

Tenth Series, Vol. XXXVIII. No. 9

Friday, March 24, 1995
Chaitra 3, 1917 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Thirteenth Session
(Tenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XXXVIII contains Nos. 1—10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

CONTENTS

[Tenth Series, Vol. XXXVIII, Thirteenth Session, 1995/1917 (Saka)]

No. 9, Friday, March 24, 1995/Chaitra 3, 1917 (Saka)

	COLUMNS
aj Answers to Questions:	
*Starred Questions Nos. 161—164	1—19
Written Answers to Questions:	
*Starred Questions Nos. 165—180	19—31
Unstarred Questions Nos. 1581—1811	31—207
Papers Laid on the Table	207—216
Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	216
Forty-first, Forty-second and Fourty-third Reports— <i>Presented</i>	
Committee on Government Assurances	
Twenty-seventh Reports— <i>Presented</i>	217
Committee on Agriculture	
Seventeenth and Eighteenth Reports— <i>Presented</i>	217
Public Accounts Committee	
Ninetieth Report— <i>Presented</i>	217—219
Business of the House	
Announcement Re: Resignation by Member	219-220
Jammu and Kashmir Budget— <i>Presented</i>	220
Demands for Supplementary Grants (Jammu and Kashmir)— <i>Presented</i>	220
Matters Under Rule 377	
(i) Need for early clearance of the Baijal Nal Minor Irrigation Project, district Gajapathi, Orissa	
Shri Gopinath Gajapathi	220
(ii) Need to release adequate funds for construction of a protection wall and embankment to protect the Samadhi of the late Shri Y.B. Chavan at Karad in Maharashtra from erosion by river Krishna	221
Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan	
(iii) Need for diversion of national highway No. 52 and construction of bridge on Mangaldoi river at Mangaldoi town in Assam	
Shri Probin Deka	221
(iv) Need for early release of more funds from Calamity Relief Fund to Orissa	
Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy	221-222
(v) Need to sanction adequate funds for construction of pucca embankments on Falgu river in Nalanda district in Bihar	
Shri Vijoy Kumar Yadav	222

The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

Statutory Resolution Re: Disapproval of the Securities Laws (Amendment) Ordinance; and Securities Laws (Amendment) Bill	
Motion to consider	
Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar	222—225
Shri Manmohan Singh	225—226
Shri Ram Naik	226—230
Shri M. Ramanna Rai	230—231
Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh	231—232
Shri Yaima Singh Yumnam	232—233
Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat	233—239
Statutory Resolution Re: Disapproval of Securities Laws (Amendment) Ordinance—Withdrawn	
Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar	240
Securities Laws (Amendment) Bill	
Clauses 2 to 26 and 1	240
Motion to Pass	
Shri Man Mohan Singh	240
Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolution	
Thirty-eighth Report— <i>Adopted</i>	240
Private Members' Resolution—Steps to Prevent Atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	
Shri Satya Deo Singh	241—249
Shri Sriballav Panigrahi	249—254
Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh	254—256
Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri	256—259
Shri Govinda Chandra Munda	259—261
Shri Syed Shahabuddin	261—265
Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao Vadde	265—268
Shri Asht Bhuja Prasad Shukla	268—270
Shri Manikrao Hodalya Gavit	270—272
Business Advisory Committee	
Forty-eighth Report— <i>Presented</i>	272

Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates

(English Version)

..

Friday, March 24, 1995/Chaitra 3, 1917 (Saka)

....

<u>Col/Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
1/25	SHRI M.V.CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY	SHRI M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY
5/20 (from below)	SHRI DATTA MAGHE	SHRI DATTA MEGHE
6/18 (from below)	PROF JUMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU	PROF JUMMAREDDY VENKATESWARBU
27/5	THE MINISTER FOR TEXTILES	THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES
27/26	SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH	SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH
43/20 50/4	SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA	SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA
53/29	DR SATNARAYAN JATIYA	DR SATYNARAYAN JATIYA
93/15 (from below)	SHRI C SHEENIVASAN	SHRI C SREENIVASAN
107/7 (from below)	SHRI DHARAMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL	SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL
123/19	SHRI M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY	SHRI M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY
128/20	SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI	SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI
132/13	SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE	SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE
135/18	SHRI SOBHANADRESWARA RAO VADDE	SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE
160/8 (from below)	SHRI LAL BABU LAI	SHRI LALL BABU LAI
174/6 (From below)	THE MINISTER FOR TEXTILES	THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES
204/16 (from below)	SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI	SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, March 24, 1995 Chaitra 3, 1917 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Foreign Insurance Companies

+

161. SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA Kaur (DEEPA):
SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow foreign insurance companies to operate in India;

(b) whether any American delegation visited India in the recent past in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are aware that employees of insurance sector staged a 'dharna' in New Delhi on January 30, 1995 against the Union Government's move in this regard; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps proposed to be taken to safeguard the interests of the employees in this insurance sector?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY) (a) to (e) *Statement* is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The International Insurance Council (IIC), Washington, D.C., USA, organised visit of a mission consisting of U.S. insurance companies, to India from 28th January to 4th February, 1995. The purpose of the Visit, inter alia, was to understand the economic and trade policies of the Indian government and to assess the market potential and opportunities for participating in the insurance business in India.

2. Some employees of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and General Insurance Corporation (GIC) staged a dharna outside the Jeevan Bharti Building of LIC in New Delhi on 30th January, 1995 to protest against this visit.

3. The Government has not yet taken decision on the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee to liberalise the insurance sector. Relevant aspects, including the legitimate interests of the insurance employees, will be kept in view, while deciding this.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA Kaur (DeePa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India has taken a decision of granting permission to the foreign Insurance Companies to

enter into the Indian market and participate in the insurance business? If so, the reasons therefor? In this connection, I would also like to know whether the grant of permission to the foreign insurance companies for entering into the Indian market will not make an adverse effect on the Indian insurance industry? Whether the Government is aware that with the advent of these companies into India there will be an increase in the rates of insurance premium and small scale industries, like the Agro-insurance, the cattle insurance, slum insurance will be devoid of insurance benefits and the foreign companies would like to cover only such industries as will give them huge profits?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as my colleague has just now mentioned, the Government have taken no decision with regard to the entry of foreign insurance companies in our country. Therefore, as of now, it is purely hypothetical. Naturally, before final decision is taken, all the issues that hon. Member has mentioned, will also be kept in view.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA Kaur (DeePa): Mr. Speaker, Sir my second supplementary constitutes an important question. People generally complain about delayed payments of insurance amount even after the maturity of the policy. Has the Government drafted any scheme for effecting improvement in the functioning of the insurance companies, their clients' services and for accruing profits? If so, the details thereof?

[English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, this is a separate issue. It is not related to the question which deals with the foreign insurance companies' role. But certainly, I can assure the hon. Member that I am aware of the fact that there are complaints about delay in payment of various dues to policy-holders.

I think, the time has come when our country should recognise that certain amount of competition in the insurance industry will be good for India. We have today a situation of monopoly. Some of these problems, therefore, do not get resolved. Within the constraints, every effort is being made to address the problems of policy-holders. But some competition will, in the final analysis, would also further strengthen the pressure to improve the quality of service.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, both Life Insurance Corporation of India and General Insurance Corporation of India, through their subsidiaries, are rendering excellent service to this country by way of contributing to the national development. LIC is contributing nearly Rs. 25,000 crore to the Eighth Plan and similarly, General Insurance Corporation of India has invested several thousand crores of rupees for construction of houses to the poor, drinking water schemes and such other governmental developmental programmes.

In view of this fact, I would like to know from the hon.

Minister whether the Government will keep in its mind the recommendations of the Vivian Bose Committee which have clearly pinpointed the deficiencies and lapses and misuse that had taken place when these insurance organisations were in the private sector, basing upon which these two organisations have been nationalised. While the Government takes a decision to allow the foreign insurance companies to enter India, which may not be in our national interest, I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister whether the Government will try to take some more steps to further improve the efficiency and skill of the employees by getting information about several new innovative schemes which are being implemented abroad and implementing the same in LIC and its subsidiaries so that they will strengthen and further the national interest and at the same time, will be helpful to the people also. I would like to have a categorical answer to these questions.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: I agree with the hon. Member that our insurance industry, both in the field of life insurance and general insurance, has given, on the whole, a good account of itself. But as the other hon. Member has just now pointed out, there are problem areas like the quality of service; there is scope of expanding the service to improve the skill and to reduce the cost. In taking any final decision about the future shape of things, all relevant factors including the report which the hon. Member has mentioned will be kept in view and we will do nothing which is against India's national interest.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee to liberalise the insurance sector and how it affects the legitimate interest of the employees who have started their *dharna* and agitation on 30th January.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to state categorically that there is no basis for any agitation or *dharna* on the part of any section of the employees in the insurance industry. We have, in the two insurance wings, about two lakh people. Against this, we have eight crore policy holders.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: What about the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: I am answering your question.

Therefore, the House should guide the Government as to whose interests are supreme—these eight crore policy holders or the two lakh employees. The Government has gone out of its way to protect the interest of employees. I had repeatedly said that there was no proposal to retrench any Government employee. Recently, we have agreed to give a pension benefit to the insurance employees at a substantial cost to the policy holders. Therefore, there is no scope for any section of employees to resort to the path of agitation.

Now, about the question which was asked about the Malhotra Committee, I can briefly recapitulate. These recommendations have been discussed.

Firstly, they have recommended that the private sector should be allowed to enter insurance business. But no

single company should be allowed to transact both life and general insurance business. The number of new entrants should be controlled.

Secondly, the minimum paid-up capital for a new entrant should be Rs. 100 crore. However, a lower capital requirement can be prescribed for state level cooperative institutions taking up life insurance business.

Thirdly, the promoters' holding in a private insurance company should not exceed 40 per cent of the total. However, if the promoters wish to start with a higher holding, they should be permitted to do so provided their holding is brought down to 40 per cent within a specified period of time through public offering. No person other than the promoters should be allowed to hold more than one per cent of the equity. Promoters should at no time hold less than 26 per cent of the paid-up capital.

Fourthly, if and when entry of foreign insurance companies is permitted, it should be done on selective basis. They should be required to float an Indian company for the purpose, preferably in joint venture with Indian partner.

Fifthly, before the private sector is allowed to enter the insurance field, the Controller of Insurance should start functioning effectively.

Sixthly, regulatory and prudential norms as well as conditions for ensuring level playing field among insurers should be finalised early so that intending entrants into the insurance business should be aware of the stipulations that they would have to comply with. These conditions should aim to ensure that life insurance sector does not neglect the small man or the rural business and that the general insurance has the balanced portfolio.

Seventhly, though nationalised insurance companies are in a position to face competition, it is essential that they quickly upgrade their technology, reorganised themselves on more efficient lines and are enabled to operate as broad-run enterprises.

This is the gist of the Malhotra Committee's recommendations.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, as per the reply, these foreign companies are coming to survey the potential of their markets. I would like to know from the hon. Minister: What are the concessions or opportunities or the conditions these companies are asking to be provided by the Government of India during the discussion; secondly, whether we have studied the areas of confrontation with our insurance companies and the foreign companies; and thirdly, whether we are preparing our insurance companies to improve these weak areas so that they can face those foreign companies when they start functioning?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government is not entering into any negotiations with any foreign company. As of now, the insurance industry in our country remains nationalised. Therefore, unless and until we take a decision to the contrary, I think it is premature to start any discussion with anybody, and nor has any specific demand been made on the Government.

The delegation, that is referred to in this question,

came on a private visit. They were not invited by our Government. They met various people but it was not a meeting between the Government of India and the insurance companies.

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the comprehensive reply of the hon. Minister does not seem to clarify our doubts. I would like to ask the hon. Minister that many foreign companies have sent proposals, delegations etc. to him. From which foreign countries has he received informal proposals? In his reply, he talked of competition which means that he is going to do away with nationalisation. It may be clarified whether he wants to have a competition by inviting foreign insurance companies or by encouraging other agencies in India itself?

[English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding insurance there are several countries who have expressed interest in coming to the Indian market. But we have not entered into negotiations with anybody. Some of them have commented on various recommendations of the Malhotra Committee but the Government — as I have emphasised — has not entered into any negotiation with any of these foreign companies.

As far as the question of future set up of this industry is concerned, as of now, this industry is entirely in the nationalised set up. But one has to recognize that there is still a lot of scope for improvement.

I would like this House to think about this particular suggestions that there is need for more competition. This competition does not, necessarily, have to be on the basis of foreign companies. There are several modalities open. Government has not taken a final view in this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MAGHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister that there has been a lot of expansion in Life Insurance business and you have stated that eight crore people are related to this insurance company. There exist some consultative committees in other departments like the Railway department etc. comprising of peoples' representatives but there is no consultative committee in this sector either at the divisional level, zonal level or the Central level. I have worked in LIC for 10-15 years and I am aware that even today, policy holders face a lot of difficulties. A consultative or advisory committee should be constituted for insurance sector comprising of representatives from Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha. Are you going to constitute these committees of such people as are familiar with the working of this sector? These companies have a turnover of crores of rupees but due to the fact that the whole business is being run by the bureaucrats no ordinary person can have an access to them. So, are you going to take the peoples' representatives in this committee?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Does it arise out of this question?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, what the hon. Member has stated does not have any direct bearing on the main question. However, I take note of his suggestion.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a discussion on the entry of foreign companies in the insurance business. I would like to ask a specific question that in rural areas the farmers insure their cattle but the company's services are so poor that in case of death of the animal, the poor farmer has to go from one office to another with the insurance policy. In this connection, we have many a times written letters to the hon. Finance Minister. I am coming to my question. In view of such a pitiable condition of these insurance companies and their poor services, it seems that the Government is writtily bent upon eroding the efficiency of the country's insurance companies to pave way for the entry of foreign companies. Is it a fact?

[English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, with all respect, I would like to say that there is no basis for the presumption that the Government is not interested in improving the efficiency of the Life Insurance Corporation of India or of the General Insurance Corporation of India. It is certainly true that in rural areas, there are problems regarding the expansion of services both of the General Insurance Corporation and the Life Insurance Corporation. In the Budget that I have presented in this august House only a few days ago, I have made provisions for expanding the Group Life Insurance in rural areas.

With regard to the various schemes of the General Insurance Corporation, if the hon. Member brings any specific instances to my notice, I will have them looked into.

+ External Debt

162. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:

PROF. UMMAREDDAY VENKATESWARLU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have worked out the detailed projections regarding the declining trend in the external debt of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including India's total outstanding external debt as on date;

(c) the extent to which the outstanding external debt is likely to remain at a lower level both in absolute terms and as a percentage of GDP by 2000 AD; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the burden of external debt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d). A *Statement* is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b). Even though there has been an increase in the total external debt up to 1993-94, the rate of

increase of the debt has been declining. The total external debt was US \$83.9 billion, US\$ 85.3 billion, US\$ 89.9 billion and US \$ 90.7 billion as on 31st March of 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1994 respectively. These figures indicate that while the total debt of the country increased by US\$ 8.06 billion during 1990-91, the increase was only US\$ 1.38 billion in 1991-92, US\$ 4.65 billion in 1992-93 and US\$ 0.74 billion in 1993-94. During the six month period of 1st April to 30th September 1994, the total external debt actually declined from US\$ 90.7 billion to US\$ 90.4 billion.

(c) Government is conscious about the country's external debt liability and keeps a constant watch on the level of country's indebtedness and likely burden of debt servicing. Permission to contract foreign loans is given to ensure that total new commitment stay within prudent limits keeping in view the objective that the debt servicing liability of the country should not exceed the capacity of the economy to service such loans. Even though, it is not possible to estimate precisely the external debt burden in absolute terms and as a percentage of GDP by 2000 AD, Government policy is geared toward moving to non-debt creating capital inflows and thereby further reduce the total debt stock. The increase/decrease in external debt and growth of GDP would depend on a number of factors in both the current and capital account of our balance of payment including the growth of exports, foreign exchange earning, fresh debt to be incurred, debt servicing to be made etc.

(d) The Government has already taken a number of steps to bring about improvements in revenue receipts, to eliminate inessential and low priority expenditure, to boost exports, to increase invisible earnings, to ensure efficient import substitution, to increase non-debt creating inflow of foreign funds, and to reduce dependence on borrowed funds for financing expenditure.

[English]

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: With your permission, I submit that there is a slight correction in the statement. In line 4 of the statement, the figure '83.5 billion US dollars' may be read as '85.3 billion US dollars'.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Mr. Speaker Sir, the debt position of the country is very alarming. As can be seen from the statement that has been laid on the Table by the hon. Minister, external debt has been increasing constantly. Whether it be at a slow pace or a higher pace, the volume of debt, in absolute terms, has been increasing. Looking at the trends, there is a possibility that by March, 1995, it is likely to go up to 97 or 98 billion US dollars.

During 1995 itself it may even cross the level of US \$ 100 billion.

Sir, though it has been claimed that only 0.74 billion dollars has been increased over 1994-95, yet the internal debt has tremendously increased during these years. The internal debt during 1990-91 was only Rs. 1,54,004 crore which has shot up to Rs. 2,77,561 crore by 1994-95. So, both put together it has gone beyond Rupees five lakh crore and it is nearing even Rupees six lakh crore.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what would be the debt servicing charges and its percentage to the total revenue receipts; and how the country is going to face the challenge of keeping the debt servicing charges below the fiscal deficit. This is part I of my question.

Sir, part II of my supplementary is...

MR. SPEAKER: Part I itself is quite big!

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Sir, the question is very specific.

MR. SPEAKER: That is why, let it be replied.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the items from (a) to (d) deal with the question of external debt. If the hon. Member wants to know about internal debt, I need a separate notice to answer that question.

With regard to the external debt, I would like to point out to this House that our Government has taken credible measures to slow down the increase in debt. On 31st March, 1991, the total external debt of this country was about 84 billion dollars. In these four years the debt has increased to about 90 billion dollars. When you compare this with the improvement in our reserves—from one billion dollar we have added to India's reserves to over 20 billion dollars—if you make allowance for both of these factors, I think, any impartial observer of the Indian economic scene would have to conclude that this Government has taken effective measures to reduce the burden of indebtedness as has never happened in the last 20—30 years.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Sir, my second supplementary is, the overseas rate of interest has also gone up very high. During 1989-90, the rate of interest on the external debt was hardly 9.7 per cent. Now it has gone up to 13 per cent. So, there is a tremendous increase. The tendency is that the borrowings cover the fiscal deficit. But in the coming year it fell short because of the interest payment on outstanding public debt of the Central Government.

Sir normally some of these countries are negotiating with the external funding agencies to reduce the rate of interest and also the total burden of the debt. I would like to know whether this Government has made any attempt to negotiate with such funding agencies with regard to the reduction in the rate of interest and also reducing the debt burden.

Sir, another small part of my supplementary is, besides the Union Government, public sector agencies like ICICI, IDBI, IFCI and other agencies have also been approaching the foreign agencies and they have been getting the loan. I would like to know whether there is any monitoring system to exercise the powers of the Union Government to keep that debt level also at a check so that it is maintained at a particular level as otherwise the total debt burden of this country—whether it is on the Government or on other agencies—is going to be very high.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no single rate of interest on external loan. It varies depending upon which source we borrow. When we borrow

from the World Bank, it has one set of rates and other multilateral agencies have different sets of rates. When we borrow from other Governments they have different rates of interest. I cannot say that we are borrowing at nine percent. The average rate of interest, I think, in effect will be much lower. When we compare ourselves with the other developing countries, we are in that fortunate position that nearly 47-50 per cent of our debt is medium and long term debt. Our short term debt, which is a source of instability for any Government, was over 10.3 per cent when we came into Office. Today, it is no more than three per cent. So, that element of instability is not there.

The hon. Member has asked, what is being done to monitor the external debt. The Government of India monitors the debt profile very regularly and the total debt of India that I have mentioned includes debt raised by ICICI and other financial institutions. This is kept under continuous review. We have well defined internal guidelines as to how much debt we will allow to increase. The country can rest assure that we have been vigilant and we will remain vigilant on this score.

SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN THORAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any portion of the external debt has been demarcated for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the country.

MR. SPEAKER: This question does not arise out of the main question.

SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN THORAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would specifically like to know whether NHFDC has approached the Government for raising the debt.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us have some relevance to the question.

Please take your seat. I am disallowing it.

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: It is a fact that external debts are rising to alarming proportion. The external debt which used to be just about Rs. 10,000-20,000 crore in the Eighties, has shot up to 19.7 US billion dollars. Sir, through you I would like to ask from the Hon. Minister whether, keeping in view the way our external debt is increasing, he is thinking of having any limit; if so, whether this increase is within the limit and it will not create problem for us. Has he kept anything in mind as to whether this will be related to the foreign reserves that we have? The Hon. Minister is boasting about 23 billion dollar reserves. Out of these 23 billion dollar reserves also, a large portion of the money is not permanent because that is either the borrowed money or it belongs to NRIs which can go at any time from the country. So, is he considering any kind of proportion to the foreign reserve and the external debt and will there be any kind of control so that this does not increase to unlimited position?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to clarify that when I mentioned the figure of external debt that included the debt that we owe to the Non-Resident Indians. The deposits that they hold in our banks are included in India's external debt.

