial authority must be decentralised. I want to save the hon. Minister from a lot of unnecessary file work. Once you have allotted the money to a particular Ministry for a definite purpose according to the Budget and once it has been approved by the Parliament, I believe that they should have complete freedom and autonomy in making their ends meet. I do not think that for any expenditure, they should again come back to you. Some such procedure should be evolved which reduces the movement of files and therefore reduces the time-span taken for the execution of a project or the implementation of a scheme. Similarly, I believe that the entire concept of Central schemes and Centrally sponsored schemes must be done away with. If the scheme is to be implemented by or through the State Government either wholly or partially funded centrally then in that case, the Centre should wash its hands off.

It should just distribute the kitty and make funds available to the states. I know what is happening today. What is happening is that some States are getting a much bigger share and other States are being left out. That is not fair. That is only adding to the disparities in our country and that is leading to an explosive situation. Look at any scheme and you will find this happening - that the money is not finally going to various States in due proportion as it should. The only answer is that the money that you have for the Central schemes and the Centrally sponsored schemes must be divided. It must be divided equitably and then the States must be free, but they must be told that they cannot deviate from the common social priorities that we have laid down.

My final point is this. I do not want to go into a debate on the impact of the policy of liberalisation and globalisation. All I would caution him about is that they are importing, with globalisation, a certain culture which is dividing this country and which is creating big chasms in our society; we are creating two cultures. Many years ago, I read a book about Mexico. At that time, there was no question of its falling into a debt trap. Now, it has fallen into a debt trap. The same thing happened in Brazil. The sociologists have said that through the process of development and liberalisation, you have really created two cultures; and virtually divided the nation into two nations and the people into two peoples whose lives meet only at particular points they really did not partake equally and did not interact as the citizens of a common State should. This must be avoided. I am sure that the hon. Finance Minister realises this threat, this implicit threat. Therefore this pressure for import of consumer goods, of consumer facilities, of foreign fashions, and brands, etc. must be resisted.

This country is too poor; the society is too divided to accept and to absorb all this. Therefore I would caution him at this point just at my concluding remark, that we must try to see that - whether it is the question of assets, whether it is the question of personal income or whether it is the question of patterns of expenditure - the gap between the highest and the lowest must definitely and deliberately be brought down. At the least it must not be allowed to expand.

18.14 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

Eighteenth Report

[English]

SHRI DHARAMPAL SINGH MALIK (Sonepat) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Eighteenth Report of the Committee on Home Affairs on the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, 1995.

18.14½ hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fiftieth Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): I beg to present the Fiftieth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

FINANCE BILL 1995 — CONTD.

SHRI B. AKBER PASHA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I have come forward to support the Finance Bill. This year's Budget, as the previous four Budgets brought by our eminent Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, is a popular Budget, highly appreciated by one and all of us, except the Opposition who call it an election-oriented Budget. This means, they actually seem to approve the Budget. The only thing is that they say that it is an election-oriented Budget. They are appreciating the Budget indirectly. This is an industry investment friendly Budget with thrust on liberalisation and globalisation. It contains many ingredients of a pattern of economic growth. From less than one per cent economy - I will just quote a few figures - in the year 1991-92, it has accelerated to 5.37 per cent in 1994-95. This is a marvellous achievement. Industrial growth had collapsed to almost less than one per cent in 1991-92 but now it is 8.77 per cent - highly commendable. Similarly, foodgrain production jumped from 168 million tonnes in 1991-92 to 185 million tonnes. Some of my friends were telling that China is producing more foodgrains than us. But I would like to tell them that our country got Independence in 1947 when we had a population of 400 millions including the three countries of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. What was the condition at that time? We were importing foodgrains from places like Rangoon, Singapore and other places. But now, with 900 million population in India, we are not only self-sufficient, but we have come to the stage of exporting foodgrains. Our external debt was rising at the rate of 8 billion dollars a year. Now it is less than one billion dollars. Our foreign currency reserves have risen from one billion dollars to 21 billion dollars. These are all our achievements. And there are many more achievements made by our wonderful Finance Minister. These are facts which hurt the Opposition.

I was hearing the speech of Mr. Jaswant Singh the other day. He was objecting that our Finance Minister was talking of his own achievements every time he produces the Budget. Why can't he talk so? It is an achievement and it has got to be talked about. In fact, I have been telling our Prime Minister that we lack

publicity. We do not say to the people what we are doing. Mr. Jaswant Singh had also objected to some Urdu verses which our Finance Minister had used at the end of his Budget speech. I really do not know whether he is opposed to the language of Urdu or he is opposed to our Finance Minister making his speeches very lively by introducing some couplets of Urdu. This is a point which has no policy or principle. Then, why should he object to such small things? They do not seem to be bigger things to oppose. So, they seem to oppose such small points. Actually, I feel that Opposition does not seem to have anything else to object or criticise under the prevailing circumstances when the progress and development of the country is taking place due to the fine Budget. Economic development had been there. There is no doubt about it. The whole world is looking at us with envy and appreciating it.

This Budget has many reliefs. In indirect taxes, the excise duty on many mass consumption items is lowered. Just now, Mr. Syed Shahabuddin was saying that it has got to be totally cut out. But he has lowered it. A number of items will cost less except cigarette and cement, according to the present Budget.

The inflation rate has come down from 17 per cent in 1991 to single digit. Today it stands at about 8.49 per cent, as I could see the newspaper. Some other friend was objecting by stating 'how they are calculating? Is it on wholesale basis or on retail basis?' and things like that. The fact remains that for a short span of time our inflation reached double digits but it has again come down to single digit, that is, 8.49 per cent.

Our Finance Minister had a number of innovative new schemes for rural poor - four far-reaching programmes for the general welfare of the poor viz., The National Midday-Meal Scheme, Rupees seventy five Minimum Pension for the poor, one million subsidised houses for the rural people, and Rural Social Insurance Scheme. And yet they call it 'It is only the rich man's Budget'. Not only that. This year he has allocated Rs. 7,000 crore for rural development in place of Rs. 3,000 crore. Can they criticise it as the 'rich man's Budget'? This rural development is going to benefit only the poor people. This thing easy even criticised by one of our partymen in one of the informal meetings that took place in the Central Hall, But I say, this is going to percolate to the poorman only. We start an industry. That takes quite a long time, say about two years, for it to get established, another two years for the industry to reach the break even points. Then, it starts giving results. Similarly, the wonderful schemes and the programmes which our Finance Minister has brought forward are going to percolate to the poor people in the course of time.

One more thing. Rs. 5900 crore fertiliser subsidy for 1995-96 compared to the original Budget estimates to Rs. 4000 crore has been allocated this year. I would

like to draw the attention of our Finance Minister to two things concerning the industry at present. Tanning industry is grateful to our Finance Minister for having removed the five per cent export duty whereas he has removed the seven per cent export duty on rough granites. But this year, he has removed it. But I think the happiness seems to be short lived. While he has removed the export duty, he has introduced a five per cent development duty. So, the small tanners seem to stand where they stood. There had been no improvement for it.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH) : There is no duty that I had imposed. No development duty, I have introduced.

SHRI B. AKBAR PASHA : It has been circulated in our Association, Sir.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : That is a different thing. That is not the part of the Finance Bill. I do not know about it.

SHRI B. AKBAR PASHA : But anyway, this is hurting the tanners. What they seemed to have gained, they seem to have lost it. In this respect, I would humbly suggest that the small tanners may be levied one per cent or two per cent for the development fund and not five per cent on export of finished leathers. Five per cent development duty is too much.

Another thing, I would also like to point out is about the STC. Earlier, the STC was levying one per cent duty on the export of semi-tanned E.I. leathers i.e., East India semi-tanned leathers. This money was utilised for production of service centres. I am sorry to say that all these service centres, today, are the failures.

Therefore, I suggest that the proposed development duty of five per cent be reduced to one per cent. My another suggestion is that the money that is accrued by this process of one per cent fund may be utilised for the maintenance of effluent treatment plants for ecological reasons, which is very much needed. Now I find that the five per cent development fund is being handed over the CLE - Council for Leather Exports. I do not know how they are going to utilise the money. But I feel ecology must be taken care of and this money could be well utilised for the maintenance of effluent treatment plants.

I would also like to bring one more suggestion to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister. On behalf of the tanners I would like to make a suggestion for the withdrawal of the countervailing duty reimposed on essential tanning extracts like the wattle extract, quebracho extract, chestnut extract, etc. In the Union Budget for 1994-95, the excise duty on domestic wattle extract was also increased from 15 to 20 per cent simultaneously. The Council for Leather Exports, Madras had submitted a pre-budget memorandum for 1995-96 to the Government and pleaded for immediate restoration of the exemption. Hon. Finance Minister has

not taken note of it. Tanning extract is used by small scale sector. Only small tanners are making use of it. The import duty was also brought down from 65 per cent to 20 per cent in the Union Budget for the year 1993-94 with a view to provide relief to the small tanners. While doing so, the Government also appreciated the fact that the domestic availability of wattle extract is only 25 per cent of the total requirement of the tanning industry in the country. I beg to point out that there is no case for the protection of the domestic manufacturers of the wattle extracts because of the fact that there are only two producers of wattle extract in the country, viz. the Tan India Limited and the Anbu Wattle Extract Private Limited, Madras. And they produce only 25 per cent of the total requirement. The duty that has been reduced is reimposed because of these two people's lobbying with the Finance Minister. I request that in the interest of the small tanners, it may be reduced to the old level of 1993-94, that is to 20 per cent.

I would like to conclude with these suggestions which I made on behalf of the industry. I happen to be the President of the Tanners Association, Madras. There have been a lot of representations coming to me to raise this matter and present the tanners' view to the Finance Minister. It is indeed fortunate for me that both the Union Finance Minister and the Minister of State for Finance are present in the House. I request them to take note of my suggestions and extend the required help to the small tanners.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That shows the importance of your subject.

SHRI B. AKBAR PASHA : Thank you Sir. With these words, I thank the Chair for giving me an opportunity to participate in the debate.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my turn has come so late that I do not feel like speaking now. Even then, I start from where my friend Shri Shahabuddin concluded. I want to quote from the signed editorial of the Statesman of 21st May, 1995. One or two points made in the editorial affect our culture. I will read one or two lines and give the newspaper for the ready reference to the hon. Finance Minister. Shri Arvind Kumar, who went to Bombay in connection with the interview for the appointment of correspondent for Statesman, writes in it.

[English]

He said, "at least one of the candidates were uninterested in what a 'Statesman' could offer. On the contrary, he was prepared to pay us a monthly sum for the privilege of being our financial correspondent. Now that was surprise and led to obvious questions"

[Translation]

He has given caption to it,

[English]

'Off to the Market to buy a few journalists'.

[Translation]

He has written in next sentence when a correspondent was called - a thousand he gave an expression based on his personal experience - according to him, the consultant told him that one thousand rupees were being given -

[English]

We are offering Rupees one thousand today -

[Translation]

The interview was in the Taj Hotel of Bombay. The food etc. will be in addition to it but the Correspondent told that Rupees one thousand is being offered.

It is not a very pleasant thing. Though we know the correspondents a little bit - things like this have been happening to some extent but now it is being practiced to such large extent today. Statesman is a leading daily of the country. He himself, has gone for interview, may be perhaps he is in the Editorial Board. I have cited two things from the article. I do not want to go into details. But whatever he has felt and wrote, I am not able to understand that.

[English]

"The lobby of the venerable Taj Mahal hotel, in the mind, I conjured up the visions of Sonagachi and G. B. Road."

[Translation]

My friend Shri Chitta Basu must be knowing that Sonagachi, in Calcutta is known for its brothels. The journalist has written it with great sensitivity. Coincidentally, only yesterday. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, he is under an wrong impression about me. I know that there is a place called Sonagachi in Calcutta. But I need not know more than that.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : I am quoting the journalist. I am not going into detail.

Today only I have come from Calcutta. A new Airline has been introduced. Though my ticket was confirmed and I was the first person to reach there, even then I was asked to go to Economic class, and then to Executive class. My ticket was for Executive class. I can never dream of it travelling in this class on my own expenses. Thereafter it was found that there was no seat in that flight and therefore 44 passengers were sent in Modiluft flight. The amount of my ticket was not refunded to me. Today I got it cancelled and encashed their cheques.

Exactly the same thing happened with me on 7th May also, when I had to go to Jammu via Calcutta. The Indian Airlines flight was cancelled and I had to fly to Jammu by Sahara India flight by taking ticket again. It happened in Patna also when the regular flight of Indian Airlines was cancelled and I was asked to go from Patna by Sahara India flight by purchasing ticket.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this thing has happened twice during the month of May. I am worried, I did not have experience of air travel. I had the experience of buses. When a buses of the State Corporation and private bus is plying on the road, the driver of the State Corporation deliberately makes the bus late so as to enable the private bus to run ahead of it. Either the conductor will delay in issuing the tickets or will sleep in the bus if the passengers ask the conductor to run the bus. Thus the private bus will always run in profit. This is happening in the case of private airlines. The private airlines are threatening the existence of Government air lines. So much degradation they are facing. Right for journalism to every thing on life, is facing deterioration. I urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to consider it seriously. We have lost a very precious things in the hope of getting something which is not durable, rather very dangerous.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Mutshell under our economic policies, the Government aims giving relief in the custom duty so that the imported goods may be available here at cheap prices and we are imposing higher excise duty on our own products to make costly. That is why I referred to the East India Company and said that England and France protected their industries and trade when these were facing danger. We have seen that USA has increased custom duty on the Japanese goods. As the Japanese cars are popular in U.S.A., it has increased the custom duty in the name of World Trade Organisation. We were told that we are joining this World Trade Organisation. The Dunkel Draft and the GATT have been metamorphised into World Trade Organisation and we have signed it. Like a dictator, USA has increased custom duty on Japanese cars without consulting any country with a view to punish Japan as their sales would be affected by increase in their prices. Now, you can think what will be the position of WTO. India is yet not an economically strong nation but it has signed the treaty to join this organisation I would urge upon the hon. Finance Minister, that tomorrow while making his reply here he should at least raise voice as a member country of WTO, against U.S.A. for the unjust act done by it in relation to Japan. Though I have no soft corner for the capitalists of Japan but still I want the hon. Minister to say that India treats this act of USA as unjustified.

[English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : This has no relation to the Finance Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : It is a fundamental question. The European Union is also protesting against it. Our country is also a member of World Trade Organisation. What will happen to us when country like Japan is treated this way? They are raking up the issue of readymade garments. At present we have no alternative. A new big danger which has cropped up in matters of exports and imports is not a good sign.

My friend, Shri Akbar Pasha just now said that mica and raw leather is exported. Bihar abounds in both these things. We export pig iron to Japan via Goa. Can we not export only finished goods? We can export finished goods for earning foreign exchange. Why should we export raw material? I think you will look into these suggestions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now I come to the issue of foreign exchange. About 3-4 years ago, foreign exchange position was very unsatisfactory. The hon. Finance Minister must be knowing that when India was not free but it was on the verge of getting freedom, England owned a debt to India in the matter of foreign exchange. The sterling balance.