The second thing that I do want to say is that our

Government seeks to moderate the growth of debt. I cannot say that the debt will not grow because when the economy is expanding, when our exports are expanding almost everything will grow. The proper comparison would be what would happen to the debt as a proportion of our GDP. What is happening to our debt-service ratio? In all these areas, there is a distinct improvement. For example, in 1991-92 the total external debt of India was equal to 41 per cent of India's Gross Domestic Product. In 1992-93, we brought it down to 40 per cent. In 1993-94 we brought it down to 36 per cent. Similarly, there has been improvement with regard to the debt-service ratio. We are gradually bringing it down. I have no magic formula to bring down the debt drastically. In the long run this country can reduce its debt only if it has a strong export surplus.

Today we are in a better situation than we were four-five years ago. In the Eighties, only about 60 per cent of our imports were being covered by our export earnings and 40 per cent of our imports were being covered by borrowings of one type or another. Today 90 per cent of our imports are being covered by our exports. To that extent we have reduced the need for foreign borrowings. India's exports should grow fast so that in due course of time we will have an export surplus. That is the only way in which we will be able to repay our debt.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir our foreign debt is now to the tune of 90.4 billion US dollars. In view of this, I would like to know from the hon., Minister whether he has any specific proposals to gear up to moving towards non-debt creating capital inflows by 2000 AD.

MR. SPEAKER: I think that question has already been replied to!

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Our effort is to see that as far as possible growth of debt is moderated. That is why we have encouraged direct foreign investment which is not as much risky as debt. Therefore, in the last three-four years we have liberalised the regime for foreign direct investment that would enable us to increase the proportion of non-debt creating inflows as against the debt type of inflows.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister admitted during his reply that there was an external debt burden of \$84 billions on India in 1991. According to my information, there was a two time devaluation of Indian rupee in comparison to the US dollar during that year. In his terminology, there was a readjustment in July. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that according to readjustment of Indian currency in June, July of 1991 in comparison to foreign currency, without availing any debt, how much was our foreign debt in Indian currency and how much it increased as a result of readjustment? Secondly, we take loans from the financial institutions and the Governments. I would like to know whether the Government of India makes an assessment of the loans taken from the financing agencies and that taken from the Governments? What is the ratio of the two? With

this, I would like to know the efforts being made to minimise this debt. According to my information, a large amount of loan is taken by the State Governments and other agencies functioning in India on the guarantee of the Government of India but after taking loans, they do not accomplish the stipulated work. I would like to know whether you have compiled any figures showing the percentage of the foreign loan utilised in India and that left unutilised.

English

MR. SPEAKER: Lot of statistics have to be given.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, the figures that I have given are for debt outstanding and debt disbursed. So, these are the figures of the amount outstanding and the amount which has been disbursed. Coming to the second part of the hon. Member's question, Sir, I deliberately avoided giving figures in Indian rupees as I would have been accused of comparing the likes with the unlikes because exchange rate has changed. But, for the information of the House, I can give the end period figures of external debt in terms of thousands of crores of rupees. The figure in 1990-91 was 163.31, in 1991-92 it was 253.03, in 1992-93 it was 280.63, in 1993-94 it was 284.20 and by the end of September 1994, it was 278.90.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: That means it doubled.

Modernisation of NTC mills.

*163. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 2005 crore project for modernisation of NTC mills is still pending with the Union Government for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delay in giving clearance to the project; and

(c) the time by which this modernisation project is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY):

(a) to (c) A : Statement laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c) The Textile Research Associations had prepared a plan for modernisation of 79 mills at an investment of Rs. 2005.72 crores. The modernisation plan inter-alia envisages restructuring of 36 unviable mills into 18 viable mills. The Labour Ministry's Special Tripartite Committee on the NTC had recommended that the NTC mills as well as its taken over mills can be made viable by modernisation as proposed by the Textile Research Association.

A Turn Around Plan for the NTC is under consideration in the Government. Since the cases of 8 subsidiaries of NTC stand referred to the BIFR, any scheme that may finally emerge would also require the concurrence of the BIFR before implementation.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, the Statement which the hon. Minister had laid does not make it at all clear as to how long it will take to complete the consideration of this modernisation plan. In the Statement it is said that:

"Since the cases of 8 subsidiaries of NTC stand referred to the BIFR, any scheme that may finally emerge would also require the concurrence of the BIFR before implementation."

But I want in this particular case of textile mills — some of them may be supposed to be sick and all that — are referred to the BIFR but in spite of that, it was decided by the Government in agreement with the Trade Unions that this modernisation would cover 79 mills and the investment and all that had been calculated. So, does this overall plan of modernisation not cover any of these 79 mills and overrule the question of any particular small or a few mills out of these 79 being under consideration of the BIFR? That can wait until this is carried out. It is because modernisation is the part of the plan for revival of these mills.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: As far the modernisation of 120 NTC mills, the hon. Members know it very well that all textile mills are operating with obsolete machinery. The Government has taken keen interest in this regard. It referred its modernisation plan to the Textiles Research Association for consideration. But later on so many legal issues got involved in it. They also are to be taken into consideration.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: What are the legal problems?

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: They are doing all illegal work. None of their work is legal.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, would the hon. Member give me an opportunity to speak here. Out of 105 mills, there are 15 taken-over mills in which legal problems have cropped up. Those who were nationalised earlier do not have any legal problem. But both kinds of mills the nationalised and the taken-over mills can be combined and then modernised. That is why it is getting delayed. The BIFR has prescribed 11th April as the last date. We are endeavouring for modernisation as per the recommendations made by the Textiles Research Association and we will take decision before the 11th April and continue our modernisation programme.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: 15 mills have already been nationalised. It was proposed to merge the 18 sick mills with other healthy mills. I do not know the developments in this regard. The hon. Minister should throw light on it. A news item had appeared in last February.

[English]

"The package should be supplied, the Government feels, only to mills which could be nursed back to health."

[Translation]

It means they will first be nursed back to health and thereafter it will be seen whether the package is supplied or not.

[English]

"For this reason, the Union Cabinet, recently sent back the package proposal to the Textiles Ministry and directed it to come out with a fresh paper on the subject after consulting the Law Ministry."

[Translation]

The Committee headed by Shri Sangma as approved a modernisation package for 79 mills. According to an unconfirmed news the Cabinet has decided to send the scheme back and seek legal advice thereon. Thereafter it will be decided whether the modernisation should be continued or not. I want to know what is going on?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are pursuing modernisation plan as per the recommendations made by tripartite committee. I would like to assure the hon. Member that we are pursuing this modernisation programme after getting it approved by the Cabinet on the basis of the recommendation made by the tripartite committee.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had observed fast on August 9, 1994 and it was discussed in this august House. That very time while speaking on modernisation, the hon. Minister had promised in the house that there would be no closure and no privatisation of mills and no retrenchment of workers. He also promised to introduce the proposal for nationalisation. Would you like to fulfill your assurance?

Secondly, Dr. Manmohan Singh is sitting here beside him. When we ask him he suggests us to go to the hon. Minister and when we approach the latter, he points out that proposals are not sent to him. Then what is the fact? Would the Government provide working capital to those mills in Bombay city which were on the verge of closure for want of raw materials? Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you that you have given me an opportunity to express my opinion.

MR SPEAKER: It is not the question of working capital. It is the case of their modernisation.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: It is the issue of providing working capital in the course of modernisation of the mills.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Textiles has accepted all the conditions laid down by the tripartite Committee and has referred them to the cabinet and I would intimate the hon. Members about the decision taken by the Government. No conditions have been excluded.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has been giving the same reply for the last one year without any change. The Tripartite Committee had taken a decision, I think, a year ago. But no further progress has been made. In the Session before last the hon. Minister for Textiles had given an assurance to this House that he would bring a Bill for nationalisation of the taken-over mills in that Session itself. (Interruptions) The other Session had also gone. Yet, there is no trace of that Bill. So, I would like to know the legal difficulties in bringing that Bill

because that is the first condition for implementing the modernisation and restructuring the scheme which had been approved by the Tripartite Committee. Just now you have said that BIFR has to accept this scheme. I would like to know whether you have submitted this scheme to the BIFR for acceptance.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: The first question is as to why the modernisation plan has been delayed. I would like to tell the hon. Members that no condition has been excluded, and modernisation of 122 mills has not taken place simultaneously so far-not only in India but also in the world. It is being delayed. But we are going to perform the task. We are going to modernise them in public Sector and instead of privatising them. The 11th is the last date given by the B.I.F.R. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have assured Shri Indrajit Gupta that this task will be completed before this date.

MR. SPEAKER: You have assured this House.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Please tell us whether you stick to the promises given to the country or you will follow the decision given by the tripartite committee?

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, actually speaking, the condition of textile industry all over the country is poor but here I would like to talk about the mills of the National Textiles Corporation only. It has seven mills in Madhya Pradesh. In his reply the hon. Minister has stated that the issue of modernisation is lying pending. This is a lengthy process. Until the modernisation plan is finalised and machinery and funds are made available, the machinery of these mills will gather rust and the hands of the workers which were somehow pulling on the mills will also get rusted. The mills of the National Textiles Corporation in Madhya Pradesh require 30 crore rupees. The workers are not getting their idle wages, which should be paid every month. Would the Government like to manage working capital for these mills so that they remain in operation till the modernisation plan is chalked out? Moreover, I would also like to know whether in addition to non-payment of idle wages, no contribution is being made towards their provided fund and the E.S.I. and the bill of the Electricity Board is not being paid.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It does not come out of this question. I will disallow it if you try to make it lengthy.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Government make any arrangements for the NTC mills?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: It is true that throughout India...

MR. SPEAKER: What assistance is being provided to run them?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: We are doing that. We are paying wages every month even when we do not have money.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Wages are not being paid. (Interruptions)

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: If the hon. Member gives me an opportunity then I would like to make you understand. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If he is speaking, please listen.

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Please listen me first.

MR. SPEAKER: In the question hour one can never stand up to speak. Please take your seat.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: My submission to the hon. Member from Madhya Pradesh is that she should give an example, where the labourers are not being paid wages. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. If you put the question in this way then the people will think that you have nothing to ask.

[English]

SHRI M. R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: Do these 15 mills which are making 85 per cent of the total losses of the NTC include in those 79 mills? If that is so, then how will the BIFR give priority to them?

Are you going to modernise only the machinery or are you going to change the people in the top management and appoint new General Managers who are well versed with the latest techniques on production guarantee basis, which is mainly lacking in the NTC mills?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: That is our scheme after the modernisation. We are going to change people from top to bottom in the management.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: The hon. Minister might be remembering that we had met him at his residence near Diwali.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a question of Diwali and the ladoos are not to be offered.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there were 70 textiles mills in my Constituency. Now, for the last 10 years not even 10 mills are running in the whole Ahmedabad city. I have been raising the issue of the wages to the labourers in the House repeatedly. I do not have any personal interest in it. You allow me to raise the question since you have deep regard and love for the workers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you that why 5 textile mills out of 7 are lying closed in my Constituency, Ahmedabad. Two mills were closed during Diwali days since the electricity dues were not paid therefore the Gujarat Electricity Board disconnected their connections.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You understand that this is a question relating to the modernisation of mills. He may not have the information about each of the mills.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: But it is a question of seven mills whose electricity dues are not paid. So their electricity connections are cut off with the result more than 10,000 workers have become jobless.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the

Government is going to pay the pending electricity charges of these NTC mills in due course so that the mills can run properly and the jobless workers get their job.

MR. SPEAKER: This does not come out of this question, yet I am allowing it. Otherwise, again you will get up.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: MR. speaker, Sir, it is right and the hon. Member knows that all the mills of Gujarat are lying closed due to sickness. N.T.C. mills are also lying closed due to this reason only. So far as the payment of electricity dues is concerned, we are waiting for the modernisation plan, which is likely to come in 10-15 days and then all the dues will be paid and a new and modern scheme will be brought.

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has just now said that the modernisation will take some time but in some companies like the Swadeshi Cotton Mill, the labourers want to work but there is no work somewhere they are being paid wages, and somewhere such wages are not being paid, the management there have no work and the machine parts are being sold there. The management is doing injustice. I would like to know from the hon. Minister if he is doing some arrangements and bringing some policy to keep an eye on all these N.T.C. mills to avoid theft there so that the workers may get idle wages till the modernisation scheme is completed?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member had complained that theft incidents are taking place there so the officer should be sacked. I transferred him as the hon. Member had asked me to do so, even then if there is any complaint, I will examine it.

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: The hon. Minister has transferred him but no enquiry has been conducted. The crime of theft has not come to an end by this transfer. The officer has been posted at a good place. I am not criticising you for this.

DR. SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that there is no such mill where the labourers are not getting their wages.

MR. SPEAKER: If there is any such mill, give me in writing and he will be bound to take an action.

DR. SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission to you is that the Vinod Rayon Mill in Ujjain has been closed and the workers are not getting their rightful dues. Therefore, my submission to the hon. Minister is that this issue is very sensitive and the workers are living in a very bad condition. The mills are closing down one by one. This is not with regard to N.T.C. only, the whole situation is miserable. The Government has been saying for years that the condition of the mills will be improved. Therefore, a time bound programme should be chalked out so that action can be taken for all the textile mills of N.T.C.

MR. SPEAKER: Jatiya ji, question relates to modernisation of the mills and you are bringing all the mills in it.

DR. SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps

are likely to be taken to provide employment to the workers and to keep the Hira Mill running whether any time bound programme will be made for it?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: I would like to submit to the hon. Member that I will furnish full details, if he gives his ideas in writing.

[English]

Indo-US Trade Relations

*164. SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a perceptible change in the Indo-US trade relations in recent months after the visit of the US Commerce Secretary to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof, particularly with regard to the delinking of human rights from trade related matters by the US Government;

(c) whether the aforesaid change in the US policy is likely to increase the quantum of trade between India and the USA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) USA is India's largest trading partner. The visit of US Commerce Secretary to India in January 1995 has provided a fillip to Indo-US Commercial relations. Human Rights have not been raised as an issue between India & USA in their bilateral trade relations.

(c) and (d) The visit of US Commerce Secretary is expected to lead to stronger commercial ties and increased flow of US investments in key sectors. Intensification of private sector business interaction is likely to lead to further expansion of bilateral trade.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL: Mr Speaker, Sir, my first question is that the American Commerce Secretary had paid a visit here and bilateral talks was held with our country; as it brought a change in the trade policy of our country or not? The answer should have been that it has not changed and if it has changed then the details thereof should have been given but no reply to it has been given. My submission is that it should be made more clear.

Secondly, United States of America has always been raising the issue of human rights in connection with trade in one way or the other. The hon. Minister has said that this time it was not raised but I would like to know about the policy of our Government if this issue is raised in future.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, with great respect the hon. Member, there is no question about whether India's trade policy has changed a result of the U.S. Commerce Secretary's visit. The hon. Member wishes to ask that

question now I will be happy to answer. If there is no change in India's trade policy as a result of the visit of any Minister of any foreign government. Trade policies are made autonomously keeping our interest in mind.

On the second question of human rights, if they try to link human rights with trade relations, we will stoutly oppose it. But if in other forums, foreign governments raise the question of human rights generally, India's position is very well known and I am sure the Ministry of External Affairs and the other Ministries concerned will answer these doubts or meet these apprehensions in a suitable manner.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second question is that our trade with the U.S.A. has increased a lot. I would like to know about the areas in which this trade has increased and how much foreign exchange has been earned by our country.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the U.S. is India's largest trading partner. In terms of our country's exports, India's exports to the U.S. account for 18 per cent of our exports and India's imports from the U.S. account for 12 per cent.

Sir, over the last four years, exports from India to the U.S. have increased from 2.9 billion U.S. dollars to approximately 3.6 billion U.S. dollars in the current year up to December and imports are stable at about 2 billion U.S. dollars a year.

As regards the principal commodities which we export to the U.S. and the principal commodities which we import from the U.S., so far as exports are concerned they are in the area of textiles and clothing, leather and leather products, engineering products, electronic products, diamonds and jewelleryes and precious stones, shrimps and prawns; and so far as imports are concerned, our major imports from the U.S. are fertilizers, aircraft, turbo-jets, aircraft parts, machinery parts, malt extracts, soya-bean oil, automatic data processing machines, electronic goods, wood pulp and parts of railway locomotives.

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: In view of the recent deposition by Mr. John Shattuck, Assistant Secretary of State, Democracy and Human Rights at a joint-hearing of the Foreign Relations Sub-Committee on International Operations on Human Rights that India has a problematic record on human rights and that he planned to travel to India on Human Rights Mission in May.

But, Sir, during the same testimony, he also emphasized that in cases of States which have problematic records of human rights, Washington may, and does use instruments like trade sanctions, oppositions to sanctioning loan by multi-lateral development banks etc. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government consider it as a veiled threat and insistence on linkage of human rights with trade related matters?

MR. SPEAKER: You are asking for the opinion.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: As I said, we will oppose any linkage between trade relations and any alleged violation of human rights. If human rights, as an issue, is

raised in various fora, the Government will certainly, at those fora, meet these apprehensions.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: The U.S. retains India on the priority watch list under the Section Special 301 of the Trade and Competitiveness Act. Was this issue discussed with the U.S. Commerce Secretary?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Yes, Sir, in a broad way, it was discussed. Also when our officials visited U.S., we raised this question of India being kept in the priority watch list. Sir, as I said, that is their list. We should not get unduly worried about another country keeping our name on some list. If it affects the trade relations, if restrictive measures are imposed, as a result of keeping us on some list, we will certainly oppose it and we will certainly respond in a suitable manner.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Export of Coffee

*165. **SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY:**

SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of coffee produced and exported during 1994-95, till date;

(b) whether the Government have lifted the ban on export of coffee seeds/powder and revised the export duty on coffee;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the price of coffee seeds/powder is increasing in the domestic market;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the present price of coffee in the domestic market in comparison to December, 1994; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to regulate the coffee prices and to make available coffee seeds/powder in the domestic market at competitive rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The total production of coffee during 1994-95 (till date) and its export are estimated to be as follow:

Production during 1994-95	1,80,000 tonnes
Export during 1994-95	1,16,000 tonnes

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The Government have removed the quantitative restriction on export of coffee on 31.12.1994 and have also permitted export of certain grades of coffee which were banned earlier. The duty of customs which is imposed on coffee for export has been revised since 21.1.1994 from Rs. 25/- per quintal to Rs. 35/- per quintal.

(d) and (e). Coffee prices which had risen sharply in June, 1994 have stabilised over the last few weeks. The unprecedented price rise had been due to the sharp increase in price of coffee in the international market owing to reported loss of crop in Brazil, the largest coffee producer, on account of frost. The present average price of

coffee in the domestic market in comparison to December 1994 is as follows:—

	Coffee seeds	Coffee powder
	(Rate in Rs. per kg.)	
Dec. 1994	119	166
Feb. 1995	118	162

(f) In order to improve domestic availability and also as a deterrent against speculative hoarding, the Government had imposed a quantitative ceiling on export of coffee besides banning export of a few grades of coffee in August, 1994. These restrictions were removed on 31st Dec. 1994 after prices had established at a lower level compared to the peak touched in June-July, 1994. However, the domestic price of coffee continues to be influenced by international price movements. Government does not have any proposal at present to regulate coffee prices in the domestic market. However, efforts will be made to bring about a situation in which there is adequate domestic availability of coffee at reasonable prices.

Labour Conference

*166. **SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:**

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new protective measures being attempted through the 'social clause' proposal which was debated at length at the fifth conference of Labour Ministers of Non-Aligned and other developing countries at Delhi;

(b) the number of countries who have signed the Delhi Declaration and programme of action;

(c) whether India has denounced the linkage of labour standards with international trade;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (e). Eighty three countries attended the Fifth Conference of Labour Ministers of Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries held at New Delhi from 19th to 23rd January 1995 and unanimously adopted the Delhi Declaration and Programme of Action. The Delhi Declaration, inter-alia, resolved to oppose any effort to establish linkage between international trade and enforcement of labour standards through the imposition of the social clause. The Programme of Action which is based on the Delhi Declaration calls for reviewing, updating and consolidation of labour standards within the ILO without linkage to trade concerns; and at the national level for periodic review of ILO Conventions and strengthening the enforcement of labour standards. India is a party to the above resolution.

[Translation]

Agricultural Labour

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

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the problems faced by the agricultural labourers in regard to minimum wages, working hours and medical facilities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the problems?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). The Government is aware of the problems being faced by the agricultural labourers in regard to minimum wages, working hours and medical facilities. Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is the most important legislation concerning agricultural labour, as it provides for fixation and revision of minimum wages, hours of work, payment of overtime wages, rest days, etc. The issues relating to effective implementation of the provisions of the Act were extensively discussed with the State Governments, in the Regional Labour Ministers Conferences of Eastern and North Eastern regions held at Bhubaneswar on 29-30 September, 1994, the Southern region held at Trivandrum on 4th October, 1994 and Central and Northern regions held at Jaipur on 25th October, 1994. A number of decisions have been taken to strengthen the enforcement of the Minimum Wages Act. These include wide publicity to the provisions of the Act through print media, radio broadcast, electronic media, hoardings, etc., enhancement of the penalties for violating the Act, broadening of eligibility criteria for appointment of claims authorities, simplification of claims settlement procedures, etc. Besides, the State Government have also been advised to strengthen the enforcement machinery by taking help of other sister department, to increase the number of inspectors, and to set up District Level Watch Committees etc.