[English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : It was during Second World War because of the abnormal conditions prevailing then.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : I am talking about the Second World War. The debt was then on pounds since the dollar was not so strong at that time. We were the creditors and the England was the debtor. The vast reserve of foreign exchange alone cannot be the criteria of our development. That is why I have given this example.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I took part in the symposium organised by the Mithila University. There, the teachers and professors expressed the view that the prices were going down, but there was no decline in the market prices. Some of our friends have pointed out that the prices were going up, then how the prices can come down? Generally, the prices go up. The variation in the rate of inflation does not affect the consumers. This is the final year of this Government. The ruling party had promised to bring down the prices within 100 days. Did they do it? The prices have rather increased during these five years. I would like the hon. Finance Minister to admit clearly that the ruling party has failed to fulfill its promise. Will the hon. Minister assure us today that with the present economic policies, the budget and the Finance Bill, the prices will not increase further? I do not say and hope that the prices will come down but it should be ensured that at least the prices will not go up and remain the same by the end of this financial year?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : Is there any country in the world where prices are not going up?

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : The prices are going up all over the world but where do we stand now? ...*(Interruptions)* Our independent country has been turned into a slave country. That is why I am warning you not to go on that way. Do not follow the way of Mir Zafar and Adison. The Adison phobia has spread today throughout the world. We should maintain self-respect and a sense of patriotism. Adison had been instrumental in cancellation of cryogenic engine agreement with us. People there still condemn him for this act. So, you should not quote bad examples. I would like the Finance Minister to do something on the price front. We give remunerative prices to the farmers. Otherwise, they will not be able to produce foodgrains. We talk of supplying foodgrains to the consumers at cheap prices. Then some State Governments come forward to supply rice at Rs. 2/- per kg. and ask for money from the Central Government. Some others agree to supply that item even at Re. 1/- per kg. If the Government resort to pointing of more and more currency notes that will push up the rate of inflation. Therefore, I am of the opinion that a one-time price policy may be chalked out for the benefit of the primary producers and the consumers. There should be no middlemen. It can be fixed at 20 or 25 or 30 per cent but it should not exceed beyond that in order to safeguard the interests of the consumers. The subsidy on power, water, seeds, fertilizers and agricultural implements should be fixed in order to put a check on rate of inflation. You can successfully check the price rise through an integrated price policy and by resorting to Public Distribution System. The infrastructure of this Distribution System is available here and the people are also mentally prepared. That is why, the Government is facing difficulty in implementing the WTO agreement. I would like you to follow an integrated price policy and exercise control over the banks. The banks advance loans to the profiteers easily but not to the small producers. If the production will be more, the prices will be kept under control and the price rise will decline. But the profiteers and wholesale traders purchase the goods with the money taken from the banks and dump them in their godowns. Then the economics of Adam Smith, Marshall and Keyns are quoted that there is less production and more consumers, hence price rise. The primary producer and the consumer do not get any benefit but the wholesale dealers, who have nothing to do prosper on our money. It results in inflation and deficit financing. The banks should advance money only for augmenting production. The small and medium industries as well as cottage industries should be given more encouragement. If the banks are not restrained, for doing so the objective of nationalising them will not be achieved. If somebody asks me about the biggest achievement of the fourth Lok Sabha, it was, no doubt, nationalisation of banks due to which Shrimati Indira Gandhi was expelled from

the Congress. But now the very purpose of nationalising the banks seems to be failing. The banks do not advance money in the name of production. I would like to emphasize that India is country of 90 crore people and we should strengthen these 180 crore hands. We should invest more money in power sector and manufacturing agricultural implements. Concessions have been given in the budget for the import of eye and ear equipments. Why do not we import machines for the manufacture of these equipments in the country itself? We import heart valves from U.S.A., though now its production has started here, I want to emphasize that we should import the basic things. Which are not available with us. Otherwise, we will not be able to free ourselves from the web of import and export.

In this context, the Government is making efforts to do away with the Indian Patents Act. It is true that its provisions clash with WTO. I was a Member of Lok Sabha when this Act was passed in 1973. My submission is that by putting restrictions on patenting, you are hampering scientific development of developing countries. Please raise your voice against it. It is not that the last word has been said and there can be no alternative. We should continue our struggle for this cause and instead of importing equipments, we should go in for purchase of a basic machines.

The hon. Finance Minister has given some suggestions. Indigenous industries are vanishing gradually. Some members have raised the issue of Hatia which has the capacity of setting up one Bokaro like plant every year. The Government should ask the officers and workers there to do some more sacrifice. I am not in favour of closure of this factory. I have worked and lived for the welfare of the workers throughout my life and I do not feel ashamed to say that the workers should be paid from the Government treasury. We want this factory to become viable. This factory did not get any orders for many years since imports were being made from abroad. Now, it has become a sick unit.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Chitta Basu has asked to speak on it.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : You have given me time to speak at night. Please give me some more time. I had not insisted upon to speak today. You could have given me time tomorrow also.

I want to submit that the unemployed people should be given some work. The skill and ability of the youth should be exploited optimum. They should be trained in suitable skills which can be put to domestic use. The new generation of agriculture workers do not want to use old implements such as harrow etc. I request that the marginal farmers or the agricultural workers having less than one acre of land and who are interested in self-employment should be helped and encouraged by giving them money. The money thus invested will increase production and it will not lead to inflation. I

would like to hon. Finance Minister to use his economic expertise for the welfare of the country and make banks a powerful means for achieving its objective.

The Regional Rural Banks are facing a crisis. There was a proposal for setting up of a National Rural Bank Organisation. I would like you to make clear your policy in this regard. I do not want that the banks become a burden on the country. Some employees came to me but I told them to make the unit viable. However, I do not know if somebody among us may declare next time that they will write off loan upto Rs. 20 thousand. ...*(Interruptions)* I will not go into this. I am just referring to two points.

I would urge that the banker, the bank manager, and the branch manager should be made responsible for the loans. The Government should intervene after every 3 or 6 years and should see where has the money been put to use. For example, in Madhubani and Darbhanga districts, the money was pocketed by the bank, the block officials and the beneficiary itself. Therefore, a farmer who pockets the money meant for seeds cannot be called a true farmer. It is a fact that even the farmers, the poor and the workers are also pocketing the money given to them. Whatever money is given as loan, is not utilized for increasing production.

Three years ago, I had placed certain documents on the table of this House. The hon. Finance Minister had then got them examined by his Department as well as the Reserve Bank of India and it was found that the money meant for 18,000 landless Harijans was pocketed by the bank people in Bihar without paying even a single penny to the beneficiaries. However the Harijans in the Chhahar village of Khajoli block in Madhubani district were adamant and now a case is pending in the court. Under such circumstances, they are giving evidence by selling their belongings. On the other hand, they are receiving notices for recovery of loan. They have come to me time and again for help. I told them everytime that since the bank was at fault, it would repay the loan amount. The then manager of that bank has now been promoted, to a higher post. He paid Rs. 5000/- to an old lady who came forward to give evidence. Surprisingly she told in the court that she was paid Rs. 5000/- for giving evidence. This statement was recorded by the court. However, when she came out of the court, Rs. 5000/- was taken back from her. Should such as officer still hold office? I have not seen him. Yet nor did he dare to say anything to me. I would like some administrative action to be taken against him. It is regretting that the bank officer is still there and trying to corrupt other people also. The witnesses are spending money to go to court for hearing. I urge upon the Government to become liberal in the matters of financial assistance.

The remaining work of the Rajasthan canal should be completed at the earliest. The Narmada Sagar project should not be delayed due to money. It will be good for

the nation if the work scheduled to be completed in 10 years is completed in 2 years. Similarly, there are Tehri dam project, Karnali river project as well as Kosi river project which, when completed, can produce a lot of electricity and hydro-electricity for the country. I am of the view that projects should be completed in time and funds should not act as hinderance since due to delay the cost of the projects also overrun.

The western Kosi Canal project was started 30 years ago. The work on this canal from Nepal side has already been completed. An allocation of Rs. 20 crores was made three years ago and Rs. 20 crores last year. This year Rs. 30 crores have been allocated for this purpose but not even rupees one crore has been spent so far. My hon. colleague Shri Shahbuddin is not present here. The Chief Minister of Bihar has written that no work will be done unless the Central Government sponsors this project. It is causing a great loss to the country. The Central Government should pay attention to it.

The practice of illegal usury is going on in every city and in every village and the provisions of the Money Land Act are being violated everywhere. The Government should take measures to check it. The toiling millions should get their due. Lakhs of people go to Punjab and Haryana for work but one-fourth of their income go in repaying loans. The Government should either do away with this law or put an end to the practice of money lending. Many years ago, a Paigambar was born on earth. He had said that if anybody takes a penny as interest, he cannot be called a true Muslim even if he prays five times a day. ...*(Interruptions)* We should manufacture such a pumping set which can operate without power and diesel and the farmers could be benefited by it. I do not hope that the State Government will do something in this direction because their funds are spent on other things. I would urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to do something in this regard. That is all I have to say.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : My request is that each political party has been allotted the time for the debate, so you please take that also into consideration.

I think, we shall sit for some more time. There are other hon. Members and they also want to participate. Let us just sit for half-an-hour more because tomorrow the time is short and it will be very difficult. So Shri Chitta Basu will start his speech now.

19.00 hrs.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Sir, in all humility I rise to oppose the Bill and the reason, I think, he can understand. I would only say that the Government should now take a lesson from the reality of the situation outside and review the situation and come to a certain conclusion.

Sir, the Government and particularly the Finance Minister, for when I have got the highest regard, claims that there has been upswing in the economy because of the New Economic Policy. Sir, this is a myth and this requires to be explored.

Sir, I am opposed to this Bill because of the very fact that the proposals which this Bill contains are basically based on, basically rests on the principles of the New Economic Policy. Therefore, unless we can really evaluate the negative and also - I agree to concede — the positive results of this New Economic Policy, I think, that cannot become the main basis of our Economic Policy for the nation's progress and prosperity.

Sir, I have got certain facts at my disposal and they relate to the actual consequence of the New Economic Policy for the last four years on the life of our people.

Sir, the Indian poverty profile is much shocking and heart rending. The World Bank's survey finds that 6.5 per cent children under five years of age are undernourished. This estimate suggests that 30 per cent of the poor of the world live in India. Can your New Economic Policy bring about a basic change in this reality of Indian life?

According to the National Council of Applied Economic Research, hardly two to three per cent of the people had an annual income of Rs. 78,000. And the NEP has not made any dent into this frightening poverty of the Indian life. Yet, you claim and nobody accepts that there has been upswing in the economy of our country.

Sir, I may be permitted to quote from the UNDP's Human Development Report 1994. It says :

"The rural poor more than a third of the India's people are paying a price for reforms but not yet seeing any benefit."

They say that 30 per cent of our population is paying a price for reforms but not getting any benefit out of them. I am going to purchase something from the market. I paid the price for it but I did not get back anything. This is the magic of the New Economic Policy.

Sir, the National Sample Survey of 1992 says:

"During 1990-92, the share of consumption of the bottom 30 per cent of rural population fell from 16 per cent of 15.6 per cent and for the bottom 30 per cent of urban poor, the share dipped from 13.4 per cent to 13.17 per cent. The middle strata of the population, both in urban and rural sectors, saw a reduced consumption and only the top thirty per cent remained gainers." ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : This is about 1990-92. What else did you expect in the year of crisis? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHITA BASU : That means, you are conceding to my proposition that it has not brought about any basic change in the life of the common man ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : You are just misusing the statistics. It is about 1991-92. What else?

SHRI INDER JIT (Darjeeling) : The Finance Minister says that you are misusing the statistics.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : No, I am saying that under the NEP, the lot of the people has not been improved. That is my point...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

This is position of 1992. It has not improved from that of 1991.

[English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : We have given all in the Economic Survey Report. You do not study. You study it only.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Whatever might be your policy, what is now?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : We have given all in the Economic Survey.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Do you claim that there has been improvement in the lot of the common man? I cannot accept this.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : Do you challenge those figures.

SHRI INDER JIT : He says you are using the figures in a select way ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHITTA BASU : No. The same statistics has been distorted and he is trying to justify his point of view. If that is so, let there be a committee; let there be an institution which can really find out my charge that whether during the NEP period, had there been any change in the economic life of the worst section of our people of our country. Let there be a particular study about it and let it say as a result of this study, this has happened. But unless that study is done, I think the Government's claim cannot be accepted by the House.

SHRI INDER JIT : I hope you are not asking for another JPC.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I think you are proposing because you know the fate of the JPC. The JPC's recommendations will not be accepted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please come to the subject.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Therefore, my basic point is that there has been no improvement in the lot of the common people because of the introduction of the New Economic Policy. It has not brought about any change in the poor section of the society.

I have other facts of say. The per capita net availability of foodgrains has declined to 465.6 gms. per day in 1994-95 from 510.1 gms in 1991-92. This is also from your figures.

Despite the commendable increase in foodgrain production on account of seven good monsoons consecutively, the per capita availability of cloth also has declined to 23.7 metres in 1992-93 from 24.1 metres in 1990-91. What is the sign of improvement so far as the consumption of the worst level of our society is concerned? Yes, I accept the Finance Minister's suggestions that there may be an official study about it. I demand such a study.

Sir, again, I have to quote another figure. The percentage of population below the poverty line has increased to 40.69 per cent in 1992-93 from 35 per cent in 1990-91. In absolute terms, this denotes a rise in the number of poor by 50 million in rural India. The urban population rose to 37.74 per cent from 37 per cent. The UNDP (1991) estimated 410 million people in India to be below the poverty line. ...*(Interruptions)* So what is the position today in absolute number? There is not even any progress in respect of that. My contention is that the claim of the Government that the NEP has brought about an upswing in the Indian economy, is not a reflection of the reality of the Indian life, particularly, in so far as the lower strata of our society is concerned, irrespective of whatever may be the claim of the Government.

The Government also claim that there has been an increase in the budgetary allocation in certain spheres. As far as Rural Development is concerned, in percentage terms, there has been 10 per cent increase. But what has been increase of the inflation? It was admitted some time back that 11 per cent was the rate of inflation and now you claim that there has been certain decline. Even if I accept that the rate of inflation is 8.5 per cent or 8.6 per cent then also the allocation is negative. Then in terms of total investment it is not 10 per cent, it is less than that. If there has been some increase in budgetary allocation, this is also very marginal in nature. That is also given in case of Health and Family Welfare. The increase has been only 3.05 per cent. As the rate of inflation is 8.6 per cent this is also a negative increase. So far as women and children are concerned, there has been no increase in the actual investment in these areas despite the mounting inflation. In the case of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, there are always crocodile tears that the Government always shed. In 1994-95 Rs. 275 crore was given for the improvement of the lot of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, but it has been reduced to Rs. 273.75 crore this year. What does it mean? Even the claim for increased budgetary allocation for the Social Welfare sector is not borne out by the reality of the situation.