Several other legislations having a direct bearing on the work environment of agricultural workers such as the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, the Inter-State migrant Workmen Act, 1970 etc. have been enacted. Comprehensive Legislation for agriculture workers has been enacted by the States of Kerala and Tripura in 1973 and 1986 respectively and other States have been advised to take up similar Legislation for which a Model Bill has been circulated. For attaining the goal of "Health for all by the year 2000", coordinated efforts are being made under Rural Health Programmes to provide effective and efficient health services to the people in the rural areas which include agricultural workers. Over 1.31 lakh sub-centres, 21,024 primary health centres and 2293 community health centres set up under the Minimum Needs Programme are functioning as on 30th September, 1993 to provide primary health care in rural areas. In addition, 4.15 lakh village Health Guides (VHG) have been trained out of whom about Rs. 3.25 lakh VHG are on the roll of the State Governments/UTs.

Foreign Investment

*168. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received any proposal to lower the ceiling imposed on investment by foreign institutional investors;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have also been requested to encourage foreign direct investment to fill resource gap in infrastructural sectors like power and telecom;
- (d) if so, details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government to these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The issues raised in the question were the subject matter of discussions in the interactive meeting, organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) during the visit of Russel 20-20, an informal Group of International Financial Organisations. No revision in the existing ceilings on Foreign Institutional Investors holding in individual Companies is, however, being contemplated by the Government.

(c) to (e). In recognition of the importance of infrastructure in promoting growth and all round development, Government have initiated major initiatives for investment in infrastructure, particularly power and tele-communications. These include, for the power sector, a concessional tax regime and permission for foreign equity participation upto 100%. The telecom sector reforms cover, the announcement of a national telecom policy envisaging private sector participation on basic and value added services, expansion in telecom network, resources from private financing institutions through lease financing and deferred payment terms.

[Translation]

NRE Accounts

*169. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI:
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cases of illegal business in foreign exchange through NRE Accounts have come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The Enforcement Directorate has come across some instances where Non-Resident External (NRE) accounts have been misused for illegal business in foreign exchange.

(c) The Government has been keeping a close vigil to

prevent misuse of NRE accounts. As and when intelligence is received about such misuse, detailed investigations are made and appropriate action as provided under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 is taken against the persons concerned, RBI has also been requested to take note of transactions in NRE accounts in their periodic audit/inspection of banks.

[English]

Inland Air Travel Tax

*170. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
PROF. ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several private airlines operating in the country have failed to pay the Inland Air Travel Tax that has become overdue;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have impounded some planes of private airlines for non-payment of the tax;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken for quick recovery of the tax due from these airlines?

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

(a): Yes, Sir

(b)

Name of Airline	Period	Outstanding amount (Rs. Lakhs)
(i) M/s. Jagson Airlines	1992-93	5.81
(ii) M/s. Continental Aviation Pvt. Ltd.	1991-92 & 1992-93	74.86
(iii) M/s. City Link Airways	1992-93	60.15
(iv) M/s. East West Airlines	1992-93	77.00
(v) M/s. Raj Aviation	1994 (Jan.-April)	46.64

Apart from the aforesaid amounts, show cause notices have also been issued to the following airlines for determination of the amounts of Inland Air Travel Tax alleged to have not been paid;

(i) M/s. East West Airlines

(ii) M/s. Air Asiatik Ltd.

(iii) M/s. Goaways Aviation Pvt. Ltd.

(c) Yes Sir

(d)

Name of the Airline	Date of Distrain of the Aircraft	Date of Release
(i) M/s. East West Airlines	8.11.1994	10.11.1994
(ii) M/s. East West Airlines	24.2.1995	28.2.1995

(iii) M/s. Damania Airways	25.2.1995	22.3.1995
(iv) M/s. Continental Aviation	10.2.1995	Not yet released

(e) In all the cases of default, necessary action under the Finance Act, 1989 read with the Inland Air Travel Tax Rules, 1989 has been initiated.

[Translation]

Share Brokers

*171. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of sub-brokers in the stock market has increased considerably due to the low number of main brokers available;

(b) if so, whether these sub-brokers are legally recognised by the Government or SEBI for engaging in transactions in stock market;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have taken steps to ensure that sub-brokers do not indulge in irregularities with a view to defrauding public;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the number of main brokers in the stock market?

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

(a) The sub-brokers and the members of Stock Exchanges are different categories of intermediaries in the stock market and there is no evidence to suggest that the number of sub-brokers has increased considerably on account of the limited number of members of Stock Exchanges.

(b) Sub-brokers as a class of intermediaries in the securities market are legally recognised by the securities and Exchanges Board of India (SEBI) under the SEBI (Stock-brokers and Sub-Brokers Rules and Regulations 1992, which have been made under the SEBI Act 1992.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) above.

(d) and (e). The SEBI (Stock brokers and Sub-brokers) Rules and Regulations 1992 contain, inter alia, a scheme of registration of sub-brokers and a code of conduct for them. The code of conduct for sub-brokers stipulates that a sub-broker shall maintain high standards of integrity, promptitude and fairness in the conduct of all investment business and also lays down several duties and responsibilities for them in relation to their dealings with clients and the general investing public, stock-brokers and regulatory authorities.

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

(g) Matters relating to number of members of a Stock-Exchange and procedures for admitting new members are governed by the Rules of a Stock Exchange. Therefore,

the basic decision on whether to increase the number of members of a Stock Exchange vests with the concerned Exchange. During the last two years, SEBI has approved the proposals of several Stock Exchange for increasing their members.

[English]

Carpet Weavers

*172. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:
DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the problems of the carpet weavers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to resolve their problems;
- (c) whether the Government propose to create any welfare fund for the benefit of the carpet weavers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The problems pertain to skill formation and upgradation, design and technological development, and marketing, and include issue relating to the welfare of the weavers.

The Government runs 437 carpet weaving training centres in different carpet belts in the country, now emphasis is being laid in expanding the production base through other organisations such as state corporation, cooperatives and voluntary organisations. 87 centres have been set up through assistance to such agencies along with two Craft development Centres in Madhubani and Gwalior. An Institute of Carpet Technology and Design is soon to open at Bhadohi. The carpet weavers are also facilitated in participation in different craft bazars, international and national melas and exhibitions etc. organised from time to time. Recently the Govt. has introduced welfare schemes for workshed-cum-housing, group insurance and health package for the craftspersons in the country, including carpet weavers. The government have also taken various steps, to deal with the alleged use of child labour in carpet weaving. These include vigorous enforcement of the relevant laws, provision of welfare and educational inputs for children released from the trade, creation of public awareness against employment of children from outside the family in carpet-weaving, and tackling the exaggerated propoganda regarding use of child labour both at home and abroad through media and diplomatic channels. The trade through the Carpet Export Promotion Council has been motivated towards adopting a self-regulatory and voluntary code of conduct, and the government have made the registration-cum-membership certificate of the CEPC compulsory for exporters of handmade carpets.

(c) and (d). The Committee of Administration of the Carpet Export Promotion Council have resolved to create a child welfare fund effective from 1.1.1995 to which members will contribute 0.25% of the f.o.b. value of their

exports of handmade carpets and other floor coverings. The amount so collected will be spent on the welfare of the weavers engaged in the Indian carpet industry.

[Translation]

Vabal Scheme

*173. SHRI RATILAL VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received a number of complaints regarding abuse of value based advance licensing (VABAL) scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have decided to make changes in the scheme as an alternative to the international price reimbursement scheme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the action taken or proposed to be taken to check the abuse of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e). Some complaints have been received alleging non-existence of applicant firms, over-invoicing and mis-declaration. Investigations have, however, not revealed any large scale violation of the Exim Policy or general mis-use of the Value Based advance Licensing Scheme.

Government have not decided to make changes in the Value Based Advance Licensing (VABAL) Scheme as an alternative to the International Price Reimbursement Scheme. However, a new scheme called the Engineering Products Exports (Replenishment of Iron and Steel Intermediates) Scheme has been notified on the 1st March, 1995 for sourcing iron and steel intermediate inputs at near international prices from indigenous steel producers for facilitating their exports. Under the Scheme, iron and steel intermediates can be sourced from any indigenous steel producer after export of engineering products.

Sufficient provisions exist in the Foreign Trade (Development a Regulation) Act to deal with violations of the Value Based Advance Licensing Scheme. Further, the Scheme is also constantly monitored with a view to identifying shortcomings/anomalies noticed during its operation and taking necessary remedial action.

[English]

Export of Textiles

*174. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA:
SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the country has greater prospects of export of handloom and readymade garments to members of European Community this year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total share of export of such garments from Maharashtra and Gujarat, separately;

(d) the incentives proposed to be provided/being provided to the exporters of such garments; and

(e) the other steps being taken by the Union Government to boost the export of readymade garments?

THE MINISTER FOR TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). As a result of the Indo-EC Textile agreement signed on 31.12.1994, all restrictions on our exports of handloom and cottage industry products to the European Union countries have been removed. Over and above the existing flexibilities, exceptional flexibility of 7000 tonnes has also been provided. These measures are expected to improve the export prospects of our handloom and readymade garments to the European Union countries.

(c) State-wise export figures are not maintained.

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

[Translation]

Export Incentives

*175. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

Will the minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a number of complaints regarding misuse of export incentives by exporters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have investigated these complaints;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check the misuse of export incentives by exporters in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e). Some complaints have been received relating to misuse of export incentives such as Cash Compensatory Support (CCS), Replenishment (REP) Licences, Exim Scrips, International Price Reimbursement Scheme (IPRS), Drawback on physical & deemed exports, etc. It has been alleged in these complaints that such incentives were availed of or attempted to be availed of on the basis of misdeclaration, forged documents and suppression of material facts. All such complaints are investigated and penal action such as debarment, imposition of fiscal penalty and suspension of Importer-Exporter Code are taken under the relevant statutory provisions. Some cases are also referred to the CBI for prosecution. These steps are considered adequate to deal with any misuse of incentives by the exporters.

[English]

World Trade Organisation

*176. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since joined the World Trade Organisation;

(b) the conditions required to be fulfilled to secure entry into the WTO as one of the founder members;

(c) the manner in which the conditions were fulfilled;

(d) whether the entry will help India to ensure the success of the new economic reforms; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e). Article XI of the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organisation (WTO) provides that "Contracting Parties to GATT 1947 as of the date of entry into force of this Agreement and the European Communities, which accept this Agreement and the Multilateral Trade Agreements and for which Schedules of Concessions and Commitments are annexed to GATT 1994 and for which Schedules of Specific Commitments are annexed to GATS shall become original Members of the WTO".

As India was a Contracting Party to GATT 1947 and ratified the Agreement Establishing the WTO, alongwith the Multilateral trade agreements, schedules of concessions and commitments by the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement, India became a founding member.

Membership of the WTO would ensure that the process of globalisation of India's economy takes place in the context of a rule based multilateral trading system which provides for stability, predictability and non-discrimination in international trade. Besides strengthening the multilateral trading system, by enlarging world wide market access for goods and services the Uruguay Round results are expected to considerably enlarge the volume of world trade thereby creating employment, increasing incomes and raising the standards of living generally. India expects to be able to expand its exports of goods and services substantially, taking advantage of tariff reductions, phasing out of quantitative restrictions, reduction in export-subsidies, etc., by members of the WTO in accordance with WTO Agreements.

Cotton and Cotton Yarn

*177. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of cotton and cotton yarn in the country have increased alarmingly during the past few months;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to supply cotton and cotton yarn to handloom sector at subsidised rates;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps being taken to check the rise in prices and hoarding of cotton?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir. Prices of cotton and cotton yarn have increased.

(b) The reasons for the rise in the prices of cotton and cotton yarn are short arrivals of cotton in the market, damage to cotton crop in certain areas, speculative buying and tight availability in international market.

(c) and (d). During 1994-95, 20 million kgs. of hank yarn was allocated for distribution to the handloom sector at a subsidy of Rs. 15/-per kg.

(e) Government is constantly monitoring the situation. The import of cotton has been put under OGL at 'nil' rate of duty; about 30,000 MT of viscose Staple Fibre at 'NIL' rate of duty is being imported, ceiling on stock of cotton to be held by mills and traders has been imposed and strict implementation of Hank yarn obligation order is being done. So far only one lakh bales of Bengladeshi cotton has been permitted for export out of announced quantity of 5 lakh bales keeping in view the present domestic situation. The Textile Commissioner has been ensuring enforcement of various orders to check hoarding of cotton.

Indo-European Union Economic Cooperation

*178. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch five year strategy for strengthening economic ties with the twelve nations of the European Union;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any conference was held in Brussels under the new Ino-Europe agreement on partnership and development recently;

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

(e) the salient features of the blueprint for Indo-EU cooperation;

(f) whether any bilateral economic agreement is proposed to be signed with the European Union; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a), (b) and (e). At the India-EC Joint Commission meeting held at Brussels on 10-11 October 1994, the two delegations agreed on the broad principles of a five year Strategy for Economic and Development Cooperation up to the year 2000. This forward looking flexible and dynamic strategy focuses on continued assistance from the Community to India's development efforts, particularly in the social sectors such as primary education, health, employment and mutually beneficial economic cooperation. The strategy further gives priority to projects and programmes in sectors like agriculture, poverty alleviation, rural employment, environment, energy etc. and also details the criteria for selection of such projects and programmes.

(c) and (d). The First Session of India-EC Joint Commission since the entry into force in August 1994 of the India-EC Cooperation Agreement on Partnership and Development took place in Brussels on 10-11 October,

1994. Besides agreeing on the long term strategy for Economic and Development Cooperation, the two delegations indentified new areas of cooperation in the maritime, telecom and electronics sectors.

(f) and (g). The new Agreement also provides for economic development and sectoral cooperation.

Provident Fund Investment Pattern

*179. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of present pattern of the provident fund investment of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO);

(b) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been handling the provident fund contributions from the EPFO for the last four decades;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the RBI has recently expressed its unwillingness to handle the provident fund contributions from EPFO;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) the alternative arrangements made in this regard;

(g) whether the Government have recently proposed to slash the interest rates on Provident Fund Special Deposits; and

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

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

(a) Under the present pattern of investment 15% of the Employees Provident Fund money is invested in Government securities, 55% in Special Deposit Scheme of the Central Govt. and 30% in Bonds/Securities of Public Financial Institutions and Certificate Deposits of Public Sector Banks.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As on 31.3.1994 the amount of investment of Provident Fund money deposited by the Employees Provident Fund Organisation to be handled by the RBI was Rs. 20,289.37 crores.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The R.B.I. has decided not to handle the job of investment because this function is in conflict with its role as a manager of Public Debt.

(f) It has been decided to hand over the job of investment of the EPF money to the State Bank of India w.e.f. 1.4.1995.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

Inter Branch Accounts

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

(a) whether the working group set up by the Reserve Bank of India has given directions to the nationalised banks regarding reconciliation of inter-branch accounts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the nationalised banks have been following the above directions;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken against the banks for violation of the above directions;

(e) the amount of arrears pending for inter-branch reconciliation; and

(f) the steps taken to clear the arrears expeditiously?

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

(a) and (b). The Working Group set up by RBI had recommended certain measures for reconciliation of outstanding entries in the inter-branch reconciliation accounts and based on this RBI had issued instructions to the banks to take expeditious steps to implement the recommendations.

The advice of the RBI relates to identification of branches that habitually delay submission of statements of daily transactions, toning up their working, segregation of large value entries for special attention, computerisation, decentralisation of clearing process, system of monitoring and adoption of a time schedule for clearance of arrears etc. in a phased manner in such a way as to complete the reconciliation of all outstanding entries in inter-branch reconciliation accounts upto 31st March, 1993 by 31st March, 1994. No bank was expected to keep any entry unreconciled for more than six months from 1993-94 onwards.

(c) and (d). RBI has intimated that as efforts are being made by banks for clearing the arrears, the question of RBI taking action against them has not arisen till now.

(e) As on 30th September, 1994 there were 65.55 lakh entries involving Rs. 3,69,199.48 crores outstanding in inter branch reconciliation accounts of public sector banks covering entries pertaining to the period upto 31st March, 1993.

(f) RBI has reported that banks have, inter-alia, taken the following steps for speedy inter-branch reconciliation of accounts.

1. Time frames have been evolved for clearing old entries;
2. High value entries are segregated and given priority for adjustment/follow up;
3. Entries pertaining to demand drafts are being segregated;
4. Special cells/task force have been constituted by some banks for clearing the arrears.

Export and Import of Sugar

1581. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the total quantity of sugar imported and exported from January 1, 1994 to February 20, 1995 and the foreign exchange earned therefrom, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Figures for January 94 to December 94 are only available in the form

of provisional aggregates without countrywise break-up. According to these the export and import of sugar during January 94 to December 94 had been as under:—

Export		Import	
Qty. (in tonnes)	Value (in Rs. lakh)	Qty. (in tonnes)	Value (in Rs. lakhs)
9,807	934	17,54,346	2,23,157

Source:—DGCI&S, Calcutta.

Welfare Fund for Coir Workers

1582. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Coir Workers Welfare Fund Board has submitted a memorandum to the Union Government relating to welfare measures for coir workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

Smuggling of Copper Wire

1583. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the news-item appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated November 3, 1994 that Delhi Markets have been invaded by smuggled copper wire rods which are being sold illegally to speculators and unscrupulous traders at rates cheaper than the legally imported rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Government are aware of the news item on smuggling of copper wire rods as reported in the Hindustan Times dated November 3, 1994. Available reports do not indicate that smuggled wire rods, diverted from imports meant for Nepal and having originated from Bombay are being sold in Delhi Markets.

(c) Anti-smuggling agencies are alert to detect and prevent smuggling including smuggling of copper wire rods.

Rehabilitation Scheme for Intercontinental Leather Ltd.

1584. SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction has sanctioned a Rs. 1.12 crore scheme for the rehabilitation of Intercontinental Leather Ltd.; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

* FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Full details of the scheme are mentioned in the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR)'s Order dated 3rd January, 1995 in case No. 139/89. Provision exists in the BIFR Regulations for inspection of documents by interested parties.

Squeeze on flow of funds to A.P. by IDBI

1585. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appeared in the Indian Express dated January 27, 1995 under the caption 'IDBI cap on funds to A.P. likely';

(b) if so, whether IDBI propose to put a squeeze on the flow of funds to Andhra Pradesh; and

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

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

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The details of assistance sanctioned and disbursed by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) to Andhra Pradesh during 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 (April-December) are as under:
(Rs. crore)

	Sanction	Disbursement
1991-92	492.9	606.3
1992-93	781.3	612.7
1993-94	1088.3	495.4
1994-95 (April-December)	815.3	497.5

It may also be added that IDBI has not put any hold on assistance under refinance and bills scheme for Andhra Pradesh.

External Debt

1586. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated external debt as on December 31, 1994 with total inflow and repayment during the preceding year;

(b) the break-up of external loan between institutional loan, bilateral loan and commercial borrowing;

(c) the break-up of external debt between long-term and short-term loans;

(d) whether unutilised credit is included in the estimates of external debt and whether any interest is payable thereon; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
(a) The total external debt outstanding from all sources i.e. multilateral, bilateral, (Govt. & Non-Govt. Borrowings), IMF, Commercial Borrowings, NRI & FC (B&O) Deposits, Rupee

Debt, short-term debt (inclusive defence debt) is estimated to be US \$ 90.452 billion at the end of Sept. 1994. The total inflow of external debt on multilateral and bilateral, IMF and ECB accounts and NRI deposits is estimated to be US \$ 7.45 billion during the preceding year 1993-94. The repayment of principal amount is estimated to be US \$ 4.568 billion during 1993-94.

(b) The institutional (Multilateral) loan, bilateral loan and commercial borrowings is of the order of US \$ 26.860 billion, US \$ 17.974 billion and US \$ 11.829 billion respectively.

(c) The external debt outstanding on account of long-term and short-term debt are estimated to US \$ 87.613 billion and US \$ 2.839 billion respectively.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The unutilised credit does not constitute debt. As such interest is not payable thereon.

[Translation]

Per Capita Loan

1587. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI LALL BABU RAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of per capita bank loan in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar during 1993-94 and 1994-95 separately and the amount of average per capita bank loan in the country as a whole;

(b) the efforts made to increase the per capita bank loan in the above States; and

(c) the achievements made in this regard so far?

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

(a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has indicated the per capita bank credit by all scheduled commercial banks in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and also the average per capita loans for the country as a whole, based on the provisional population estimates as on 1.7.94, as under:—

Period (As on last Friday of)	Per Capita Bank Credit (Amount in Rs.)		
	Uttar Pradesh	Bihar	All India
March, 1994	748	488	2000
September, 1994 (latest available)	771	510	2112

The credit deployment in a particular area depends on various factors like level of economic activity, entrepreneurship, availability of raw material and other infrastructural facilities, other investment opportunities and also law and order situation in that area. RBI had constituted a committee on credit deposit ratio (CDR) for Uttar Pradesh and a Task Force on CDR for Bihar to examine the reasons for low CDR in these States and to suggest measures for improving the same. Follow up action on the recommendations of the committee/Task Force are discussed regularly at the meeting of State Level Bankers' Committee with a view to increase the deployment of credit by the banks.

Privatisation of Cooperative Spinning Mills

1588. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to privatise cooperative spinning mills located in Gujarat, particularly in tribal areas of the State;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to safeguard the interests of workers of these mills in case of privatisation of these mills?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Computerisation of Income-Tax Department

1589. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken by the Government to computerise the Income-Tax cases initially in three Metros;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

(c) the time frame fixed to cover all metropolitan cities of the country under this scheme; and

(d) the total number of assesseees likely to be covered by computerisation in which metropolitan city?

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

(b) The three new Computer Centres at Delhi, Bombay and Madras have already become operational.

(c) The comprehensive computerisation will be extended to the other cities in a phased manner after stabilising the systems in 3 Metros of Delhi, Bombay and Madras.

(d) the total number of assesseees, likely to be covered by computerisation in Delhi, Bombay and Madras are approximately 25 lakhs.

Construction of Yatri Niwas in Bihar

1590. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Bihar Government for construction of Yatri Niwas for middle class tourists at Gaya; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government and the financial assistance given, if any, for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The Department of Tourism, Government of India sanctioned Central Financial Assistance of Rs. 15.92 lakhs during 1992-93 for the construction of a Yatrika at Gaya. A sum of Rs. 8.00 lakhs was released during that period.

Non-Banking Financial Institutions in Bihar

1591. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the non-banking financial institutions permitted by the Reserve Bank of India for operating in Bihar;

(b) whether the Government are aware that these institutions in Bihar have duped the depositors in large scale;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to impose a ban on such institutions; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and other corrective measures proposed to be taken in regard thereto?

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

(a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has intimated that 283 Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), registered in the State of Bihar, were on its mailing list as on 30th November, 1994. NBFCs do not require any permission from RBI for commencing their business.

(b) RBI has reported that it has received some complaints from the public against Residuary Non-Banking Companies (RNBCs), operating in Bihar regarding non-refund of matured deposits.

(c) and (d) RBI has intimated that it has issued orders to five RNBCs registered in Bihar prohibiting them from accepting further deposits from any person in any form.

[English]

"World Bank Loan in Agriculture Sector"

1592. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has proposed to finance several other projects in Uttar Pradesh and other States after being impressed by the success of Agriculture Development Project in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the projects proposed to be financed by the World Bank in these States alongwith the amount of the proposed aid?

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

(a) and (b), Based on discussions with Government of India, the World Bank is taking up comprehensive agricultural development projects as part of its lending strategy in the agriculture sector. Rajasthan Agriculture Development Project was the first such project finalised with World Bank and similar projects for the States of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are being considered. These projects comprise of an integrated package of activities including crop, husbandry, horticulture, animal husbandry, rural roads, development of water resources and agricultural research and training.

(c) These projects are in varying stages of preparation and appraisal. The details of the projects including the

amount of the World Bank assistance would be known only after the projects are finalised.

Suspension of cabin crew members

1593. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cabin crew members of Air India suspended during February, 1995;

(b) the reasons for their suspension; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b), 140 cabin crew members of Air India were placed under suspension during February, 1995 as they resorted to disruptive practices like sick reporting and availing of casual leave in large numbers without prior notice and only a few hours before the scheduled departure of the flights.

(c) After negotiations with the Air India Cabin Crew Association, a joint Committee has been set up comprising representatives of the Air India Management and the Cabin Crew Association to discuss all issues relating to the cabin crew and to resolve them amicably.

Customs duty on Oxygen Concentrations

1594. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oxygen concentrations have been exempted from customs duty and are placed under the category of life saving equipment;

(b) if so, whether some cases of charging high customs duty on such equipment including those donated to charitable trusts; have come to the notice of the Government during the year 1994-95;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the duty so charged is to be refunded, and

(e) if so, the total amount which is due to be refunded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir, Oxygen concentrators are eligible for duty free imports as life saving equipments.

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

[Translation]

Action Plan to Boost Tourism in Rajasthan

1595. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the action-plan included in the Eighth Five Year Plan to boost tourism in Rajasthan and the amount provided therefor; and

(b) the details of the facilities which are likely to be

provided and the names of the places where these facilities would be provided?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). The Department of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance to State Governments for the implementation of plan projects on the basis of specific proposals received from them. The details of the projects assisted during the first two years of the Eighth Plan i.e. 1992-93, 1993-94 in the State of Rajasthan include the following:—

1992-93 Rs. 153.31 lakhs sanction

- Tourist Reception Centres at Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Bikaner
- Tourist Complex at Barmer
- Fast food Centre at Bikaner
- Wayside amenities at Sikar
- Public Conveniences at Ajmer and Jaisalmer
- Camping Site at Jhalawar, Kumpalgarh and Gagner
- Pilgrim Sheds at Ajmer
- Flood lighting of Chittorgarh

1993-94 Rs. 260.43 lakhs (sanctioned)

- Tourist Bungalow at Jaisalmer, Pokharan, Bikaner, Udaipur and Sariska.
- Tourist complex at Barr and Ganganagar
- Wayside facility at Salasar
- Tourist lodge at Beawar
- Sound and light show Moti Magri at Udaipur
- Flood lighting of Jaisalmer Fort
- Fast Food Centre at Jodhpur
- Sewerage disposal project at Jaisalmer Fort.

RRBs in A.P.

1596. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the locations of Regional Rural Banks in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the main objectives of these banks and the extent to which these objectives have been achieved during the last two years;

(c) whether some of these banks are facing financial crisis;

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

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the financial health of the said banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) There are 16 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) operating in the State of Andhra Pradesh with headquarters located at Khammam, Cuddapah, Srikakulam, Ananthapur, Chittoor, Adilabad, Mehbubnagar, Sangareddy, Nellore, Hannamkonda, Tenali, Karimnagar, Hyderabad, Nizamabad, Gudivada and Rajahmundry.

(b) The main objectives of the RRBs are to take the banking services to the door steps of rural masses

Medical Aid

Existing ceiling raised by Rs. 370/- p.a. for employees. The proposed ceiling of annual medical will be as under:—

- (i) Service upto 5 years Rs. 870/- p.a.
- (ii) Service above 5 years Rs. 1070/- p.a.

Conveyance allowance

Rs. 100/- p.m. to clerical and subordinate staff

Special Allowance

Existing Special Allowance enhanced by 20% DA payable on special allowances.

SOME IMPORTANT MANAGEMENT ISSUES

1. Functions of special allowance carrying posts have been substantially enhanced—Monetary limits for handling independently transactions involving cash/cheques, instruments, etc. more than doubled in most cases.

2. Statement of the unions exhorting members for all out efforts for better customer service.

3. Resorting to restrictive practices as also misbehaviour towards customers to be deemed as misconduct attracting disciplinary action.

4. Contesting elections without explicit written permission, to be deemed as gross misconduct.

5. Misbehaviour towards customers shall tantamount to gross misconduct attracting disciplinary action.

Rehabilitation Package for Sick Industries

1598. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) is evolving a new system for the rehabilitation of sick industries;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof;

(c) whether any assessment has been made on the working of the BIFR and its role in the rehabilitation of sick industries, particularly in the context of many companies opting for BIFR coverage in order to get financial concessions; and

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

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

(b) does not arise.

(c) and (d) BIFR has reported that revival schemes sanctioned by it incorporate an implementation schedule, the adherence to which is reviewed within 2-3 months of sanctioning the scheme so as to ensure that the required preliminary action is set in motion and the implementation takes off. Companies implementing revival schemes are required to send periodical progress report to the BIFR and these reports are scrutinised closely and action initiated

wherever necessary. In cases where the progress is unsatisfactory, the BIFR may declare the scheme 'failed', after giving an opportunity of being heard to all concerned.

References received by BIFR are scrutinised closely by its Registrar before registration and a company is declared sick only after giving a personal hearing to all concerned and taking into account inter alia the financial position as brought out by the audited balance sheet of the concerned company.

Funds from NRIs for Nedumbasseri Airport

1599. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cochin Airport Development Authority has collected funds from the Non-Resident Indians for setting up a new Airport at Nedumbasseri in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the amount collected so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Kochi International Airport Society has so far collected Rs. 3,000,21,156/-.

Trade with Russia

1600. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman and Chief Coordinator of the International Congress of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Russia has visited India;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any trade agreement has also been signed between both the countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Mr. A. Volsky, Chairman and Chief Coordinator of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Russia was invited to visit India from 15.12.1995 to 19.2.1995 under the ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation) programme.

(b) During the visit, Mr. Volsky met officials in some Ministries of Government of India as also the representatives of Indian industry and trade. During the in-depth and extensive interactions Mr. Volsky had, ways and means of increasing Indo-Russian trade were discussed.

(c) and (d) No fresh agreement at the inter-Governmental level was signed during the visit. A Memorandum of understanding was however signed between Confederation of Indian Industries and the Russian Union of Industrialists and entrepreneurs. The MOU envisages that the two organisations shall regularly exchange economic and other information in terms of development and further expansion of trade, economic,

scientific and technical cooperation between the organisations and industries in Russia and India.

NIFT

1601. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ:
SHRI P. KUMARASAMY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some more branches of National Institute of Fashion Technology in the country in near future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, Statewise?

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

(b) The government has proposed to set up three more National Institutes of Fashion Technology in Bombay, Gandhinagar and Hyderabad respectively, from the next academic session, sharing the expenditure for the same with the respective State Governments.

[Translation]

Madhya Pradesh Cooperative Bank

1602. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh State Cooperative Bank had requested the Reserve Bank of India on April 25, 1994 for securing licence from NABARD for transacting foreign exchange business; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that Madhya Pradesh State Cooperative Bank (MPSCB) had approached on 25th April, 1994 for grant of a licence to deal in foreign exchange. RBI did not accede to the request of MPSCB.

[English]

Air-Cargo Infrastructure

1603. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Cargo industry weighed down by poor airport infrastructure" appearing in the Financial Express dated February 20, 1995;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been made into the lapses highlighted;

(c) the details of action taken or proposed to be taken during the next year for developing expanding and modernising air-cargo infrastructure network; and

(d) the main recommendations made by the expert committee and action taken/proposed thereon, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) The news-item refers to a report submitted by the multi-interest task force set up by the Standing Committee on Promotion of Exports by Air (SCOPE-AIR) under the Ministry of Commerce. This report covers existing facilities, problem areas and procedures etc. at air cargo terminals. No lapses have been mentioned in the report; the recommendations cover all aspects of the working of the Cargo terminals hence consultation with the concerned authorities will be necessary before taking decisions on these issues.

Performance of Government employees

1604. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer given to U.S.Q. No. 3764 on August 20, 1993 regarding performance of Government employees and state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any action on each recommendation made by the Chelliah Committee in the matter;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

[Translation]

Instrument Landing System at IGIA

1605. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the "instrument landing system" installed at the Indira Gandhi International Airport has been inoperative;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have made any alternative arrangements in this regard;

(d) if not, the arrangements made for maintaining the visibility; and

(e) the time by which the "instrument landing system" is likely to be started again at the airport?

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

(b) to (e): Do Not arise.

Dry Port at Agra

1606. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have approved the proposal for setting up of a 'dry-port' in Agra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the time by which the said port is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d). The Inter Ministerial Committee for providing clearance to the proposals for setting up of Dry Port (Inland Container Depots/Container Freight Stations) in its meeting held on 10th January, 1995 approved in principle a proposal of Container Corporation of India for setting up of an Inland Container Depot at Agra, subject to clearance by Central Board of Excise & Customs.

[English]

Scarcity of Non-Judicial stamp papers

1607. SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government are aware of acute scarcity of non-judicial stamp papers in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such scarcity has led to black marketing of stamp papers particularly of Re./Rs. 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 30;
- (d) whether the situation is being exploited by the stamp vendors in connivance with treasury officers and Collector of Stamps of Delhi;
- (e) whether Government propose to adopt some modalities indicating issue of these stamp papers by treasury officers available with stamp-vendors;
- (f) whether Government propose to involve concerned police authorities and anti-corruption department to take immediate action against vendors and treasury staff on reports of fictitious scarcity of stamp-papers in future when lodged by the people;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

S.T.C.

1608. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any steep decline in exports and earning of the State Trading Corporation during each of last three years, till-date;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government propose to privatise STC so that it can compete with other multinational corporation internationally;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Exports and profit before tax of STC during the last 3 years are as under:

(Rs. crores)

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
Exports	625	551	798
PBT	36	27	30

Exports of the Corporation increased from Rs. 625 crore in 1991-92 to Rs. 798 crore in 1993-94. However, exports during 1991-92 included canalised exports worth Rs. 234 crore which dipped to Rs. 9 crore in 1992-93 and Nil in 1993-94. As such the exports other than the canalised exports increased from Rs. 391 crores in 1991-92 to Rs. 542 crore in 1992-93 and Rs. 798 crore in 1993-94.

(c) to (e) Government have not taken any decision to privatise the State Trading Corporation.

Urea purchase Pacts

1609. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have formulated any policy or norms for the purchase of urea by the Public Sector Undertakings;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government are aware that Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation and other Public Sector Undertakings have made agreements for the purchase of urea on f.o.b. basis with six international Public Sector Companies recently;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, separately;
- (e) whether the said policy or norms are being violated by these undertakings;
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (g). The designated canalising agency for the import of urea is MMTCL Limited. The requirement of imports of urea is assessed by the Department of Fertilizers (DOF) on the basis of the projections of fertilizer consumption made by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC),

estimates of indigenous production of fertilizers and the expected opening stocks of urea for the year. This exercise is carried out sufficiently in advance and the import plan is presented to the steering Committee of Secretaries on Import of Fertilizers (SCOS). As per the approval of SCOS, MMTC is authorised to import the required quantities in appropriate phases. A schedule of arrival is also indicated to MMTC so that the gap in demand in indigenous availability at any point of time is bridged by imports. MMTC undertakes import of authorised quantity of urea as part of its commercial operations. In view of the increased demand for import of urea during the current year, three PSUs under the administrative control of Ministry of Fertilizers, namely, Madras Fertilizers Ltd. (MFL); National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL); and Pyrites Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd. (PPCL) were also allowed to import limited quantities of urea to supplement the efforts of MMTC. MMTC has reported that it has entered into long-term agreements with the manufacturers of urea which are Government owned companies of their respective countries like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, UAE, Libya, Bangladesh, Romania, Russia for purchase of urea.

Department of Fertilizers has reported that the three fertilizers PSUs which were allowed to import limited quantities of urea have not made any agreement for purchase of urea on f.o.b. basis with any international public sector company.

Non-listing penicillin from negative list of imports

1610. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- whether the Government propose to remove penicillin from the negative list of imports;
- if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and?
- the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Review of export and Import Policy is an ongoing process and changes are made in it as and when considered necessary.

Smuggling of Areca

1611. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- whether the Government are aware of the smuggling of Areca in Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh through Nepal border;
- the extent to economic loss caused to the Areca growers in the country due to such smuggling; and
- the steps taken/proposed to be taken to prevent smuggling of Areca into the country?

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

(a) A few cases of seizure of smuggling Areca have been noticed in West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.

(b) No such statistics are being maintained.

(c) Field formations are alert to detect and prevent smuggling including smuggling of Areca.

Investment in Human Resource Development

1612. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the United Nations Development Programme Report, 1994, our country stands at the 135th position out of the 173 countries as far as investment for human resource development is concerned;

(b) whether a suggestion has been made in the said report that twenty per cent of the national budget should be earmarked for the Human Resource Development;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the percentage of the funds for education, youth programmes and sports indicating the figures of funds earmarked in the budget?

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

Export of Agricultural Produce

1613. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH:
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the strategy adopted by the Government to increase the exports of agricultural produce during the last two years;

(b) the achievements made so far;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any target for agricultural produce and its export by 2000 A.D.;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to provide infrastructure and other facilities for those involved in agricultural export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) To encourage exports of agricultural products the strategy adopted by the Government includes simplification of inspection procedures, removal of Minimum Export Price and quantity restrictions on selected items, provision of concessional credit, product development to meet international needs, technological upgradation of storage and transportation facilities, encouraging export of value added items and enhancing quality and productivity.

(b) Agricultural exports during 1992-93 and 1993-94 were Rs. 7039.61 crores and Rs. 9057.99 crores respectively.

(c) and (d) While no targets for export of agricultural produce by 2000 A.D. have been fixed, it is the policy of the Government to encourage agricultural exports keeping domestic availability and requirements in view.

(e) Some of the steps taken to provide infrastructural and other facilities for agricultural exports broadly relate to provision of assistance to exporters for purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre-cooling facilities with proper air-handling systems, improved packaging, strengthening of quality control, establishment of cold stores at air/sea ports, supply of product samples, publicity, promoting export of indented products through brand promotion campaigns, arranging buyer-seller meets and participation in international fairs/exhibitions. Specific action/decisions taken in this regard include:—

- (i) extension of benefits available under the scheme of EOUs/EPZs to agriculture sector and permitting 50% sale in the domestic tariff area.
- (ii) removal of minimum export price (MEP) in respect of (i) FCV Tobacco; (ii) ASTA Quality Pepper; (iii) Guar gum; (iv) Orchids; (v) wheat products; (vi) basmati rice; and (vii) meat of sheep, goat and buffalo;
- (iii) lowering of custom duties, particularly those relating to agri-commodities and on various items required by the processed food industries.
- (iv) development of infrastructure at airports for exports of fresh fruits, vegetables and floriculture.
- (v) releasing of 50,000 MT each of mustard seed and rapeseed for export during the year.
- (vi) decontrol of exports of wheat products.
- (vii) permission for export of non-FAQ Jowar (feed grade) freely.
- (viii) exemption of payment of cess on sugar exported.
- (ix) permitting export of edible oils (other than groundnut oil) in consumer packs upto 5 kgs.

Revival of Hindustan Fluorocarbons Ltd.

1614. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the proposal for reviving Hindustan Fluorocarbons Ltd. is lying pending with IDBI; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that Hindustan Fluorocarbon Limited (HFL) was declared sick by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and IDBI was appointed the Operating Agency. Further, IDBI had submitted its report to BIFR on the viability of HFL which was discussed at the BIFR hearing held on January 9, 1995. As per directions of BIFR, IDBI would submit a revised report after HFL reports the impact of budget for 1995-96 on the proposal.

[Translation]

National Renewal Fund

1615. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has requested for providing ex-gratia payment equal to one and half month salary for each completed year of service under NRF scheme to the employees of other textiles mills operating in the State on the lines of the employees of NTC mills;

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

(c) whether it is obligatory to appoint the liquidator by High Court after having received the liquidation opinion of B.I.F.R./A.A.I.F.R. as per the provision of the Sick Industrial Companies Act;

(d) whether in view of the delay involved in the process, the Union Government propose to take action to ensure payment to the employees of their dues out of National Renewal Fund and to recover the said amount later from the liquidation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT-SWAMY): (a) to (e). Yes, Sir. Govt. of Madhya Pradesh has requested for assistance from the National Renewal Fund for payment of worker compensation packages of certain industrial companies which have either been referred to BIFR/AIFR or are managed by State PSUs. Assistance from the NRF to such categories would be taken up after operational modalities for grant of assistance from NRF are finalised. As per Section 20(3) of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, the High Court may appoint an officer as the liquidator for the purpose of winding up of the sick industrial company.

[English]

Central Aid for Child Labour

1616. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the news item captioned "Central Aid urged for Child Labour" as appeared in the Hindustan Times dated December 17, 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The news item refers to the observation made by Justice Shri Ranganath Mishra, Chairman, National Human Rights Commission. Inter alia, he is reported to have stated that the Central Government should render some kind of financial assistance to the states' Schemes to rehabilitate child labour. He is reported to have suggested that this assistance could even be a one time grant.

(c) Government has already taken a series of steps to eliminate child labour as per the National Child Labour

Policy, 1987. As a part of the policy, National Child Labour Projects are being implemented in eight states including the State of Tamil Nadu. Under the National Child Labour Projects children withdrawn from work are provided primary education, vocational training, nutrition and stipends.

National Child Labour Projects are implemented through Project Societies whose chairmen are in most cases Collectors/District Magistrates of Districts where National Child Labour Projects are functioning.

At present there are 12 Project Societies in 8 states covering 13668 children under the National Child Labour Projects.

In addition, the National Authority for Elimination of Child Labour (NAECL) has identified 100 districts with highest population of child labour and state Governments in which these districts fall have been addressed to pool together the funds being utilised by various departments for child welfare and make them available to an implementing agency at the district level so that suitable innovative programmes meeting the local needs are evolved to eliminate child labour.

The Government are also finalising the project to eliminate child labour in hazardous occupations estimated at 2 million in a phased manner by the year 2000. Planning Commission has made an initial allocation of Rs. 34.4 crores for this purpose for the year 1995-1996.

Smuggling of Modern Weapons

1617. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether smuggling of modern weapons across the border has been reported;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

[Translation]

Research Centre for SSIs

1618. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a research centre to meet the requirements of small scale industries;

(b) if so, the financial institution which is likely to provide financial assistance for the setting up of the above centre;

(c) whether any proposal for the setting up of a small scale trade development board to meet the training requirement of the SSIs is also under the consideration of the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Import of Raw Material

1619. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the export houses have started importing more raw materials like cotton and other textile items from foreign countries;

(b) if so, the countries from which the cotton and other raw material being imported;

(c) whether there is any plan to produce those kind of items in India under new textile policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT-SWAMY): (a) Under the current Exim Policy, raw materials like cotton and other textile fibres/yarns (other than raw silk) are allowed to be imported by all persons, including Export Houses, without any restrictions.