I want to draw the attention of the Government to a disastrous aspect which is the debt position. I have

also collected the figures given by him. Our debt position as on 14.3.1995 is Rs. 5,41,800 crore. I have seen a report of the C&AG which says that there has been an increase in the foreign debt at the rate of Rs. 9 crore per hour! What will happen? What about the interest payment? Last year it has been about Rs. 44,000 crore and this year it is going to be bigger and next year it is going to be still bigger. What will happen? We will have to take more money from the International Monetary Fund or from outside to pay-off the interest component of our debt payment. If it is not a debt trap what else it? You borrow money and pay-off a part of the debt, which is an interest component. That means we are already in the debt. Would the hon. Minister of Finance kindly explain tomorrow as to what is the real situation about it? Are we already in the debt trap? Are we nearer the debt trap? How far are we away from the debt trap? Can we at all avoid this debt trap?

I introduced a Private Member's Bill earlier in this House that there should be a limit to debts. Can a Government be allowed to borrow as much as they like on the basis of their own whims and on the basis of their own desire or on their own assessments?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Chitta Basu, there are one or two other Members who want to speak. Kindly oblige.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Yes, Sir, I am concluding.

Finally I would request that since the Constitution provides to put up a limit on the foreign borrowings, I think, the Government should move a legislation or accept my Bill saying that the Parliament has got control over the overall national economy of the country. I want that my other colleagues should also speak. So, in deference to your wishes, I am concluding.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That is your grace.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : That is also my duty. Our colleagues can also give expressions to their views.

Sir, in spite of my best regards for him, in spite of my highest esteem for him, ultimately I am a person, I am an Indian citizen and I am an Indian patriot and I must defend him. I cannot allow the country to be allowed to pursue a disastrous path, as this Bill indicates.

Therefore, once again I reiterate my opposition to this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ram Tahal Choudhary.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : I am sitting here since 4 o'clock. My name has not been called. Shri Kalka Das had sent my name in writing.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Okay. Shall I send the list to you so that you can verify your name in the list?

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Yes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already told that the names should come from the Whips only. Just because the Chair is accommodating you, you cannot send your names to the Chair as and when you like.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Shri Khanduri had sent my name.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right. I am sending the list to you. You can verify it with your Whip.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY (Ranchi) : Sir, I rise to oppose the Finance Bill. When Shri Manmohan Singh became the Finance Minister, the people of the country had high hopes from him and expressed their faith in him. If we go through the budget, we find that the rural and poor masses have not been benefited much from his budgetary proposals. We were talking about subsidy to the farmers by they get the fertilizers, pesticide etc. at very high prices. Further the prices of every agricultural input has gone up tremendously. As regards old age pension, people have not been paid old age pension in Bihar during the last one year.

So far as rural development is concerned, India is a country where agriculture is the predominant profession. There has been no development in any of the fields during the last four years. As regards HEC, Nehruji had termed it a mother industry, where thousands of allied industries run and which is a source of livelihood for thousands of workers. Bunglings worth crores of rupees are reported from there. However, an amount to the tune of Rs. 300-400 crores as recommended by the committee for its revival is not being sanctioned. I would not go into details due to paucity of time. I would urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to pay attention to this industry and make every possible effort to save it. Whatever little money is given by the Central Government goes in repaying loan and the industry does not get anything.

There has been no rural electrification during the last four years. As a result thereof, the faith of the people on the Government has shattered. Whenever we approach the power authorities, they take the excuse of non-availability of funds. The funds given under the Employment Scheme have been utilised to some extent but corruption has increased to a great height. There is a need to undertake review of the utilisation funds once in a year. In case of irregularity, stringent action should be taken. It has been observed that funds given to Bihar under a particular head are diverted to some other heads. The most surprising fact is that even the funds given for scholarships to SC/ST students do not reach them.

Even after 47 years of India's Independence, the rural areas do not have the facility of electricity and roads. The people are demanding a separate state of Chhota Nagpur and Vananchal in Bihar. The Government has been receiving a large amount of royalty from that area. This area abounds in factories and mines, but there are no proper roads. It is surprising that a road from Sili to Chandil via Vorenda has been under construction for the last 30 years. Once it is completed, the people will have to cover less distance of 100 kilometres and there will be less fuel consumption also. It would further help those people who have to live in a island like situation for six months. However, this road is still to be completed.

In Bihar, everything is not well on education front, If there are student in a school, the building is not there and if there is a school building, as many on 40 to 50 posts of teachers are lying vacant. There is a need to set the system right. God knows what is in store for us on future there. There is no electricity for 10-12 hours a day. The industrialists are shifting their industries from there. So, priority should be given for ensuring adequate supply of water and electricity for the development of the rural areas there....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Sir, kindly give me a couple of minutes more.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I obliged you. You should also oblige the Chair. You have seen that I was put to criticism.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY : It is alright. I thank you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO (Sundargarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Finance Bill, 1995. I congratulate our hon. Finance Minister for presenting a growth-oriented Budget that realises the twin objectives of excellence and social justice with a particular focus on poverty. It reflects the basic Government contention that the economy is in a far better position than in 1991.

The Budget has proposed a range of concrete measures to boost investment in rural development and in providing direct relief to the poor.

Sir, 80 per cent of our people live in the villages and depend on agriculture. In the recent past we have been giving importance to urban area and industrial sectors. Our conception of progress and modernisation had been of industrialisation with the objective of setting up of major public sectors. Our rural India and agriculture sector, therefore, got neglected and our rural population started moving to cities in search of employment to

earn their livelihood. We have provided very limited irrigation facilities to our farmers. Our agriculturists depend on rainy water. When monsoon fails, the entire area comes under the grip of severe drought.

This has become a regular phenomena. Sir, over 80 per cent of the cultivable land of my constituency, Sundargarh, in Orissa have not been provided with irrigation facilities. The entire district is facing acute problem of drinking water. I request the Government, to take on a war footing basis, to supply drinking water to the people of my district. An Agricultural Research Centre may kindly be established at Bargaon in my constituency.

A proposal for sanction of a sum of Rs. Nine crore has been sent by the State Government to the Centre for implementation of Arba-Jhorabahal Community Irrigation Project under Panposh ITDA. The Centre had sanctioned Rs. 3.58 crore during 1994-95. I request the Welfare Ministry, through you, to sanction the remaining Rs. 5.42 crore and release the amount at the earliest in order to complete the project, as this will irrigate over 7,000 acres of land benefitting hundreds of tribal families.

Sir, the creation of new Rural Infrastructural Development Fund with a Corpus of Rs. 2,000 crore created within the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development in order to complete on-going irrigation projects and soil conservation will have a far-reaching impact in rural economy.

Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has rightly observed that infrastructure is another area of potential weakness. the State of Orissa in general and my parliamentary constituency in particular is rich in mineral resources. But the State is among the most backwards as it lacks key infrastructure facilities like power, roads, ports, irrigation, railways, airways and telecommunications.

Sir, our policy of economic liberalisation provides for five years tax holidays for industrial houses going in for setting up industries in tribal areas. But due to the lack of these facilities not a single industrial house has gone to my constituency in spite of having large mineral deposits like iron ore.

The conditions of National Highways in my area are horrible. The National Highway from Birmitrapur to Banerpal needs immediate improvement. Due to heavy traffic, National Highway from Rourkela to Lathikata needs to be made double line.

Though my constituency boasts of having the prestigious Rourkela Steel Plant, it is not linked with air service. I have been raising this issue again and again, but in vain. Unless air service is provided to Rourkela the industrial houses will not be attracted to my constituency. I appeal to the Government, through you, to consider for operating air service from Delhi to Rourkela via Calcutta.