(b) A statement indicating the major countries of import of raw cotton, raw wool and synthetic fibres is attached.

(c) and (d) Besides encouraging qualitative and quantitative improvement in cotton production in the country, the Government have been taking a number of measures for facilitating increased production of artificial fibres in the country, which include abolition of compulsory licensing for setting up units which conform to Government's locational policy, progressive reduction in import duties on capital goods required for such projects etc.

STATEMENTS

Major Countries of import of raw cotton, raw wool and synthetic fibres

Item	Major Countries of import
Raw Cotton	Egypt, Sudan, Turkey, Turkmenistan
Raw Wool	Australia, New Zealand, Spain, South Africa
Synthetic fibres	Republic of Korea, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia

Narcotics Trafficking

1620. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan have signed a protocol to strengthen their cooperation in controlling trafficking in narcotics and precursor chemicals in the region; and

(b) if so, the date by which it is likely to come into effect and implemented by both the countries?

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

(a) and (b). The Government of India and Pakistan have not signed such a protocol. However both are parties to the SAARC Convention on Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances. There is also a bilateral arrangement of cooperation between the enforcement agencies of the two countries for curbing the smuggling of goods and trafficking in drugs. This arrangement has been strengthened and upgraded to the level of Secretaries of Government and First Semi-annual Meeting between Secretaries of India and Pakistan to combat drug trafficking in the region, was held in New Delhi on 15-16 September, 1994. This was followed by a meeting in Islamabad in January, 1995 at the level of Heads of Drug Law Enforcement Agencies of these two countries. Both sides reviewed the drug trafficking situation in the respective countries and offered assistance for making cooperation between the two countries on narcotics related matters effective.

[Translation]

Economic Policy

1621. DR. SATNARAYAN JATIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the analytical details of the performance of the new economic policy during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have analysed the impact of economic reforms on domestic industries and employment generation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (c). Economic reforms have brought significant improvement in all sectors of the economy during the last years.

Overall economic growth increased from 0.9 per cent in 1991-92 to 4.3 per cent in each of the years 1992-93 and 1993-94, and is expected to be 5.3 per cent in 1994-95. Industrial production which virtually stagnated in 1991-92, increased by 2.3 per cent in 1992-93, 4.4 per cent in 1993-94 and by 8.7 per cent during April-November, 1994. Foodgrains production had declined to 168 million tonnes in 1991-92. It is expected to attain a record level of 185 million tonnes in 1994-95. Public stocks of foodgrains with the Central pool stood at 30 million tonnes as on January 1, 1995, compared to 13.9 million tonnes three years earlier. Compared to an actual decline in 1991-92, the dollar value of exports has increased by more than 17 per cent in the first 10 months of 1994-95, on top of 20 per cent increase in 1993-94. In the year ended 31st March, 1991, India had added \$ 8 billion to her stock of external debt. In the first half of 1994-95, the level of external debt actually declined by almost \$ 300 million. From a level of hardly 1 billion dollars in June 1990-91, foreign currency reserves have climbed to over dollar 20 billion as on March 10, 1995. The total economy wide employment is estimated to have been only about 3 million in 1991-92. An

expansion of about 6 million is estimated for each of the years 1992-93 and 1993-94 with prospects for a larger rise in the present year.

Child Labour and Bonded Labour

1622. DR. G.L. KANAUIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is national and international pressure on the Government to abolish the practice of child labour and bonded labour in India; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to abolish this problem?

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

(a) and (b). The Indian Constitution requires the State to protect children against being forced by economic necessity to enter vocations unsuited to their age and strength. Children below 14 years of age are prohibited from being engaged in dangerous and hazardous work.

Government have also taken several steps to tackle the problem of child labour. A comprehensive law, the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act was enacted in 1986. As per the National Labour Policy, 1987, child labour is being tackled through (a) Legislation (b) General Development Programmes for benefit of child labour; and (c) through implementation of National Child Labour Projects. India is also a participant in the ILO's International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). In September 1994, the National Authority for the Elimination of Child Labour was constituted under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Labour. The functions of the National Authority for Elimination of Child Labour are:—

(i) to lay down the policies and programmes for elimination of child labour particularly in hazardous employments.

(ii) to monitor the progress of implementation of programmes, project and schemes for elimination of child labour.

(iii) to co-ordinate implementation of child labour elimination related projects of the various sister Ministries of the Government of India.

Government is presently engaged in the process of preparing a major action plan to eliminate child labour in hazardous occupations which is estimated at 20 lakhs. The year 2000 is the target for the elimination of child labour in hazardous occupations.

In addition, to safeguard the interests of children, there are protective provisions in various Act and Labour Laws as well, such as the Factories Act, 1948, the Mines Act, 1952, the Motor Transport (Workers) Act, 1961 etc. Enforcement machinery at the central and state level exist to enforce the provisions of these Acts. Employers are liable to be prosecuted for violations of the provisions of these Acts. Enforcement personnel are being given special training for better enforcement of these laws.

The Bonded Labour System already stands abolished under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976.

Utilisation of Loan

1623. Dr. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR:
DR. K.D. JESWANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether loans provided to Ministries/Departments of the Central Government from foreign donors and financial institutions are lying unutilised;

(b) if so, the details of the funds lying unused, project-wise and Ministry/Department-wise;

(c) the reasons for non-utilisation of those loans; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure the speedy and proper utilisation of foreign loans?

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

(b) The Statement is enclosed.

(c) Most of the aid is project tied. The reasons for unutilised aid can be traced to time profile of projects which is usually 5 to 7 years, exchange rate fluctuations, inadequate provision of counter-part funds, procurement and contracting delays, delays in land acquisition and other project specific issues.

(d) Ensuring adequate provisioning for externally aided projects, release of ACA as 100% additionality, advance release of ACA to the States, standardisation of bidding documents and streamlining of procurement procedures, disintermediating on flow of external aid to Central PSUs Portfolio Rationalisation and setting up of Project Management Unit in Department of Economic Affairs are some of the steps taken by the Government to improve aid utilisation.

STATEMENT

Ministry of Agriculture

(Rs. crore)

S. Source No.	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3
1. Swiss	National Livestock Policy	0.78
Total		0.78

Dept. of Agriculture & Cooperation

(Rs. crore)

S. Source No.	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3
1. Australia	Wasteland Afforestation Proj. (Grant)	0.00
2. EEC Grant	Inland Fisheries Dev. (Grant)	87.85
3. Germany	Breeding Cattle (Grant)	4.25
4. Germany	Supply of Breeding Cattle (Loan)	0.13
5. Germany	Development Proj. in Maharashtra (Grant)	21.83
6. Japan	GA Fisheries Vessel for Deep Sea & Off-shore (Grant)	0.00
7. Japan	GA Exploration of Ground Water (Grant)	0.00
8. IBRD	National Dairy (Loan)	399.61
9. IDA	Ilird National Seeds (Loan)	159.25
Total		672.92

Dept. of Agriculture Research & Education

(Rs. crore)

S. Source No.	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3
1. IDA	IInd National Agri. Research (Loan)	36.38
Total		36.38

Dept. of Fertilizer

(Rs. crore)

S. Source No.	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3
1. EEC Grant	Supply of Fertilizer Alkaline Land Reclamation	29.59
2. France	Import of Nitro-Phosphate	0.00
3. Japan	Ramagundam Fertilizer Plant Rehabilitation	358.34
4. Japan	Udyog Mandal Ammonia Plant Replacement Proj.	787.69
5. Japan	GA for increasing Food Prod.—Import of Fert.	0.00
6. U.K.	RFC Rainfed Farming	5.42
7. Germany	Fertiliser Sector Programme II	0.00
8. Germany	Fertiliser Sector Programme III	38.48
9. OPEC	Rehabilitation of Fertiliser Project	5.15
Total		1222.67

Dept. of Civil Aviation

(Rs. crore)

S. No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1.	France	Helicopter Corp.	0.42
2.	U.K.	Bombay & Delhi Airports Modernisation	3.17
Total			3.59

Dept. of Tourism

(Rs. crore)

S. No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1.	Japan	Ajanta Ellora Conservation & Tourism Dev.	117.69
Total			117.69

Ministry of Commerce

(Rs. crore)

S. No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1.	IDA	Rubber Proj.	264.78
Total			264.78

Dept. of Telecommunications

(Rs. crore)

S. No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1.	ADB	Telecomm. Proj.	193.13
2.	IBRD	9th Telecommunications	15.11
3.	Italy	ITI, Bangalore	16.95
Total			225.19

Dept. of Coal

(Rs. crore)

S. No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1.	Germany	NLC-II	23.5
2.	Germany	NLC-III	93.69
3.	Germany	Ramagundam Open Cast Mines II	120.19
4.	France	Implementation of Blasting Gallery Method	7.84
5.	France	East Katras Proj. Achievement	0.69
6.	France	Implementation of Blasting Gallery Method	7.58
7.	IBRD	Coal (Mining & Quality)	64.31
8.	U.K.	Coal Sector Grant	44.83
Total			362.63

Dept. of Power

(Rs. crore)

S. No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1.	ADB	Power Efficiency Proj.	775.18
2.	Canada	Chamera Proj.	238.71
3.	Germany	Ramagundam NTPC	8.27
4.	Germany	Farakka Thermal Power Station	49.95
5.	Germany	Dadri Power Proj (NTPC)	182.22
6.	France	NHPC Loan	84.72
7.	France	Testing Equipment for CPRI	7.64
8.	France	East Katras Proj. Achievement	0.07
9.	France	East Katras Proj. Achievement	0.08
10.	France	Talcher Power Project	65.28
11.	France	Technical Feasibility Study for Coal Friquetting Equip.	335.68
12.	France	Technical Feasibility Study for Coal Friquetting Equip.	0.36
13.	Japan	Assam Gas Turbine Proj.	331.96
14.	Japan	Assam Gas Power St. & Transmission Line	39.38
15.	Japan	Gandhar Gas Based Combined Cycle Power Proj.	65.79
16.	Japan	Power System Improvement & Small HP	764.64
17.	Japan	Gandhar Gas Based Combined Cycle Power Proj.	139.95
18.	Japan	Gandhar Gas Based Combined Cycle Power Proj.	382.57
19.	Japan	Faridabad Thermal Power St. Proj.	757.82
20.	Japan	Northern Region Transmission	0.73
21.	OPEC	Ramagundam Proj.	2.92
22.	Saudi Fund	Ramagundam Thermal Power Proj. Stage II	66.84

23. Sweden	Uri Proj.	70.48	35. IBRD	Northern Region Transmission Proj.	1369.02
24. Sweden	Chandrapur Podgehe, Maharashtra	49.5	36. IBRD	Power Utilities Efficiency Improvement	778.96
25. Sweden	URI Proj.	3.42	37. IDA	Indra Sarovar	17.25
26. Sweden	Chandrapur Podgehe, Maharashtra	123.18	38. Nether	Grant India-94	4.45
27. UK	1983 Power Sector Proj.	23.02	39. U.S.A.	Energy Management Cons. & Training	37.52
28. UK	Uri Hydro-electric proj.	0.00			
29. UK	Energy Efficiency Grant	312.96			
30. IBRD	Ilnd Farakka Thermal	102.36			
31. IBRD	Combined Cycle Power Proj.	0.00			
32. IBRD	National Capital Power Supply	238.67			
33. IBRD	Talcher Thermal Power	494.00			
34. IBRD	Nathpa Jhakri Power	1169.61			
				Total	9157.94

Non-Conventional Energy Sources

(Rs. crore)

S.No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1.	IDA	Renewable Resources Dev. Project	350.22
		Total	350.22

Ministry of Environment & Forest

(Rs. crore)

S.No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1.	Sweden	IIFM	12.31
2.	IDA	Forest Research Edn. Ext. Proj.	137.04
3.	IDF Grant	IDF Assistance to Ministry of Environment	0.87
		Total	150.02

Ministry of Finance

(Rs. crore)

S.No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1.	Nether	Grant India 1994	94.75
2.	U.S.A.	Financial Institution Reform & Expansion	13.54
		Total	108.29

Dept. of Economic Affairs

(Rs. crore)

S.No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1.	Japan	Industrial Technology Dev.	6.14
2.	Japan	EXIM-BANK-ESAL	0.00
3.	Japan	SIDBI-IV	643.80
4.	Swiss	ABDC Swiss Grant NABARD	0.80

1	2	3	4
5.	Swiss	Indo-Swiss Agreement for NABARD	23.47
6.	Swiss	NABARD VI	0.00
7.	Swiss	Financial Corp. for Renewal Resources Development	15.02
8.	Swiss	E.I.D.P. Promotion of Small Scale Enterprises	1.11
9.	USA	Prog. for Advancement of Communication Tech.	26.96
10.	USA	Prog. for Asseleration & Comm. En. Res.	38.43
11.	USA	Trade In Environmental Services & Tech.	78.18
12.	UK	UK India Kribhco Indo-British Rainfed Farming	12.48
13.	UK	Environmental Grant	298.26
14.	IBRD	Cement Industry	9.92
15.	IBRD	Industrial Finance & Technical Assistance	59.07
16.	IBRD	Export Dev.	25.39
17.	IBRD	Industrial Tech. Dev.	180.11
18.	IBRD	Cement Industry Restructuring Proj.	281.50
19.	IBRD	Industrial Pollution Control	176.30
20.	IDA	Industrial Tech. Dev. Proj.	109.62
21.	OPEC	N.A.B.A.R.D.	0.00
22.	Norway	Global Tiger Forum	0.59
Total			1986.95

Dept. of Health

(Rs. crore)

S.No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1.	Denmark	National Prog. to Control of Blindness ph II	43.13
2.	Japan	Quality Control Healths	256.36
3.	Norway	National Leprosy Eradication Prog.	2.11
4.	USA	Aids Prevention & Control Proj.	31.27
5.	IDA	National Aids Control	208.95
6.	IDA	National Leprosy Elimination	256.41
7.	IDA	Blindness Control	0.00
Total			796.23

Dept. of Family Welfare

(Rs. crore)

S.No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1.	USA	Vaccine Immunodiagnostic Dev.	9.51
2.	USA	Private Voluntary Org. for Health II	23.08
3.	USA	Innovations in Family Planning Services	686.38
4.	USA	Family Planning Communication & Marketing	40.16
5.	IDA	IVth Population Proj.	0
6.	IDA	VIth Population Proj.	94.05
7.	IDA	VIIth Population	91.73
8.	IDA	Child Survival & Safe Motherhood	382.46
9.	IDA	Family Welfare	234.53
10.	Norway	All India Hospital Post Partem Programme II	24.46
Total			1586.36

Dept. of Culture

(Rs. crore)

S.No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1.	Japan	Cultural A. for Burdwan University	0.02

Dept. of Women & Child Development

(Rs. crore)

S.No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1.	Norway	Women Development Programme	0.00
2	IDA	ICDS II	575.57
Total			575.57

Dept. of Heavy Industries

(Rs. crore)

S.No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1.	ADB	Second Telecomm Proj.	54.61
2.	Denmark	Tied Grant No. 3 (Optic Fibre Proj.)	12.65
Total			67.26

Ministry of Industry

(Rs. crore)

S.No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1.	IDA	Industrial Pollution Control	92.56
2.	Denmark	Tied Grant No. 2 (Tool Room Trg. Centre)	76.25
Total			168.81

Dept. of Chem. & Petrochemicals

(Rs. crore)

S.No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1.	IBRD	II Petrochemicals	32.01
Total			32.01

Ministry of Labour

(Rs. crore)

S.No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1.	IDA	Vocational Training Project	297.87
Total			297.87

Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas

(Rs. crore)

S.No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1.	Canada	Line of Credit No. 880	111.74
2.	Canada	Oil & Gas Expl. & Dev.	146.01
3.	France	HBJ	148.37
4.	Japan	Gas Pipeline Proj.	49.05
5.	IBRD	Oil India Petroleum	4.85
6.	Italy	ONGC. Bombay	8.77
Total			468.79

Dept. of Science & Technology

(Rs. crore)

S.No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1	USA	Technical Assistance & Support	54.19
Total			54.19

Dept. of Bio-technology

(Rs. crore)

S.No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1	USA	Dev. Reproductive Immunology	7.44
Total			7.44

Dept. of Mines

(Rs. crore)

S.No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1	Japan	Malakana Cooper Ext Proj.	10.96
2.	UK	987 Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	0.21
3.	IDA	Jharia Mine Fire Control	35.96
4.	France	Orissa Aluminium	0.89
5.	France	National Aluminium Project	1.09
6.	France	NALCO	2.02
7.	France	NALCO	23.69
Total			74.82

Ministry of Surface Transport

(Rs. crore)

S.No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1.	ADB	Tech. Assistance under Coal Port Proj.	879.48
2.	ADB	Port Dev. Project	0.00
3.	Japan	National Highway II Improvement Proj.	156.28
4.	Japan	Four Lining of National Highway	365.68
5.	Japan	GA for import of simulator for Nautical & Marine	0.86
6.	Japan	Simulator for DG Shipping	27.67
7.	Japan	GA Upgrading Trg. Equipment Marine Engineering Education	0.46
8.	Saudi Fund	Nhave Sheva Port Proj.	26.42
9.	IBRD	National Highway	92.56
10.	IBRD	Second National Highway	478.43
Total			2027.84

Ministry of Textiles

(Rs. crore)

S.No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1.	Swiss	Inter-State Tasar Proj.	2.66
Total			2.66

Ministry of Urban Development

(Rs. crore)

S.No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1.	Germany	HUDCO IV	42.50
2.	Germany	HDFC II	59.50
3.	Germany	HUDCO Appropriation Prog. For Building Tech.	15.94
4.	Germany	HDFC	0.00
5.	Japan	Urban City Water Supply Proj.	188.29
6.	USA	Housing Finance Sys. Extension Prog.	11.26
Total			317.49

Ministry of Water Resources

(Rs. crore)

S.No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1.	IDF Grant	Assistance to Min. of Water Resources	0.83
2.	Denmark	Flood Control System	3.54
Total			4.37

Ministry of Electronics

(Rs. crore)

S.No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1.	Japan	Electronic Industry Dev.	6.41
2.	Swiss	Electronic Industry Dev. linked with IBRD	44.86
3.	IBRD	Electronic Industry Dev.	23.36
Total			74.63

Ministry of Ocean Development (Rs. crore)

S.No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1.	Germany	Oceanographer Vessel	0.00
Total			0.00

Ministry of Railways (Rs. crore)

S.No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1.	ADD	Railway Proj.	498.20
2.	ADB	Second Railway Proj	278.43
3.	Germany	Breakdown Cranes of Railway Board	0.79
4.	Germany	Railway Investment Prog.	136.84
5.	Germany	Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala	1.88
6.	UK	1983 Railway Proj.	2.15
7.	UK	Train Describer Sys.	0.36
8.	UK	Railway Sector Grant	10.81
9.	IBRD	Railway Modernisation	67.79
10.	IBRD	Container Corporation of India Ltd.	293.94
11.	Japan	Rolling Stock Modernisation (IDP-68)	40.43
12.	Saudi Fund	Koraput Railway Project	33.80
Total			1365.42

Ministry of Revenue (Rs. crore)

S.No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1.	IDF Grant	Capacity Building for Introduction of VAT	1.4
Total			1.4

Others (Rs. crore)

S.No.	Source	Name of Project	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95
1	2	3	4
1.	Austria	Austrian Capital Goods 1991	2.43
2.	Belgium	18th Credit	0.46
3.	Belgium	19th General Purpose Loan	9.29
4.	Belgium	XXth Capital Goods Credit	24.24
5.	France	Studies on Rock Phosphate	0.01
6.	France	Studies on Potash	0.01
7.	France	Studies regarding Rajur Mines	0.43
8.	France	General Credit	9.86
9.	France	General Credit	16.43
10.	France	General Purpose Credit	22.97
11.	France	ITPO	2.96
12.	France	General Import	5.54
13.	France	General Credit	31.37
14.	France	General Import	12.14
15.	France	General Credit	3.55
16.	France	General Credit	1.2
17.	Japan	Debt Relief Grant Aid	0.59
18.	Japan	Debt Relief Grant Aid	9.3
19.	Japan	Debt Relief (Development Economy of India)	8.76
20.	Japan	Debt Relief	8.11

1	2	3	4
21.	Japan	Capital Goods Sector Project	1.93
22.	Japan	Hydrocarbon Sector	529.77
23.	Japan	Improvement of Fire Fighting Equip.	5.47
24.	Japan	Upgrading Training Equip.	21.42
25.	Japan	Improvement of IGNOU	5.62
26.	Japan	Export Dev. Proj.	7.57
27.	Japan	Capital Goods Sector	2.06
28.	Netherland	India 1987	5.58
29.	Netherland	Grant India 1990	21.35
30.	Netherland	India 1991	106.35
31.	Netherlands	Grant India 1991	26.44
32.	Netherland	CMDA Grant	14.59
33.	Swiss	Swiss Mixed Grant I	4.91
34.	Swiss	Swiss Mixed Grant II	67.02
35.	Swiss	Swiss Mixed Grant III	32.71
36.	Swiss	ICTRETS Ph. III	0.73
37.	Swiss	Indo-Swiss Training Centre	1.53
38.	UK	1987 Local Cost Grant	24.45
39.	UK	1980 Mixed Project	8.2
40.	UK	UK-India Network	0.56
41.	USA	Quality Control	15.64
42.	USA	Plant Genetic Resources	50.12
43.	USA	Agricultural Commercialisation	25.64
44.	USA	Centre for Tech. Dev.	15.64
45.	Germany	Capital Goods XXIV	3.93
46.	Germany	Studies & Experts Fund III	0.07
47.	Germany	Studies & Experts Fund VI	22.74
48.	Germany	Import of Drugs	9.95
49.	Germany	Study Expert Fund IV	2.68
50.	Germany	Study Expert Fund V	9.40
51.	Germany	Fertiliser Import Loan	119.75
52.	Australia	Small Activity Scheme	0.23
53.	Australia	Grant Aid ASD	80.71
54.	EEC	Primary Education	519.19
55.	EEC	Strengthening of Vet. Ser.	156.72
56.	ADB	Hydrocarbon Sector Prog.	390.88
57.	ADB	Energy Conservation Prog.	122.67
58.	Canada	Institutional Support Proj.	6.71
59.	Denmark	Xth Loan	2.58
60.	Denmark	XIth Loan	32.22
61.	Denmark	Indo-Danish Grant I	24.42
62.	Denmark	Indian Cement Industry	21.48
63.	Denmark	Rice Straw Power Generator	3.02
Total			2693.30

[English]

Child Labour

1624. SHRI N. DENNIS Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to mobilise public opinion to tackle the problem of child labour in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which initiative will be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):
 (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As part of the efforts to eliminate child labour, Government have already initiated action to raise public awareness against the employment of children. The issue of child labour has been discussed in the Regional Labour Ministers Conferences held at Trivandrum, Bhubaneswar and Jaipur and also in the Standing Labour Committee and the Indian Labour Conference which were held recently.

To coordinate publicity against child labour, the Information & Broadcasting Ministry is represented in the high level Body called the "National Authority for Elimination of Child Labour" constituted under the Chairmanship of Union Labour Minister. The Authority has identified awareness generation as an important input in combating the problem of child labour.

The National Labour Institute, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Labour, is engaged in the task of building awareness against child labour by assisting NGOs, funding organisations, researchers, academicians, mass media, trade union leaders, employers, programme administrators, policy makers and training institutes by providing information, training research guidance etc.

In addition to the above, major initiatives to create awareness against child labour have been taken up under the International Programme for Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC/ILC) in which the Government of India is a participant. The awareness generation activities include: (a) supporting a nation-wide campaign against child labour through NGOs; (b) creating awareness against child labour

amongst organised workers by funding projects implemented by trade unions; (c) mobilising opinion against child labour amongst unorganised workers in putting capsules on child labour into all training programmes; (d) sensitising employers through conducting workshop for them; and (e) highlighting the safety and hazards aspects of children working in four selected industries viz., lock making, glass, gem polishing and brass making through production of posters.

Ceiling on loans against shares

1625. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to raise the ceiling on loans against shares;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reasons for taking such a step and the category of people likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARAMURTHY): (a) to (c). In terms of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) existing instructions to banks, there is a ceiling of Rs. 5 lakhs for sanction of advances against the security of shares and debentures to individuals and Trusts and endowments. No monetary ceiling has been prescribed for sanction of such advances to other categories of borrowers. The ceiling of Rs. 5 lakhs mentioned above is under review of RBI.

International Flights from Trivandrum

1626. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several foreign airlines have requested the Government for permission to start international flights from the Trivandrum International Airport;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the delay in according permission; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to take a decision in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). Requests have been received in the last five years from Kuwait Airways, Singapore Airlines and Qatar Airways for permission to operate their services from Trivandrum. Due to limited infrastructural facilities and lack of adequate quid-pro-quo to our national carriers, the requests have not been accepted.

General Sales Agents

1627. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether major international airlines have withdrawn their general sale agents from four metropolitan cities; and
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Foreign airlines appoint and withdraw their GSAs in their best commercial judgement; the Government have no information on the subject.

International Flight Safety Seminar

1628. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK:
SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUÉ:

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

- (a) whether an International Flight Safety Seminar was held in Delhi recently; and
- (b) if so, the recommendations made in the seminar?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) An International Seminar on Flight Safety was held in New Delhi during 6—10 February, 1995.

- (b) The objective of the seminar was to exchange information and experiences of other countries on matters relating to airworthiness, accident/incident prevention and investigation, co-operation on issues relating to air safety, etc.

RBI Office at Durgapur

1629. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:
DR. SUDHIR RAY:
SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether RBI had taken a decision to open its office at Durgapur, West Bengal;
- (b) whether the land has been acquired and other infrastructural facilities have since been provided to the said office;
- (c) if so, the reasons for delay in establishing the office at Durgapur; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken to expedite the establishment of the proposed office there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has intimated that though there was a proposal in 1982/83 to open a Sub-Office of the Calcutta Issue Department at Durgapur, there was no commitment to open a second full-fledged office.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Owing to delegation of further powers to commercial banks in the field of currency management, conduct of Government business, etc., RBI has no plans to open a Sub-Office at Durgapur in the near future.

Export of Iron Ore

1630. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign exchange earnings from iron ore exports, canalised through Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd., are expected to decline during this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by MMTC to increase the exports of iron ore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Identification and development of new markets, such as Thailand and Malaysia, and revival of old markets for iron ore exports from India like Slovakia (formerly, part of Czechoslovakia) and Romania, and efforts for better unit value realization are amongst the steps being taken by MMTC to increase the exports of iron ore.

[Translation]

Amendment in Registration Act, 1908

1631. SHRI SANTHOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the views of the State Governments regarding section 28 and 30(2) of the Registration Act, 1908;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to abolish or amend these sections of the Act;

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this regard;

(e) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(f) the time by which the final decision is likely, to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (f) A proposal for the amendment/deletion of sub-section (2) of section 30 of the Registration Act, 1908 is under consideration of the Government and views/comments of the State Governments/Union Territories administration have been invited on the proposal. A final decision on the proposal would be taken after receipt of the views. As such it is not possible to indicate at this stage the time by which the said decision would be taken.

[English]

Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993

1632. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the working of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993;

(b) if so, the details of the shortcomings noticed therein;

(c) whether the Government propose to amend this Act; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d) Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 was passed by Parliament on 27th August, 1993. The process of establishment of the Debts Recovery Tribunals was started immediately thereafter as per the provisions of the Act. So far 5 DRTs and 1 Appellate Tribunal have been set up. Remaining Tribunals could not be set up due to the poor response from the eligible personnel for the post of Presiding Officer. Government on 5.12.94 introduced a bill in the Lok Sabha for amending the DRT Act 1993 for the purposes of raising the maximum age limit from 60 to 62 years for the Presiding Officer of the Debts Recovery Tribunal and 62 to 65 years for Presiding Officer of the Appellate Debts Recovery Tribunal. This Bill is presently pending before the Lok Sabha. A number of cases have been filed in the various High Courts challenging the constitutional validity of the Act. Delhi High Court by its Judgement dated 10.3.95 (in the matter of Delhi High Court Bar Association vs. Union of India & Ors.) has held that the Act is unconstitutional and void mainly on the ground that it erodes the independence of the judiciary. Government in consultation with the Law Ministry are examining the Judgement for taking the matter before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Mutual Funds

1633. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
SHRI RUP CHAND PAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that Mutual Funds display only selective information about their funds resulting in confusion and loss to small investors; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take in this regard to protect the small investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), which regulates the operations of mutual funds has indicated that it has received no complaint regarding the display of selective information resulting into loss to small investors.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Export of Tea

1634. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVI SINGH PATIL:
SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether liberalisation policy has in any way affected the role and functioning of the Tea Board;

(b) if so, the details in this regard including the figures of tea production, domestic consumption and exports during each of the last three years, till-date and the comparative price trends in the domestic and international markets;

(c) whether the Government are aware that tea producing foreign countries particularly Sri Lanka are exporting tea much cheaper than India;

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

(e) whether the export of tea to Russia had a serious set back recently due to supply of inferior quality of tea; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Role and functions of the Tea Board as defined in the Tea Act, are oriented towards development of tea industry in India including production, productivity, quality improvement, marketing & exports. These primary objective of the Tea Board continue to hold good in the liberalised trade regime initiated by the Govt.

(b) Required information has been indicated in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Average units value realisation of Indian teas in the international market is higher as compared to competing countries like Kenya and Sri Lanka as would be evident from the following figures:—

Unit FOB price of export in US \$ per Kg.

Country	1991	1992	1993
India	2.45	2.16	2.08
Sri Lanka	2.02	1.85	1.51
Kenya	1.58	1.77	1.71

(e) There were stray incidents of supply of substandards teas by some Indian exporters to Russia during 1993. However, exports of Indian tea to Russia during 1993-94 registered an improvement as compared to the level of 1992-93. Exports of tea to Russia from India as well as Sri Lanka have suffered during 1994-95 or; account of lower in take by them.

(f) Steps taken to boost exports of tea include promotional campaigns through Tea Board's offices abroad. It consists of (i) participation in trade fairs/exhibitions; (ii) media campaign to increase consumer awareness towards various unique characteristics of Indian tea; (iii) media campaign to popularise Indian tea through

Tea Board marketing symbol; and (iv) support to various foreign brands containing Indian tea. A part of the expenditure incurred by importers for promotional campaigns is met from Tea Board budget. Tea Board has also undertaken Darjeeling and Assam Logo campaigns in UK and brand promotion schemes to popularise classic Indian teas.

STATEMENT

(I) Production, Domestic Consumption and Exports of Tea
(Figures in Million KGs)

Year	Estimated Production	Estimated Domestic Consumption	Exports
1992-93	729.09	545	181
1993-94	753.53	565	181
1994-95	699.72	—	130
(April to January) 1993-94	714.86	—	138
(April to January)			

(II) Price Trends in Domestic & International Markets

(Price in Respective Currency Per Kg)

Currency: India :	Indian Rupee
Colombo :	Sri Lankan Rupee
Jakarta :	U.S. Cent
Mombasa :	Kenya Shilling
Limbe :	Tambala/U.S. Cent
And London :	Pence

Name of the Auction	1992	1993	1994
All India (Average)	38.88	48.93	40.65
Colombo (Sri Lanka)	62.24	69.28	65.34*
Jakarta (Indonesia)	129.60	134.39	117.23*
Mombasa (Kenya)@	53.88	155.00	158.00*
Limbe (Malawi)@	296.39	100.11	82.37*
London	113.32	123.84	119.46

*: Upto November, 1994

@: Since 1993 price is U.S. Cent.

[English]

Soiled Currency Notes

1635. SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the circulation of a large number of soiled currency notes of the denominations of Re. 1, Rs. 2, Rs. 5 and Rs. 10; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to phase out the circulation of soiled currency notes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) In view of Government's decision to coinise Re.1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 notes in a phased manner, production of fresh notes for these denominations has been reduced and the quality of notes in circulation has, therefore, deteriorated to some extent. The existing Note Printing Presses at Dewas

and Nashik are unable to fully meet the RBI's requirement of higher denomination currency notes. With the commissioning of the two new note presses, expected to be achieved by the end of 1999, the production of new notes will increase substantially and the situation will improve.

[Translation]

Purchase of Aircraft by Air India

1636. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to purchase some more aircraft by Air India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Air India management is undertaking an evaluation study of various types of aircraft; no definite proposals have yet been submitted.

Losses in Vayudoot

1637. SHRI LALL BABU RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is lack of integrated planning while making recruitments in Vayudoot due to which burden on its exchequer has increased and the company is incurring losses;

(b) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Though main reasons for loss of Vayudoot are undue expansion of network, non-remunerative fare structure, short-haul nature of operation and uneconomic fleet; surplus man power has also contributed to some extent.

Festivals and Fairs Identified for Promotion of Tourism

1638. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the festivals and fairs which have been identified by the Union Government for promotion of tourism; and

(b) the financial assistance provided for the same to the State Governments during the year 1994-95, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) A list of identified fairs and festivals is given at Statement-I.

(b) Details of the financial assistance extended to State Governments/Union Territories during the year 1994-95, on the basis of specific proposals received,

merits of each proposal, inter-se priorities and availability of funds, is given in the statement at Statement-II.

STATEMENT-I

Fairs and Festivals Identified

ANDHRA PRADESH

- International Pearl and Bangle Festival
- 400 Anniversary of Hyderabad City-Deccan Festival

ASSAM

- Tea Festival

BIHAR

- Sonapur Mela
- Pataliputra Mahotsava, Patna
- Rajgir Dance and Food Festival
- Chottanagpur Adivasi Mela

GOA

- International Sea Food Festival
- Shigmo

- Carnival

GUJARAT

- International Kite Festival
- Somnath Festival (Ran of Kutch)
- Temetra Festival

HARYANA

- Kurukshetra Festival
- Surajkund Craft Mela

HIMACHAL PRADESH

- Shimla Summer Festival
- Kullu-Dussehra Festival
- Kangra Valley/Tea Festival
- Chamba Minjor Festival
- Lavi Fair at Rampur

J & K

- Hemis Festival both in Ladakh and in Delhi
- Tourist Mela at Sanasar
- Food & Craft Mela at Mansar

KARNATAKA

- Vijayavangar-Hampi Festival
- Hoysala Mahotsava (at Belur-Halebid)
- Navarasapur-Pattadakal
- Coorg Festival

KERALA

- Great Elephant March
- Nishagandi Dance Festival
- Onam Celebrations
- Boat Race (Cochin-Alleppey-Quilon)

MADHYA PRADESH

- Bhojpur
- Malwa (Indore, Ujjain, Mandu)

- Panchmarhi
- Orcha-Shivpuri-Gwalior

MAHARASHTRA

- Elephanta Festival
- Ganesh/Pune Festival
- Aurangabad Festival

MIZORAM

- Chapcharkut Festival

MANIPUR

- Kut Festival

MEGHALAYA

- Nongren Dance Festival

NAGALAND

- Autumn Festival

ORISSA

- Rajrani Festival, Bhubaneswar
- Konark Dance Festival
- Beach Festival

PUNJAB

- Holla Mohalla
- Ram Tirath

RAJASTHAN

- Marwar Festival, Jodhpur
- Desert Festival, Jaisalmer
- Nagaur Festival
- Jhalawar Festival
- In addition Shilpgram Craft Mela will also be supported

SIKKIM

- Sikkim Flower Festival

TAMIL NADU

- Ooty Summer Festival
- Shivratri Natyanjali Festival at Chidambaram
- Chittarai Festival, Madurai
- Mahabalipuram Dance Festival
- Tea and Tourism Festival, Coonoor

UTTAR PRADESH

- Taj Mahotsava, Agra
- Akbar Festival, Fatehpur Sikri
- Avadh Festival, Lucknow
- Yoga Festival, Rishikesh

WEST BENGAL

- Vishnupur Festival
- Calcutta/Shantiniketan Festival
- Darjeeling Tea Festival
- Vasant Mela

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR

- Dweep Mahotsava/Tourist Festival

CHANDIGARH

- Rose Festival
- Teej Festival

PONDICHERRY

- Fete de Pondicherry/Yoga Festival

DELHI

- International Mongo Festival
- Qutub Festival
- Rainbow Festival
- Garden Festival

STATEMENT-II

Financial Assistance Extended to State Governments/Union Territories for Fairs and Festival During 1994-95

S. No.	State	Festival	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1.	Goa	International Sea Food festival	—	1,63,762*
		Carnival festival 95	3,75,540	2,00,000
		Shigmo festival 95	1,92,500	1,62,800*
2.	Gurjarat	Tarnetra festival	1,69,253	1,00,000
3.	Haryana	Surajkund Craft Mela	—	14,98,400*
4.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla Summer festival	2,05,490	2,05,490
		Lavi Fair	2,50,779	2,50,779
5.	Kerala	Indira Gandhi Boat Race	15,00,000	12,00,000
6.	Madhya Pradesh	Orcha festival	3,10,000	2,00,000
7.	Maharashtra	Ganesh festival	—	2,87,734*
		Elephanta festival	5,00,000	5,00,000
		Ganesh festival 94	—	2,37,773
8.	Mizoram	Chapcharkut festival	3,60,000	2,00,000

S. No.	State	Festival	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
9.	Manipur	Kut festival	1,05,000	80,000
10.	Orissa	Beach festival	10,00,000	8,00,000
		Raja Rani festival	1,60,000	1,00,000
11.	Sikkim	Flower festival	4,98,000	4,98,000
12.	Tamil Nadu	Chittaral festival	3,83,000	2,00,000
		Natyanjali festival	—	67,000*
		Mamllapuram Dance festival	1,74,264	1,00,000
			2,69,764	1,35,000
				1,13,000*
		Tea and Tourism festival, Coonoor	2,24,265	2,24,265
13.	Rajasthan	Shilpgram Utsav	2,00,388	2,00,388*
14.	Uttar Pradesh	Taj Mahotsava	5,00,000	2,50,000
			—	5,00,000*
		Avadh festival	2,34,000	1,50,000
15.	West Bengal	Tea festival	4,28,441	4,28,441*
		Darjeeling		
16.	Chandigarh	Teej festival	2,85,000	1,50,000
		Rose Festival	3,06,000	2,00,000
17.	Delhi	Mango festival	2,68,490	2,68,490

*Areas from previous year.

Payment of Dividend by Banks

1639. SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether nationalised banks have been paying dividend to the Government;

(b) if so, the basis for fixing the amount of dividend; and

(c) the amount of dividend paid by the each of the nationalised banks during each of the last three years?

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

(a) and (b) In terms of Section 10 (7) of the Banking Companies (Acquisition & Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/80 (as amended recently) after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, depreciation in assets, contribution to staff and superannuation funds and all other matters for which provision is necessary under any law or which are usually provided for by banking companies, a nationalised bank may, out of its net profit, declare a dividend and retain the surplus, if any.

(c) Year-wise details of the dividend paid by the nationalised banks for the years 1992, 1993 and 1994, as reported by R.B.I., are given in the Statement.

STATEMENT

Year-wise details of the Dividend paid by Nationalised Banks for the last 3 years.

(Amount in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of Bank	As on March		
		1992	1993	1994
1.	Allahabad Bank	3.11	—	—
2.	Andhra Bank	0.87	—	—
3.	Bank of Baroda	15.00	—	5.00
4.	Bank of India	12.63	—	—
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	1.44	—	—

6.	Canara Bank	16.59	1.06	5.35
7.	Central Bank of India	5.00	—	—
8.	Corporation Bank	2.00	1.00	1.00
9.	Dena Bank	2.70	—	—
10.	Indian Bank	5.00	0.50	—
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	2.55	—	—
12.	New Bank of India	—	—	—
13.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	3.38	—	1.00
14.	Punjab National Bank	5.00	1.01	—
15.	Punjab & Sind Bank	—	—	—
16.	Syndicate Bank	1.26	—	—
17.	Union Bank of India	3.85	—	2.00
18.	United Bank of India	0.50	—	—
19.	UCO Bank	—	—	—
20.	Vijaya Bank	—	—	—

*Balance Sheet not yet finalised.

[Translation]

Losses to Tourism Industry due to riots

1640. SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAAN:
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:

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

(a) whether tourism industry has suffered heavy losses due to riots in several States;

(b) if so, the extent of losses suffered on this account; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect tourism industry from such losses?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). The foreign tourist

arrivals during 1994 registered a positive growth of about 6.9 percent despite the set back suffered during October and November due to plague and its adverse publicity. The foreign exchange earnings through tourism also registered an increase of about 15.7 percent during the year. The growth in tourist traffic is still continuing and as such tourism industry is not expected to suffer any loss.

[English]

Shortage of Coins

1641. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether coins supply in the country is adequate; and

(b) if not, the steps taken to ensure the requisite supply of coins in the country?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

National Action Plan for Tourism

1642. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether some new programmes have been introduced under the National Action Plan for tourism to expedite development of tourism in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the States where these programmes are proposed to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). Under the National Action Plan for Tourism announced in May 1992, the Government of India in consultation with State Governments has introduced the following programmes for the development of tourism in the country:

(i) Identification of 11 travel circuits and 6 destinations for integrated development. The list of travel circuits and destinations is placed at *Annexure*.

(ii) Identification and creation of Special Tourism Areas for integrated development of tourism facilities. In consultation with State Governments the following Special Tourism Areas have been identified:

- Bakal Beach (Kerala)
- Muttukadu-Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu)
- Sindhudurg (Maharashtra)
- Puri-Konark Beach (Orissa)
- Diu (Diu)

(iii) Scheme for encouraging the growth of heritage hotels.

(iv) Tourist trains to be started on important tourist routes based on the success of the Palace-on-Wheels.

(v) Liberalised air charter policy.