Sir, the telecommunication system in my district needs immediate attention of the Government. Over 60 per cent of the existing telephones remain out of order. There has been deliberate delay in the installation of E/108 machines already procured since a year back. All Panchayat headquarters have not been connected with telephones. I request the Government to take necessary steps in this regard.

Sir, many parts of my district are still deprived of Doordarshan facilities. Low Power Transmission Centres may be installed at Hemgir and Bargaon. Bonal LPT Centre may kindly be made operational. To promote tribal culture, a Doordarshan Studio may be established at Rourkela.

Sir, the budget proposal for social equity and poverty alleviation is a laudable step. Programmes like rural development, employment generation, primary education and primary health have to be given the highest priority. Our primary education requires topmost priority. We do not have school buildings in the villages. Instead of increase in the student strength, there is considerable decline. The rate of dropouts even at the stage of primary education is on the increase.

The implementation of Mid-day Meal Scheme will certainly attract the rural children. But where there is no school building, no sincerity among the teachers to teach, all noble efforts will be of no use. I request the Government and this august body to think over this issue of national concern. More number of residential Central School and Navodaya Schools be opened in the tribal areas. I request the Government to open a Central School at Birmitrapur in Sundergarh district of Orissa.

A lot has to be done on primary health in the villages. The rate of infant mortality and pre-natal and post-natal mortality of mothers in Orissa is the highest in the country and my district, Sundargarh in Orissa. Infants and mothers do not get medical care. I request the Government through you Sir, to set up a 'Child and Mother Care Centre' in my constituency Sundargarh.

The introduction of National Social Assistance Scheme providing for payment of Rs. 75/- to persons above the age of 65 if implemented with sincerity by State Governments would benefit our rural old people unattended to an uncared for.

Sir, rural housing problem is one of the glaring problems before us today. There are hundreds of people having no land to cultivate, no roof for shelter and no food to eat. Indira Awas Yojana is a very good scheme to help the poor in providing houses. Our past experience is that houses constructed under Indira Awas are in secluded areas as if they are meant for untouchables. Provisions for water supply, electrification and earning of their livelihood are not done for these colonies. As a result of which most of the colonies are deserted after few years. I would, therefore, request the Government that while setting these poor people through Indira Awas Yojana all other facilities be provided so as to enable them to start a new life.

Sir, last but not least, I draw the attention of the hon. Minister that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of our country are among the poorest members of our society. The creation of Cooperatives and Regional Rural Banks for meeting the credit needs of the Tribals will enable the young educated unemployed youths to stand on their own. I request the Government to open such regional banks in Eastern Region at Rourkela. The role of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance Corporation is very much disappointing. The functions of NABARD and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance Corporation be evaluated from time to time and be made effective institutions to help these communities.

Sir, once again I thank our hon. Finance Minister for presenting this rural oriented Budget. I support the Budget proposals.

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while rising to oppose the Finance Bill, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to certain points. Though our economy is based on agriculture to a great extent, yet due to curtailment of subsidy on fertilizers, the farmers are facing great difficulties. Steep increase in prices of the fertilizers, has led to increase in production cost. As a result, the farmers are finding farming unremunerative. If the farmers do not get the remunerative price for their produce, no policy of liberalisation, globalisation or economic reforms will succeed. The ground reality is that the people at grassroot level are not leading a happy life. The poverty has increased in the past and it will go on increasing in future also.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are talking about the improved condition of the citizens, but the fact is that the masses are facing problems of price rise, hunger, and corruption.

Sir, lakhs of workers in the industries of the country have been rendered jobless. About 5 lakh industrial units out of 22 lakh units are on the verge of closure. The workers are being retrenched. These industries are incurring huge losses due to heavy excise duty. The multi-national companies are being given concessions to set up industrial units here. In this way, if we continue to strike at the basic structure of our industrial economy and our culture we will soon lose the self-reliance which we have achieved after lot of efforts.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has been stated in Ramayana, "Darid Sam Nahin Koi Dukh Dooja" while describing the concept of Ram Rajya, Tulsidas had said:

Shri Tulsidas has put down in Ramayana :

"Nahin Koi Dukhi Na Darad Dina, Nahin Koi Aabodh Na Vidya Heena,

DaihiK Davic Bhotik Tapa, Ram Raj Nahin Kahu Byapa".

That's how a welfare state has been defined if we call ourselves a Welfare State, then we must follow these principles. But here the penury plagued country is in embittered State.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, just now my hon. friends were referring to the dire scarcity of potable water. In my Damoh constituency which falls in Damoh-Panna Legislative Assembly constituency, water comes once in four days which amply speak of the condition of civic amenities, Kanda is a tribal area. Even after 47 years of India's independence, people there are rendered totally isolated by flood waters during rainy seasons for four months in the absence of any means of rescue. If anybody fell ill, he cannot be moved out of that area and is doomed to die there. This is the plight of our people. What does it reflect, your physical achievements or scarcity? No measures have been taken to improve the conditions there. A number of rivers flow in our area such as Sunar, Vyarana, Kopra, Measin, Kain etc. but their water is not being utilised. There are many schemes. 80 per cent of the construction work of water reservoirs has been completed. The work on the Naba closer has been abandoned. This scheme was started about 20 years ago. Its cost is increasing yet it is to be completed. Wherefrom to generate funds for it, construction material has become costly. There has been ten fold cost escalation. This is how we incur losses and yet we talk of economic reforms.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. They should be given representation in the Agricultural Prices Commission so that they might ensure remunerative prices on their produce. While addressing a Kisan rally near Red Fort last year, the Prime Minister stated the prices were rising because the farmers were being paid more remunerative prices on their produce.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to emphasize that the farmers have not received remunerative prices on their produce so far. Their crops are damaged or destroyed due to drought, excessive rains and hailstorms. They are neither paid any compensation nor there is any crop insurance scheme to cover their loss. But the Prime Minister saying that the cause of price rise is remunerative prices paid to the farmers. The causes for the price rise are different. Ever increasing scandals and scams, corruption, black money are the attributives of skyward trend in prices yet providing remunerative prices to the farmers is being stated the sole cause of it. Further it is said that due to this a misunderstanding has cropped up amongst the farmer community. The farmers are our foodgrain producers who keep on producing foodgrains even after sustaining loss and therefore they command our respect. The statement of the Prime Minister has created a sense of disbelief and doubt about farmers amongst the consumers. They think that the farmers are getting very high prices on their produce and yet they are craving

for higher prices for their produce. The farmers who earlier commanded our respect, now a days they are being seen with dubious eyes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with these words, I conclude and thank you.

[English]

SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE (Panaji) : Sir, I rise to support the Finance Bill, 1995-96. Hon. Finance Minister richly deserves to be complimented for giving a number of concessions on direct and indirect taxes including 50 per cent reduction in tax deducted at source, for reducing T.D.S. levied in the Budget for professionals and technical services from 10 to 5 per cent and payments for advertisement contracts, further liberalisation of tax holiday scheme for infrastructure projects and import duty exemption on 31 life saving drugs.

I must compliment the hon. Finance Minister for allowing Modvat credit to furnace oil and low sulphur heavy stocks and substantial reduction in import duty on glass parts, shell of B&W picture tubes, paper and paper board etc.

I am sure these measures would give a boost to the economy as these concessions have been allowed on the basis of objective scrutiny to representations received from industry and Members of Parliament. A variety of concessions announced by the Finance Minister will contribute further to liberalisation and greater competitiveness in the economy.