Circuits-cum-Destination Identified for Intensive Development Under National Action Plan

Travel Circuits

1. Kulu-Manali-Leh
2. Gwalior-Shivpuri-Orcha-Khajuraho
3. Bagdogra-Sikkim-Darjeeling-Kalimpong
4. Bhubaneswar-Puri-Konark
5. Hyderabad-Nagarjunasagar-Tirupati
6. Madras-Mahabalipuram-Pondicherry
7. Rishikesh-Narender Nagar-Gangotri-Badrinath
8. Indore-Ujjain-Maheshwar-Omkareshwar-Mandu
9. Jaisalmer-Jodhpur-Bikaner-Barmer
10. Raigad Fort-Janjira Fort-Kuda Caves-Sirivardhan-Harihareswhar-Sindhudurg.
11. Bangalore-Mysore-Hassan

Destinations

1. Lakshadweep Islands
2. Andaman Islands
3. Manali (Solang-Nalah)
4. Bekal Beach
5. Muttukadu Beach
6. Kangra (Pong Dam)

Interest Rates

1643. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:
SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO:
SHRI SURENDER PAL PATHAK:
SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the competitive atmosphere created by the banks in regard to interest rates on deposits and credits;

(b) if so, the details of the latest guidelines issued by the RBI in this regard;

(c) whether there has been adverse effect on bank deposits due to constant changes in the interest rates by banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). As a step towards rationalisation of deposit rates, effective 22.4.1992, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have prescribed a maximum deposit rate for maturity of 46 days to 3 years and above. The banks are free to fix various maturities and interest rates within the prescribed maximum rate. As for credit, with a view to reducing the element of prescription of interest rates by RBI, effective October 18, 1994, lending rates of commercial banks for credit limits of over Rs. 2 lakhs were freed. However, to protect small borrowers availing credit limits upto Rs. 2 lakhs, the lending rates continue to be prescribed by RBI.

Since the banks have been given freedom to fix their own deposit rates for different maturities within the maximum rate prescribed by RBI, competition among banks for attracting depositors is inevitable.

(c) and (d): Interest rates have to be changed taking into account emerging developments in the economy. These would also dictate the frequency in such changes. The changes in rates ensure that the attractiveness of bank deposits to savers is maintained and there are no adverse effects on mobilisation of deposits.

[English]

List of Extreme Focus Products

1644. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request for inclusion of tobacco under the List of Extreme Focus Products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c): Tobacco is harmful to public health. Further, tobacco does not have a potential to achieve a 30% growth per annum, in volume or value, over the medium term. Therefore, tobacco has not been included in the List of 'Extreme Focus Products'.

Decline in price of Cardamom

1645. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of cardamom has come down during the current year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether India has launched large scale international publicity campaign about the qualitative supremacy of Indian cardamom over the Guatemalan cardamom;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government and Spices Board have made any plan to provide proper publicity and education regarding the wide medicinal and other uses of cardamom in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof including the amounts spent on such publicity during each of the last three years, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (d) The prices of cardamom have shown a down-ward trend in the present financial year owing mainly to increased domestic production and lesser off-take in the domestic and international markets.

(c) and (d) The Spices Board is undertaking regular promotional programmes of Indian cardamom through TV, Press, Direct Mailing and Instore promotion aimed mainly

at the principal cardamom consuming markets in the Middle East. The Board has also been participating in important Trade Fairs, organising buyer-seller meets in India and also extending financial support to exporters for undertaking brand promotion activities.

(e) The Species Board participates regularly in selected domestic fairs which are organised in important commercial centres in the country. It also undertakes regular distribution of promotional consumption in India.

(f) The Total expenditure incurred on publicity/promotion in domestic market, including fairs participation is given below:

Year	Rs. in Lakhs
1992-93	1.87
1993-94	1.65
1994-95	2.22

Claims of Gulf War Sufferers

1646. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public sector as well as private sector banks designated for opening of special accounts for claiming compensation for the loss or injuries suffered during the August, 1990 Gulf War;

(b) whether such banks have adequate branches in Kerala as the number of claimants from Kerala is larger than any other State; and

(c) the number of claimants in each of the branch and the details of the claims cleared so far?

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

Import of Sugar by STC and MMTc

1647. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:

DR. S. P. YADAV:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Trading Corporation and Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation have imported sugar from the international market before the opening of tenders;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total quantity of sugar imported including the rate per MT on c.i.f. and f.o.b. basis and the total foreign exchange incurred thereon organisation-wise;

(d) whether the said organisations have made any plan for the disposal of the imported sugar and the rate at which it will be sold in the domestic market by these organisations, separately;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the end use of the sugar purchased from abroad and the likely effect on the domestic prices of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (f) STC and MMTC have intimated that they have not imported sugar from the international market before the official opening of the tenders. Pursuant to Government's directive to purchase sugar on forward contracting, both the Corporations taken together have so far contracted a quantity of about 3.63 lakh tonnes of sugar at an average C&F price of about US \$ 427.65 PMT with delivery schedules in July and August, 1995. Decision on the end use of the sugar has not so far been taken.

[Translation]

Construction of International Airports

1648. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) The names of states who have spent proposals regarding construction of International airports to the Union Government seeking its approval;

(b) the details of the projects which have been approved;

(c) the time by which construction works on these projects are likely to be started; and

(d) the estimated cost of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) The Government of India has given its no objection to the Governments of Karnataka and Kerala for construction of airports of international standards in Bangalore and Cochin respectively. The State Governments are to firm up the cost of the project and other modalities. Besides, the Government of Haryana had recently sent a proposals for setting up an international airport at Kundly, near Delhi. This proposals has not been accepted as Indira Gandhi International Airport can meet the projected growth of traffic and cargo by expanding the existing facilities at the airport.

Import and Export of Wheat

1649. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of durum and non durum wheat exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(b) the total quantity of wheat imported with its quality and foreign exchange incurred thereon during each of the last three years;

(c) the reasons for such import in the country; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to curb the import and boost the export of wheat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Total quantity

of durum and non-durum wheat exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years are as under:

Item	Value in Rs. Crores					
	1991-92		1992-93		1993-94	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Durum Wheat	5146	1.30	0.0	0.0	39	0.02
Non-Durum Wheat	653104	143.08	36749	10.21	351	0.18
Total	658250	144.38	36749	10.21	390	0.20

Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta.

The country-wise details of wheat export for the last three years are available in the regular monthly publication of the Foreign Trade Statistics of India (Principal commodities & countries), copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(b) Quantity and value of Durum and Non-Durum Wheat imports during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 was as under:

Item	Qty. in Value in Crores MTs					
	1991-92		1992-93		1993-94	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Durum Wheat	Nil	Nil	22940	11.47	12060	6.03
Non-Durum Wheat	Nil	Nil	1340755	698.59	218427	119.82
Total	Nil	Nil	13636959	710.06	230587	125.85

Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta.

(c) Imports were resorted to bridge the gap between domestic availability and requirement particularly keeping in view low level of stocks, reduced procurement in earlier years and sharp rise in the wholesale price.

(d) Import of wheat is a canalised item as per the current export-import policy and permission for import is accorded keeping in view the domestic availability and demand as it is an item of mass consumption.

In order to boost exports, wheat has been made freely exportable without minimum export price (MEP) restriction within the quantitative ceilings fixed.

[English]

Registered Trade Unions

1650. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trade unions of employers and workers, respectively, registered under the Trade Unions Act, 1926;

(b) the number of employing units in the country and how this figure has been arrived at;

(c) whether the Government propose to exempt the employers unions from the purview of the Trade Unions Act, 1926; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Number of registered Trade Unions as on 1989.*

(i) Employer's Unions ... 761 (\$)

(ii) Worker's Unions ... 47293 (\$)

(Source ... DLB (Labour Statistics...1994-Vol. I)

(\$...Estimated)

(* ...Provisional)

(b) As per the Annual Report (1993-94) of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, there are 236881 establishments covered under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 as on 31.3.94.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Customs House

1651. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the newly constructed Customs House is not being managed properly as reported in the "Sunday Mail" (Hindi) Dated January 8, 1995;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to run the Customs House in a proper and efficient manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c)-No Sir, Although, there is shortage of staff, the standards of cleanliness, garden maintenance and upkeep of the building is of a high order.

Women Pilots

1652. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:

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

(a) the details of women pilots given training by various organisations in the country during the last three years; and

(b) the number of women pilots employed and remain unemployed in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). A total of 49 women commercial pilots have been trained by various institutions in the country during the last three years *i.e.* from 1.1.1992 to 31.12.1994. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation does not maintain records of employed/unemployed pilots.

Agreement of ITDC with International Hotel Group

1653. SHRI R. ANBARASU:

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:

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

(a) whether the India Tourism Development Corporation has formulated a scheme to enter into any agreement with the International hotel group for modernisation of sub hotels of this corporation in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) ITDC has invited bids for marketing and management tie-up with international hotel chains for its six Elite hotels.

[Translation]

Foreign Capital Investment

1654. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken any study to assess the impact of massive foreign capital investment on Indian economy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b)-The Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, at the instance of the Ministry of Finance, undertook a detailed study of foreign investment approvals; an analysis, for the period from August, 1991 to July, 1993. The main observations of the report are summarised below:

— There was a proliferation of small investments indicating the widening base of foreign collaboration, and its percolation to a wider group of entrepreneurs than in the past.

— The subsidiaries with 100 per cent foreign equity holdings constituted an important part of the new investments.

— While there was a sharp decline in the number of drawing and design collaborations, there was a sharp rise in financial, technical collaborations.

— NRIs promised to be an important source of foreign capital inflow.

— Power, oil refinery and food processing sectors accounted for a substantial chunk of the new investments approved. Further, the combined share of areas erstwhile reserved for public sector is nearly half of the total investments approved.

— Direct investments by foreign companies and NRIs in the primary capital market has been insignificant.

— The East Asian Countries like South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore have also begun to participate in the process of technology acquisition by Indian Companies.

The Government and the Reserve Bank of India have

been constantly monitoring the impact of foreign capital inflows on macro-economic aggregates.

The Secretariat of Industrial Approvals (SIA) in their Monthly News Letter also provide information on approvals, on numbers and amounts of foreign equity, and regional/sectoral distribution of investment proposals. As per the SIA News Letter of February, 1995, during the period August, 1991 to January, 1995, the Government approved 5672 foreign collaboration proposals including 2837 proposals involving foreign equity amounting to Rs. 279.1 billion.

DA to Govt. Employees

1655. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:
SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA:
DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL:
SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether one more instalment of Dearness Allowance has become due for the Central Government employees from January 1, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) As per the existing formula relating to grant of Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees, based on the recommendations of the Fourth Central Pay Commission, additional instalments of Dearness Allowance become due from 1st January and 1st July every year on the basis of percentage increase in the 12 monthly average of All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (General 1960=100) over the base index of 608, to which the existing scales of pay effective from 1.1.1986 are related. The instalment due from 1st January normally becomes payable with the salary for the month of March paid in April.

Sale of Immovable Property

1656. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations from individuals and associations to relax restrictions on sale of immovable property especially in metropolitan cities like Madras from the present limit of Rs. ten lakhs;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to relax the restrictions; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Proposal for raising the present limit of Rs. 10 lakhs for the applicability of the scheme of pre-emptive

purchases of immovable property is receiving consideration of the Government.

(c) In view of the reply to Part (b) above, does not arise.

[Translation]

Capacity of Aircraft of Air India and Private Airlines

1657. SHRI K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of aircraft with Air India and Private Airlines, airline-wise;

(b) the total seating capacity of Air India and each of private airlines and the percentage of seating capacity utilisation by Air India;

(c) whether there is any proposal to start new destination flights by Air India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of the new flights introduced by Air India during the last one year; and

(f) how these new routes are operating?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Details of the number of aircraft with Air India/Private Airlines and their seating capacity are given in the enclosed statement. The passenger load factor of Air India during 1993-94 was 59.6%

(c) and (d) Route expansion is a continuous process which depends on availability of traffic rights, and is subject to operational and economic feasibility.

(e) AI has commenced hub and spoke operations connecting Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Amritsar with Delhi and Bombay. Frequencies increased/additional flights have been started to Toronto, Riyadh, Hong Kong, Nairobi, Dubai, Singapore and Perth including new services from Bangalore and Trivandrum to Singapore and Madras to Paris and London.

(f) It is too early to assess the economic viability of these flights. However, Air India has reported that the traffic is picking up.

STATEMENT

Details of the number of Aircraft with Air India and Private Airlines and their seating capacity

Air India

Aircraft Type	Number	Seating capacity of each aircraft
B-747-400	4	417
B-747-200	9	394
B-747-300 (Combi)	2	283
A-310-300	8	206
A-300-B4	3	238
IL-62	1	129
A-310	2	206

Wet leased aircraft

Air India		
Aircraft Type	Number	Seating capacity of each aircraft
Private Airlines		
Ms. East West		
Travel & Trade Links Ltd.		
B-737-200		
F 27	7	122
	3	52
Ms. Jet Airways Pvt. Ltd.		
B-737-300		
B-737-400	4	125
	2	134
Ms. Damania Airways		
B-737-400	4	119
Ms. Modi Luft Ltd.		
B-737-200	4	107
Ms. NEPC Micon Ltd.		
F. 27-500	5	49
Beech King C-90	1	8
Ms. Archana Airways		
L 410		
Dash 8	3	17
	1	30

Loan by Financial Institutions

1658. **SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loan sanctioned by various public sector financial institutions in Madhya Pradesh during 1993-94;

(b) the total amount disbursed out of the amount sanctioned during the above year; and

(c) the institution-wise and area-wise details of the loan sanctioned and disbursed?

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

(a) The assistance sanctioned and disbursed by all India financial and investment institutions to industrial units in Madhya Pradesh during the year 1993-94 is as under:

	1993-94*	(Rs. crore)
Sanctions	1853.1	Disbursements
		1202.3

*Institutions covered are Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited (IFCI), Industrial Credit & Investment Corporation of India Limited (ICICI), Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India (IRBI), SCICI Limited (SCICI), Risk Capital & Technology Finance Corporation Limited (RCTC), Tourism Finance Corporation of India Limited (TFCI), Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), Unit Trust of India (UTI) and General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC).

(b) and (c) The institution-wise and area-wise details of assistance sanctioned and disbursed by the above all India financial institutions in Madhya Pradesh during 1993-94 are given hereunder:

(Rs. crore)

	Sanctions		Disbursements	
	Backward area	Non-Backward area	Backward area	Non-Backward area
IDBI	586.6	351.3	245.6	343.6
IFCI	342.5	0.3	216.2	1.3

ICICI	193.4	149.8	143.1	113.9
SIDBI	27.3	81.4	22.6	65.4
IRBI	0.3	0.3	4.1	4.5
SCICI	—	4.0	—	1.9
RCTC	—	0.2	—	—
TFCI	—	15.5	—	3.6
LIC	24.0	40.0	3.0	18.0
UTI	7.5	2.0	1.8	7.8
GIC	—	26.7	—	5.9
TOTAL	1181.6	671.5	636.4	565.9

Voluntary Retirement Scheme in NTC

1659. **SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:**
SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers retired under the voluntary retirement scheme in the NTC mills during the last three years, state-wise;

(b) whether workers are being retrenched arbitrarily in the NTC mills and co-operative textile mills especially in the tribal areas;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check this practice?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) A statement showing State-wise number of workers retired under Voluntary Retirement Scheme in the NTC mills during the last three years *i.e.* 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 (upto 28-2-95) is enclosed.

(b) No, Sir. In the NTC, there is neither any closure as per the provisions of the I.D. Act nor any retirement.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

STATEMENT

Statement showing State-wise number of workers retired up to VRS during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 (upto 28-2-1995)

S. No.	Number of workers			Retired under VRS (upto 28-2-95)	Total
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	735	260	62	1057
2.	Karnataka	558	347	166	1071
3.	Mahe	38	—	—	38
4.	Delhi	324	196	85	605
5.	Punjab	189	44	3	236
6.	Rajasthan	710	291	163	1164
7.	Gujarat	5318	1222	628	7175
8.	Maharashtra	6551	3039	1328	10901
9.	Madhya Pradesh	3396	710	137	4281
10.	Tamil Nadu	83	11	127	251
11.	Pondicherry	60	—	38	98
12.	Uttar Pradesh	4021	1292	590	5903
13.	West Bengal	2013	165	321	2499
14.	Assam	47	—	6	53
15.	Bihar	335	6	39	380
16.	Orissa	—	—	4	4
	TOTAL	24378	7641	3697	35716

National Action Plan for Tourism

1660. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a fund for National Action Plan for Tourism; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). As a follow up of National Action Plan for Tourism, it was proposed to set-up a Tourism Development Fund under the nomenclature of Assistance for Specified Tourism Areas. The Government considered the proposal and approved only the component relating to capital subsidy to heritage hotels.

[English]

Development of ITDC Units In Gujarat

1661. SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI THAKORE:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

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

(a) the amount invested by the India Tourism Development Corporation in its enterprises in Gujarat State during each of the last three years and the locations of these enterprises;

(b) whether the ITDC has formulated new schemes for the development of its units in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) During the last three years, ITDC has not made any investment in setting up any new project in Gujarat.

(b) and (c). The ITDC's VIIIth Five Year Plan (1992—97) does not envisage any plan scheme/outlay in Gujarat.

Indian Workers In Overseas

1662. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received from the Indian workers in overseas during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of complaints redressed and the action taken by the Government against concerned agencies/contractors till date; and

(c) the number of cases pending for finalisation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) During the years 1992, 1993 and 1994, the number of complaints received from the Indian workers in overseas was 28, 52 and 15 respectively. Out of the above 95 complaints, 71 complaints have been redressed and 24 cases are pending for finalisation. On the basis of the above complaints, Registration Certificate of 6 Recruiting Agents were suspended and they were not allowed to do recruitment business during the period of suspension.

Export of Silk

1663. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of silk exported during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the names of the countries to whom the export was made and the amount of money earned from the export, year-wise;

(c) whether any downward trend in export of silk has been observed;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The quantum of silk goods exported during the last three years (1991-92 to 1993-94) was as under:—

Year	Quantity (lakh sq. metre)
1991-92	386.88
1992-93*	—
1993-94	466.32

Compulsory pre-shipment inspection by the Central Silk board had been dispensed with and hence data is not available.

(b) A statement indicating the names of countries, which are major importers of silk goods from India, and earnings from exports made to them during 1991-92 to 1993-94 is attached.

(c) No, Sir. The total earnings from exports of silk goods during 1994-95 (April 94 — February 95) are Rs. 838—97 crores as (Prov.) compared to Rs. 786.22 crores during the entire 1993-94.

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

Names of the Countries which are major importers of Silk Goods from India and earnings from exports to them during 1991-92 to 1993-94.

Country	Value in Rs. crores		
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
U.S.A.	198.01	201.94	270.15
Germany	112.75	118.06	115.54
U.K.	75.94	67.20	91.29
Italy	37.27	37.17	22.55
Spain	31.57	19.78	12.27
France	25.06	28.11	31.36
Canada	22.73	18.56	26.41
U.A.E.	21.26	22.21	36.33
Australia	17.68	17.78	11.37
Switzerland	11.29	10.99	14.71
Japan	9.34	8.80	7.86
Singapore	13.89	13.41	17.37
Hongkong	10.82	10.58	8.83
Others	82.78	91.67	111.18
	671.99	664.22	786.22

[Translation]

Cotton Stock Limit

1664. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have revised the cotton stock limit twice in past four months;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

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

(b) In respect of Mill Sector, the Stock Limits imposed in April, 94 is still continuing. In respect of persons (other than cotton Agriculturists, and Ginning/Pressing factories) the restrictions imposed with effect from 8-12-94 still continue. In respect of ginning factories, pressing factories and ginning and pressing factories, stock limit was imposed with effect from 8-12-94 was lifted with effect from 22-2-1995.

(c) Due to reports of higher cotton prices and complaints about hoarding of cotton by some Ginning and Pressing factories, stock restrictions were reintroduced w.e.f. 8-12-94. However, there were a number of representations about inability of ginning and pressing units to carry on their trade due to heavy arrivals in the peak season and problems faced by new Ginning and Pressing Units, the restriction as regards ginning and pressing factories has been withdrawn on 22-2-95.

Reduction in Air Service by Indian Airlines

1665. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines has reduced its air services after the introduction of Private airlines services in the country;

(b) if so, the routes on which air services have been reduced by Indian Airlines;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide more facilities to the passengers in air services of Indian Airlines so as to compete with the services of private airlines services; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Reduction of frequencies of some routes and withdrawal of services from some sectors by Indian Airlines was done in view of shortage of operating crew.

(c) and (d) Indian Airlines is taking the following measures to meet challenges of a competitive environment:—

i) Improvement in services both on ground and on board;

ii) Improved on-time performance;

iii) Offering incentives/concessions for customers and agents;

iv) Setting up of sales forces to generate more business;

v) Changes in organisational structure and systems to enable speedy and cohesive response to the environment;

vi) Closer consultation with the employees' unions/associations to foster an atmosphere of mutual understanding;

vii) Increased international operations to gainfully deploy available capacity;

viii) Tie up with Air India in several areas.

[English]

Reconciliation of Inter-Branch Accounts of Banks

1666. SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps for clearance of huge arrears in the reconciliation of inter-branch accounts of various banks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the outstanding entries as on March 31, 1993 of the various banks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) On the recommendation of the Working Group set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) a time bound programme has been prescribed for reconciliation work on inter-branch account entries.