Extension of Modvat is welcome and bound to result in favourable development. The cuts proposed in duty rates, I am sure, will not result in any significant loss of revenue and in fact would lead to simplification and rationalisation of the tax structure. This optimism is borne out by our experience of last year.

The companies investing in infrastructure sector can now choose the five year tax holiday period anywhere within 12 years of commencement of operations. This will certainly act as a big incentive for the companies investing in infrastructure sector such as roads, highways Expressways, New Bridges, airports, ports and rapid mass transportation systems.

The main positive features of the Budget proposals for 1995-96 are :

- (i) Retaining the deficit at the level of Rs. 5,000/- crores. The fiscal deficit would remain 5.5 of G.D.P.
- (ii) A sharp reduction in Customs with lower excise duty for a large number of manufactured products. Peak rates of Customs slashed to 50 per cent.
- (iii) Raising of Income-Tax exemption limit to Rs. 40,000/-. With this, individuals with income of Rs. 55,000/- will not pay any tax. For working women it is Rs. 58,000/-

- (iv) The Central Plant outlay has been increased to Rs. 78,849/- crores from Rs. 70,141 crores.
- (v) The outlay for Defence has been increased to Rs. 25,000/- crores.
- (vi) The estimated revenue loss of Rs. 2,400/- crores as a result of substantial cuts in excise and import duty of various items, it is expected, would be made good through better realisation.
- (vii) To raise the food and other agricultural production subsidy for fertiliser industry, food and other subsidy to Rs. 12,400 crores.

The fiscal deficit in the current year has gone up to 6.7 per cent of GDP against the anticipated 6 per cent. The deficit for 1995-96 is estimated at 5.5 per cent. This could be possible if the growth momentum is maintained.

In a bid to encourage savings, it is proposed to raise the exemption level of income under Section 80(L) from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,000 and TDS from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000/-

There is a substantial increase in budget allocation for social sectors like education, health and rural development schemes and greater emphasis has been laid on anti-poverty programmes. The total loss to the Centre on account of the various reliefs would be around Rs. 1582 crores.

The exemption level of small scale industries for enjoying excise duty concession has been raised from Rs. 2 to 3 crore. Formation of new Rural Infrastructural Development Fund within NABARD with a corpus of Rs. 2000 crores to encourage quicker completion of projects in rural infrastructure has been proposed. NABARD will also open exclusive line of credit to cooperative and Regional Rural Banks in 100 Tribal districts to ameliorate the socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The Khadi and Village Industries, the backbone of the rural economy, is provided Rs. 1000 crore to finance viable industrial units in rural areas. A provision of Rs. 200 crore has also been provided for setting up of a Technology and Modernisation Fund under the SIDBI to provide financial assistance to quality projects to strengthen the export capacity of small scale industry.

Housing target under : Indira Awas Yojana to give subsidised housing to the rural poor is doubled to 10 lakh units per year. Further, for the old and the weak, National Social Assistance Scheme has been proposed to provide a minimum old age pension of Rs. 75 per month to people above 65 years and falling below poverty line and complemented by new group Life Insurance Scheme to be implemented by panchayats. Also, there is the Mid-day Meal Scheme for the school children. However, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to raise it because Rs. 75 is a very little sum and it should be increased to at least Rs. 125 per month as this meagre amount will not suffice.

Given the resource constraint, the Finance Minister has done a wonderful job in presenting the Budget proposal for 1995-96. With effective implementation, mentioning and concurrent evaluation of funding in each sector, I am sure we are bound to achieve the growth targets and emerge stronger with creditable achievements. However, I would like to express concern with the Finance Minister and make some observations on some points in a spirit of sharing my thoughts to be taken note of in terms of their merits and validity as per mature and expert judgement of the Government.

Sir, the Corporate circles are disappointed since the surcharge has not been dropped then relief may be given by way of incentive on savings and investment for salaried class.

A major hike in allocation for Social Welfare Schemes and formation of innovative new schemes for rural and urbanpoor is a welcome step and if the schemes are effectively and efficiently implemented, then, there will be great transformation in the socio-economic life of weaker sections. However, from our past experience, the money allotted for the weaker sections is not reaching the weaker sections defeating the very basic objective. Monitoring and concurrent evaluation are essential in a great measure to plug the loopholes and leakages. Accountability has to be fixed for the amount spent on the above schemes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Harish Naryan Prabhu Zantye, reading is not very much encouraged.

SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE : I know that. But I want to make it fast. I would only take two or three minutes.

Sir, although emphasis has been laid on providing social equity and poverty-alleviation, considerable reliefs have been in the form of excise and customs duties on luxury goods/items which would primarily benefit the rich.

The lowering of duties on aerated water, air-conditioning machinery, cosmetics etc., to mention a few, will not benefit people who are below the poverty line. In fact, there is a case for enhancing duties on these and many other such items including alcoholic drinks which remained untouched. Enough revenue could be mobilised by taxing such items so that more funds are available for schemes of social welfare meant for poor.

On the contrary, raising of duty on cement would affect the housing plans for the poor. There is a need to give due importance to political commitments in fiscal policies. There is a strong feeling among the working class that during the last four years enough has not been done for revival of sick public sector units through a package of modernisation programme. Funds provided for revival/modernisation of sick public sector units were far too inadequate and implementation programme tardy. Hence there is an urgency in according high priority in

allocation and utilisation of funds for modernisation of sick PSUs particularly in textile sector. Funds raised through disinvestment in PSUs should not be diverted to any other purpose but made available for undertaking expansion, modernisation, diversification programmes of these undertakings. Diversion of disinvestment funds in PSUs has led to starving these units of their legitimate demand of resource support for expansion, modernisation, diversification programme. Although privatisation has distinct advantage, it is not a sure remedy for all our ills. In this connection, it is pertinent to point out that BHEL, a premier undertaking with proven track record of technical competence and financial performance is starving for the order. Its performance is the best as compared with the other PSUs. I would like to say that whenever the world tenders are floated, the BHEL is always the lowest tenderer. Today we are having a lot of power projects which are going on. Even then there is a shortage of funds, there is a shortage of orders for BHEL. I request the hon. Finance Minister to look into it.

There is a lot to do by way of revamping public distribution system where the benefits of subsidies on food and essential articles do not reach the vulnerable sections of society. Various loopholes, leakages in PDS need to be plugged effectively and stern action need to be taken against defaulting officers and traders. It is my considered opinion that in spite of much talk, the implementation of the PDS remains tardy and far from satisfactory. ID cards should be introduced in the PDS. This way, the bogus card menace will disappear.

With these words, I thank the hon. Finance Minister. He is really doing an excellent job of bringing the economy much above than the projected level.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Rasa Singh Rawat to speak. Your name does not find a place in the first list.

(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : It was in the first list.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You kindly hear me. The first list is duly signed by Shri Khanduri.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : I have full respect for the Chair. The decision of the Chair will be honoured. I have full respected for the Chair.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Secondly, there is also another letter.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : One hon. Member has spoken and after that it was my turn...

[English]

Kindly hear me. You should not go with a bad impression.

The Chair has not committed any mistake. There is also another list which is not duly signed by any person.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : With full respect to the Chair, I want your protection, Sir, In the list, two names are given. One of them was Shri Patidar who has already spoken. After that, it was my name and I am also whip of the Party but...

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have not sent any letter. Therefore, you are thoroughly wrong. You have lot your patience unnecessarily. It was unwarranted. Now you can speak for five minutes.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : It is signed by Shri Kalka Dass it is written Whip here.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is not duly signed. Do you know that ?

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : It is signed, Sir

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Can you all sign it?

[English]

Is it not warranted that a signature should be there?

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : I myself is a Whip.

I could have sent it myself. My friends have themselves given their names, Their names have been taken through they were not written by any whip.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not try to argue. You kindly conclude your speech. You are thoroughly wrong. You can verify it from the record that you maintain in your office. All right, we give you five minutes. You kindly speak for five minutes.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : I have sent it in my own hand writing. But I do not want to speak thank you.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do you not like to speak?

Shri Thomas to speak.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : In fact, I was thinking whether I could ask for a chance tomorrow so

that the hon. Finance Minister would be there because I want to just put one or two specific points. But, anyway, I am happy that hon. Minister of State is here and I will just put a few suggestions for the Finance Minister to take up at the last moment.

First of all, I support the Finance Bill which has been proposed or moved on the basis of proposals which have come in the Budget and which have been generally applauded as a people's Budget. So, I do not have any objection with regard to the generality of the Budget and the method by which the taxation has been imposed by the new Finance Bill and by the new amendments which have been brought by the Finance Bill. But I would suggest that one or two amendments or one or two modifications may be made especially in the small scale industrial sector. Now, one suggestion which I would make is with regard to small scale industries which make rubber thread. This is a small scale sector which is mainly in the small sector alone where India is making very good elastic threads. But lot of difficulties are being faced by them because of the high taxation in this regard. A 20 per cent tax is being imposed on the produce whereas the import duty has been generally decreased. By the decrease of the import duty, the manufacturers of the small scale sector are finding it difficult because the industry which needs this as a raw material is now getting it on better term from outside. So, I think, this is one sector, where the Finance Minister should at the last moment, give a concession by way of reducing the excise duty from 20 percent to at least 15 per cent. This is one specific suggestion which I would like to make.

Secondly, it is not a specific suggestion as such with regard to taxation, but one aspect which I feel should be emphasised with regard to our judiciary. The Chief Justices' Conference was held almost a year back and another Conference of the like is going to be held in July. What I learnt is that very many suggestions have been made and very many of them were agreed to be implemented. Now, we do not expect the judges of the High Court or the Supreme Court to speak for them, speak for the matters with regard to their remuneration.

Now, one thing I can point out is the salary which is being given to the higher judiciary, judicial officer, judges of the Supreme Court as well as the High Court. I think, Rs. 15,000 is the salary which has been agreed in the Chief Justices' Conference, and which has been agreed by the Law Minister also. But, I think it is a question of financial sanction. I think, that is one thing which should be taken up by the Finance Ministry also and sanction should be accorded so that the implementation shall not be delayed up to the next conference which is going to take place. Of course, I am not going to the details of the other suggestions which are very important and which have come in that Conference, those must taken into account.

Thirdly, I just think that the politicians must be put to some taxation. I do not say that all politicians should be put to taxation. But we hear a lot. We are really sad. Whenever a question of picturising politician even in films, even in text books, even in the primary lessons which are given to children, even in every journal which we read, the picture which is given to a politician or the picture of a politician is so poor or so bad that the politician is finding it very difficult nowadays to say that he is a politician.

20.00 hrs.

Unless you are a politician, you cannot come into active public life also. I think the tax machinery should catch hold of the politicians who are minting money by so many ways and means. I think that the Finance Ministry and other Ministries concerned should take a hard step in this regard. The arms of law are long and strong enough even to extend it to the extent of putting those persons who are really involved in making money, but not paying any tax - of course, making black money which is thriving and which is threatening our economy to a great extent.

lastly I would like to give some suggestions. I am not going into the specific suggestions which I wanted to make because of the paucity of time and because of the generosity shown by the Chair at this last moment. So, I do not take long time. I would suggest that in the small scale industrial sector as well as in the agricultural sector where we are thinking of so much of modernisation, there should be some reduction of tax on the products which are from these sectors. In generality I think that is one thing where the Finance Ministry will give a specific focus.

I thank the Chair once again for giving me this opportunity at the fag end of the day.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) . Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I want to submit to the State Minister that the relief in excise duty given in the successive budgets from the year 1993-94 onwards are not percolating to the consumers but only the Industrialist are benefited by it. Though the industries have been saying that the relief in excise duty is going to the consumers also, but the study reports of the consumers — Organisations and the Costs Bureau have found their claim wrong. When the question was raised with the Finance Ministry and other concerned Ministries, it was pointed out by them that the relevant law is not effective enough and the Government have expressed their helplessness in taking action against them. Through you I would request the hon. Finance Minister to take note of it while delivering his budget speech and ensure that the benefits of relief in excise duty and custom duty being given reaches the consumers also.

As many to the hon. Members have pointed out with every healing measure countries plight simply embittered. The economy of the country has not been sound because of the misrule of the Congress Government and when Shri Manmohan Singh got the opportunity to present the budget he tried to administer a doze of panacea but that too proved of no avail. I would like to remind him that the Congress party, in its manifesto had promised to check price rise within 100 days and provide employment to lakhs of unemployed persons within one year after coming into power, I would like to attract the attention of the Government as to what happened to those assuring pronouncements ?

Terrorism is increasing in the country. Thousand and thousands of unemployed people are taking to terrorism out of frustration and despair. The sole reason of it is the increasing unemployment in the country. It has also been mentioned in the budget that employment opportunities would be made available under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana but will that too proved a mirage 'scant jobs and teeming job seekers'. There is a ban on recruitment and even the existing vacancies are not being filled up. New jobs are not being created as a result of which unemployment problem is just snowballing rapidly.

Hon. Sir, through you I would like to say one thing more. The entire country is concerned about the tax exemption limit on income. The middle class is demanding that income tax exemption limit be raised to Rs. 60 thousand. But whatever relief has been given is too meagre, just a drop in the ocean. Even the class IV employees are paying income tax. They are financially not sound to invest in bonds and insurance and take benefit of the exemptions allowed on insurance policies etc. So, the increase in dearness allowance, interim relief and the likely increase in benefits of the employees after Pay Commission report will be set off by ever increasing inflation and tax deductions as the Income Tax Department deducts 25% of the Dearness allowance though the employees get increased but the prices keep on spiralling and the value of rupee is also going down and thereby worsening the condition of this class.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is because of this reasons that the prices are rising at a galloping pace. No effective

steps are taken to check corruption. Government had given an assurance in this House that an economic drive would be launched. Sir, through you I would like to ask the extent of curtailment effected by way of economy drives launched by you.

Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me time to express my views on the budget and the Finance Bill. Due to shortage of time, I will briefly make my point. The country is overburdened under heavy debt, so much so that a substantial amount is spent on repaying. The interest on the loan and still the amount of loan is increasing every year. The pressure of loan is increasing every year. The pressure of World Bank, multinationals and IMF is also increasing on us. We have to devise means to withstand this pressure. We should make ourselves self-reliant and encourage small scale and cottage industries and work for the eradication of poverty and help the people living below the poverty line come up. Efforts should also be made to solve the unemployment problem and check the spread of corruption. Only some concrete measures can benefit the poor. But the budget seems to be an election-oriented budget. Infighting is going on in the Congress party. First, you have to set your house in order. How can you strengthen the economy of this country when your own party is a divided house? I would like to oppose this Finance Bill. Though many reliefs have been given on this Bill but its benefits will not percolate to the poor people. It will in fact, make the rich richer and the poor, poorer.

With these words, I conclude and thank you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : So, thank you very much for the cooperation that you have extended. Now, the House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 23rd May, 1995 at 11 a.m.

20.09 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, May 23, 1995/Jyaistha 2, 1917 (Saka)

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