(c) As on 30th September, 1994, there were 65.55 lakh entries outstanding in inter-branch reconciliation accounts of nationalised banks covering entries pertaining to the period upto 31st March, 1993.

Tax Collection

1667. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Direct Taxes has decided to launch a massive campaign in order to increase the number of tax-payers in the country and subsequently to increase the revenue collection;

(b) if so, the details of the programmes chalked out in this regard;

(c) whether any cell has been set up for Tax Deduction at source to tap the income concealed by private companies while disbursing salaries to their employees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) A massive campaign has been launched through the electronic and print media giving publicity to the presumptive tax scheme under section 115K of the Income-tax Act. Further, continued efforts have been made to detect new tax-payers through surveys under section 133B of the Income-tax Act. Also the provisions relating to the Tax Deduction at source are being strictly implemented.

(c) and (d) Special cells headed by Income-tax, Officers (Tax Deduction at Source) have been set up in the charge of each Commissioner of Income-tax and, at some places, in the ranges of Deputy Commissioner of Income-tax to effectively monitor and check the deduction of tax at source by private companies from payment of salaries to their employees.

[Translation]

Export of Minerals

1668. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO
GUNDEWAR:
SHRI PREM CHAND RAM:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the various minerals exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years;

(b) the steps being taken by the Government for the

development of mining industry and boost the export of minerals during the ensuing financial year; and

(c) the criteria fixed by the Government for the export of minerals.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) For the development of mining industry, several measures have been initiated; such as,

- dereservation of 13 minerals for mining by the private sector;
- foreign equity in the mining industry is encouraged;
- high equity holding for captive mines (e.g. coal for power plants, ores for processing plants) is permitted.
- For promoting exports of various products and commodities including minerals a number of schemes under the EXIM Policy are being implemented and Tax benefits and concessional Credit are provided. Promotion assistance is also provided through the Export Promotion Councils and Indian Missions abroad.

(c) The Criteria for export of minerals takes into consideration the need to ensure adequate availability of raw materials for domestic industry; encourage export of value-added products; conserve high grade and strategic ores; and undertake protection of the environment.

Qty: in lakh tonnes
Val: in Rs. crores

	1991-92		1992-93		1993-94		1994-95 (April-Dec.)	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
Iron Ore	295.13	1435.39	221.67	1104.09	288.31	1357.20	173.75	903.65
Mica	0.34	35.25	0.27	23.94	0.28	25.73	0.20	14.59
Coal	1.35	15.04	3.82	50.02	5.45	60.19	2.84	30.71
Processed Minerals	N.A.	360.94	N.A.	425.60	N.A.	611.62	N.A.	553.78
Other Ores & Minerals	N.A.	445.36	N.A.	533.08	N.A.	730.57	N.A.	644.03
TOTAL		2291.98		2136.73		2785.31		2146.76

N.A. = Not available (Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

[English]

Conference of IT Commissioners

1669. SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two day conference of Chief Commissioners and Directors General of Income-tax in Delhi was held recently;

(b) if so, the subjects discussed at the Conference and the conclusions reached at this meet;

(c) whether the Government have accepted their decisions;

(d) if so, whether these are likely to be implemented

by the Government from the next financial year onwards; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) The following subjects were broadly discussed during the Conference:—

- (i) Review of Action Plan with focus on Budget collection and recovery of tax arrears;
- (ii) Modernisation/Computerisation in the Income-tax Department;

- (iii) Widening the tax base;
- (iv) Administrative improvement in the working of the Income-tax Department;
- (v) Investigation and conduct of survey & search operations.

The decisions of the Conference are as under:—

- (i) Finalisation of the report on mid-term & long-term plan strategy;
- (ii) Constitution of a Research Cell;
- (iii) Improving the working environment of the field offices;
- (iv) Proper implementation of the pre-emptive purchase of property;
- (v) Allotment of new Permanent Account Numbers (PAN) to the existing assessees;
- (vi) Chalking out of training programme for the **officers & staff** of the Department; and
- (vii) **Statement** of an assessee during the course of a search will be recorded in the presence of his counsel, if the assessee so desires.

(c), (d) & (e): Most of the recommendations have been accepted by the Government and necessary steps have been taken for their speedy implementation.

Political Party Accounts

1670. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases of flouting the basic and essential statutory requirements of the Income-Tax Act by political parties have come to the notice of the Government during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any action in the matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c): The requisite information will be laid down on the Table of the House, shortly.

Foreign Tourists

1671. SHRI RAM KAPSE:
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT

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

(a) the number of foreign tourists who visited India during the last three years and details of such tourists who visited historical, religious and desert areas of Rajasthan separately;

(b) the revenue in terms of foreign exchange earned in the respective years;

(c) whether the foreign tourists have made any complaints/suggestions during and the last one year if so, the particulars thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government on their complaints/suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a). The number of foreign tourists who visited India during the last three years and those who visited Rajasthan are as given below:—

Year	Foreign Tourist India	Arrivals Rajasthan
1992	18,67,651	5,47,802
1993	17,64,830	5,40,738
1994	18,86,433	4,36,801

(b) The foreign exchange earnings from tourism during the last three years are provisionally estimated as given below:

Year	Estimated foreign exchange earning (Rs. Crores)
1991-92	4892
1992-93	6060
1993-94	6509

(c) and (d). The complaints received from foreign tourists generally relate to cheating and misbehaviours by shopkeepers, facilities at airports etc. Such complaints are invariably taken up with the concerned Central/State Government agencies and efforts are made to redress them as quickly as possible.

[Translation]

Production of Paper

1672. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether paper is being manufactured in India at a cost lower than expenditure incurred on its import;

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

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to meet the domestic requirement within the country with a view to reduce the import of paper; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b), Ministry of Industry (Department of Industrial Development) have stated that there is no control over the prices of printing paper by the Government and the prices are determined by the prevailing market forces and the cost of various inputs viz. raw material and chemicals etc.

(c) and (d). To ensure the fulfilment of domestic requirement paper units based on minimum 75% pulp derived from non-conventional raw material i.e. agricultural residues, bagasse, jute etc. are exempted from licensing subject to locational policy.

Stock Exchanges

1673. DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether all Stock Exchanges of the country follow uniform code at present;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to ensure that all Stock Exchange follow the uniform code?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c): The Stock Exchange in the country have been established at different points of time either as companies incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 or as associations of individuals and, therefore, there is no uniformity in rules relating to the constitution and management of Stock Exchanges. Dealings in securities on an Exchange, settlement of bargains, brokerage and contract notes and other matters relating to trading in securities are governed by the Bye-laws and Regulations of an Exchange. These are broadly similar for the various Exchanges.

(d) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has taken several measures for bringing about uniformity in the Rules, Bye-laws, and Regulations of Stock Exchanges and also in the operational matters of Stock Exchanges. These relate to management of Stock Exchanges, constitution of arbitration, defaults and disciplinary action committees, settlement systems in non-specified shares and norms for regulation of transactions between clients and stock brokers.

Payment of CCS to Public Sector Undertakings

1674. SHRI TARA SINGH:

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have cleared the payment of cash compensatory support to the entitled Public Sector Undertakings due to them before July 2, 1991;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government have received a number of requests from the Public Sector Undertakings for early clearance of their dues on account of CCS;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government have taken any decision in this regard;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) if not, the time by which the decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). According to available information, no Cash Compensatory Support claims of Public Sector

Undertakings for exports made upto 2nd July, 1991 are pending now.

- (d) to (h) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Development of Buddhists Spots

1675. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:

SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA:

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to develop the Buddhist spots with the assistance of Japan;
- (b) if so, the names of such spots and their locations in the country;
- (c) the financial assistance provided by Japan for their development during the last three years and whether the said assistance is under certain conditions; and
- (d) the names of the States where the Buddhist religious spots have been developed by the above financial assistance indicating the extent of development made?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) to (d). The Government signed a loan agreement with Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) Japan on 15th December, 1988 for infrastructural development along identified Buddhist travel circuits in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The places identified in Uttar Pradesh are Kushinagar, Samath, Piphrava and Shravasti. The places covered in Bihar are Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir and Vaishali.

Another loan agreement with OECF Japan was signed on 9th Jan., 1992 for conservation and tourism development for Ajanta & Ellora in Maharashtra.

The loan for U.P. and Bihar project is 9,244 Billion Japanese Yen (later revised to 7.76 Billion Yen) and for Ajanta & Ellora project is 3.75 billion Japanese Yen available @ interest 2.5% and 2.6% respectively. Both loans are repayable within 20 years with a grace period of 10 years.

OECF loan is not available in advance. The implementing agencies have to first incur expenditure from their own resources and then claim reimbursement from OECF. Rupees 42.76 crores approximately has been reimbursed by OECF for work done on various components such as upgradation and strengthening of National and State Highways, landscaping around monuments, setting up of wayside amenities and augmentation of electricity and water supply in U.P. and Bihar. No reimbursement has been made for Ajanta & Ellora projects.

Financial Assistance to Gujarat for Tourism

1676. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

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

(a) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government for the development of tourism in Gujarat during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) the details of those projects/historical places for which this assistance has been provided;

(c) the names of the places out of the above mentioned ones which are situated in the backward areas of the State;

(d) the details of the proposals pending with the Union Government for sanction of financial assistance; and

(e) the steps the Government propose to take to decide the pending proposals?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) and (b). The Central Department of Tourism sanctioned seven projects/schemes amounting to Rs. 65.76 lakhs for development of tourism in the State of Gujarat during 1993-94. During 1994-95, three schemes amounting to Rs. 21.19 lakhs have been sanctioned. The details of the projects sanctioned with amount and location are given as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of the project/Scheme	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1993-94		
1.	Tourist Complex at Nalsarovar	19.68
2.	Cafeteria at Porbandar	14.60
3.	Floodlighting of Somnath Temple	17.46
4.	Two units of spirit type land sailing yacht	4.48
5.	Navratri Festival	1.85
6.	Tarnetar Fair	2.69
7.	Publicity support	5.00
1994-95		
1.	Tourist lodge at Kuda, dist. Bhavnagar	14.50
2.	Publicity for the Royal Orient Train	5.00
3.	Tarnetar Fair	1.69

(c) The places Nalsarovar and Tarnetar are located in the backward areas of Gujarat State and Somnath is a historical place with religious importance. Porbandar is a historical place.

(d) and (e): The incomplete proposals were referred back to the State Government.

Credit to cooperative spinning mills

1677. SHRI DHARAMANNA MONDAYA SADUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sought the permission of the Reserve Bank of India to obtain a credit of 300 million dollar from USA for new cooperative spinning mills being set up in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Reserve Bank of India thereon?

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

(a) The Reserve Bank of India has reported that it has not received any such proposal from Government of Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Import of Processed Food and Toiletory by Private Airlines

1678. SHRI ASTBUHA PRASAD SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private airlines have requested the Government to allow them free import of processed food and toiletry items made abroad for use on their flights;

(b) whether any agreement has been reached to this effect;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the food items served on the Air India flights are imported and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) Airlines are free to import food and other items subject to normal import policy of the Government. Air India uplifts some food and other items from the stations of departure for operational and commercial reasons.

[English]

Modernisation of low capacity textile mills

1679. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

SHRI N.J. RATHVA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the Government of Gujarat for modernisation of low capacity textile mills in the State during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY): (a) to (c) As per information furnished by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), no proposal has been received by IDBI from State Govt. of Gujarat for modernisation of low capacity textile mills in the State.

[Translation]

Development of Bateshwar as tourist centre

1680. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to declare Bateshwar, a famous pilgrim place near Agra a tourist centre, allocation for the development of which has already been made by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Declaration and development of tourist centres is primarily the responsibility of the State Govts. However, the Department of Tourism, Govt. of India extends financial assistance to the State Govts. on receipt of specific proposals for development of tourism infrastructure based on merits, availability of funds and inter-se-priorities. The Department of Tourism has sanctioned two projects (i) Construction of a tourist lodge and (ii) development of ghats at Bateshwar during the year

1993-94 at an estimated cost of Rs. 13.59 lakhs and Rs. 20.00 lakhs respectively. Amounts of 3.00 lakhs and 10.00 lakhs were actually released for construction of the lodge and development of ghats respectively. The execution of the project is with the State Government.

Ban on Export of meat, beef and pork

1681. SHRI BARE LAL JATAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of beef, pork and cows and buffaloes meat exported, country-wise, during each of the last three years alongwith the target fixed for 1994-95 and the regions in India from where the export is made;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to ban the export of meat in general and beef and pork in particular;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No specific target for export of meat has been fixed by the Government for 1994-95. As per the Export-Import Policy, the export of beef is prohibited. The total exports during the last 3 years are as under:—

Quantity: in Tons
Value: in Rs. Lakhs

	1991-92		1992-93		1993-94	
	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.
Meat of Buffaloes	83869	19450.31	82084	21564.01	101668	28076.46
Pork	—	—	.06	.95	.58	13.11

Country-wise details of export of pork and buffalo meat both quantity and value during the last three years are available in 'Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India' (Annual Numbers) published by the D.G.C.I&S, Calcutta. Copies of these publications are available in the Parliament Library. Region-wise data for export of meat is not maintained.

(b) to (d) Review of the negative list of export & import under Exim Policy is a continuous process. Presently, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to ban the export of meat in general and pork in particular.

[English]

International Airport at Devanahalli

1682. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a new International Airport near Devanahalli, Karnataka;

(b) if so, the extent of land required for this purpose and whether the Government have acquired the same;

(c) whether the Government are aware that IAF authorities have opposed the construction on the ground that it may pose a serious safety hazard, to IAF base at Yelahanka; and

(d) if so, the decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Government of India has given its no objection to the State Government of Karnataka for construction of airport of international standards near Devanahalli (Bangalore).

(b) An area of land measuring 2500 acres is required for this purpose. The State Government of Karnataka is

taking action to acquire the land.

(c) and (d) The matter has been sorted out in consultation with Indian Air Force. The air space management will be jointly operated/managed by the civil and defence personnel.

Working of U.T.I.

1683. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of different schemes of U.T.I. currently under operation;

(b) whether any study has been conducted on the working of the U.T.I.;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof with special reference to its investment programme; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the working of the U.T.I. and to make its schemes more attractive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
(a) The details of different schemes of U.T.I. currently under operation are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Government has not conducted any study on the working of the UTI. However a Social Audit Committee was constituted by the UTI to go into the working of the Trust.

(c) The Committee, while commending the performance of UTI in the areas of saving mobilisation, fund management, cost efficiency, institution building, corporate finance and product innovation has made specific recommendation regarding UTI's management structure, improvement of investor service, sales force management and investment management. Specifically on investment management, the committee has observed that the final consideration of UTI should be investor protection.

(d) UTI is an autonomous organisation, the functioning of which is governed by the UTI Act, 1963. Government do not feel it necessary to regulate the functioning of UTI.

STATEMENT

Scheme in Operation

Open-ended Schemes	Date of Introduction	Date of Termination
1. Unit Scheme, 1964	July 1, 1964	
(a) Re-investment Plan, 1966	July 1, 1966	
(b) Children's Gift Plan, 1970	July 1, 1970	
2. Unit Scheme, 1971	Oct 1, 1971	
3. Unit Scheme for Charitable & Religious Trusts and Registered Societies, 1981	Oct 1, 1981	
4. Capital Gains Unit Scheme, 1983	Dec 1, 1983	Sept, 1993
5. Children's Gift Growth Fund Unit Scheme, 1986	April 14, 1986	
6. Omni Plan 1991	Aug. 16, 1991	
7. Housing Unit Scheme, 1992	June 25, 1992	June, 1994
8. Rajlakshmi Unit Scheme, 1992*	Oct 2, 1992	
9. Bhopal Gas Victim Monthly Income Plan, 1993	Jan 25, 1993	
10. Institutional Investors Special Unit Fund Scheme, 1993.**	March 1, 1993	
11. Senior Citizen's Unit Plan, 1993	May 3, 1993	
12. Children's College & Career Fund, 1993	July 12, 1993	
13. Grihalakshmi Unit Plan, 1994	Aug. 6, 1994	
14. Retirement Benefit Plan, 1994	Dec 26, 1994	
15. Unit Scheme, 1995	Jan 2, 1995	

* Sales terminated during October 30, 1993 to June 30, 1994

** Sales suspended temporarily from October 30, 1993

Closed-ended Schemes Date of introduction in operation upto (Period)
MONTHLY INCOME UNIT SCHEMES (MIS POOL) & MISB
Monthly Income Unit Scheme
with Bonus 1993 (MISE-93) April 5, 1993 July 1998.

MONTHLY INCOME UNIT PLAN (MIUP)

1. Monthly Income Unit Plan with Bonus — 1993	September 16, 1993	October 1998
2. Monthly Income Unit Plan — 1994	January 3, 1994	February 1998
3. Monthly Income Unit Plan — 1994 (ii)	May 23, 1994	June 1998
4. Monthly Income Unit Plan — 1994 (iii)	November 10, 1994	December 1999

**7 YEAR MONTHLY INCOME SCHEMES
(MISG — 90 — POOL)**

1.	New 7 year Monthly Income Unit Scheme with yearly Bonus & Growth, 1990	April 1, 1990	April/May/June, 1997
2.	7 year Monthly Income Unit Scheme with Bonus & Growth (ii) 1990	November 1, 1990	Nov/Dec./Jan, 1998
3.	7 year Monthly Income Unit Scheme with Bonuses & Growth, 1991	April 1, 1991	June, 1998

**GROWING INCOME UNIT SCHEMES
(GIUS POOL)**

1.	Growing Income Unit Scheme 1989 (ii)	November 1, 1989	April/May, 1995
2.	Growing Income Unit Scheme 1990	January 1, 1990	June, 1995

DEFERRED INCOME UNIT SCHEME

1.	Deferred Income Unit Scheme 1990, (a) 5 year Option (b) 7 year Option	August 20, 1990	Aug/Sept, 1995 Aug/Sept, 1997
2.	Deferred Income Unit Scheme 1991	August 1, 1991	August, 1996
3.	Deferred Income Unit Scheme 1992	August 10, 1992	August, 1997
4.	Deferred Income Unit Plan—1993	August 3, 1993	Sept., 1998

GROWING MONTHLY INCOME UNIT SCHEMES (GMIS—POOL & GMIS —B—POOL)

1.	Growing Monthly Income Unit Scheme, 1991	Oct 1, 1991	Nov. 1996
2.	Growing Monthly Income Unit Scheme, 1992	Feb 3, 1992	March, 1997
3.	Growing Monthly Income Unit Scheme, 1992—II	April 16, 1992	June, 1997
4.	Growing Monthly Income Unit Scheme with Bonus, 1992	Sept 7, 1992	Oct, 1997
5.	Growing Monthly Income Unit Scheme with Bonus, 1992-II	Dec 16, 1992	Jan, 1998

GROWTH SCHEMES

1.	Mutual Fund (Subsidiary) Unit Scheme, 1986 (Mastershare)	Sept 19, 1986	Oct, 2003
2.	Unit Growth Scheme, 2000	Sept 1, 1990	Dec, 2000
3.	Master Equity Plan, 1991	Feb 15, 1991	March, 2001
4.	Capital Growth Unit Scheme 1991 (Mastergain)	April 15, 1991	June, 1998
5.	Unit Growth Scheme, 5000	Sept 1, 1991	Dec, 2001
6.	Mastershare Plus Unit Scheme Scheme, 1991 (Master Plus)	Dec 9, 1991	Dec, 1998
7.	Master Equity Plan, 1992	Jan 1, 1992	March, 2002
8.	Capital Growth Unit Scheme 1992 (Mastergain)	April 20, 1992	July, 1999
9.	Unit Scheme, 1992	Sept 2, 1992	@
10.	Master Equity Plan, 1993	Jan 15, 1993	March, 2003
11.	Mastergrowth, 1993	Jan 18, 1993	April, 2003
12.	Grandmaster, 1993	April 29, 1993	July, 2000
13.	Master equity Plan, 1994	Dec 27, 1993	April, 2004
14.	Master Equity Plan, 1995	Dec 26, 1994	April, 2005

INCOME CUM GROWTH SCHEMES

1.	Growing Corpus Growing Income Plan, 1994	April 2, 1994	June, 2004
----	--	---------------	------------

OFF-SHORE FUNDS

1.	India Fund Unit Scheme, 1986	July, 1986
2.	India Growth Fund Unit Scheme, 1988	August, 1988

VENTURE CAPITAL

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Venture Capital Unit Scheme, 1989 | March 28, 1989 |
| 2. Venture Capital Unit Scheme—II, 1990 | March 29, 1990 |
| 3. Venture Capital Unit Scheme—III, 1991 | Oct 29, 1991 |

@ — Not specified

Air Traffic on New Delhi-Hyderabad Route

1684. SHRI YELLIAH NANDI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that passengers on Delhi-Hyderabad air route are facing a lot of difficulties due to heavy traffic; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to reduce traffic congestion on this route?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) and (b) to augment the capacity on Delhi-Hyderabad route for the period 25th Feb., 1995 to 31st March 1995 service operated by A-320 aircraft has been replaced by A-300 aircraft: Indian Airlines presently operates two flights daily on the route with A-300 aircraft.

Wages Settlement of Bank Employees

1685. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government and Bank Employees Association have signed any wage settlement recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of wage increase effected to the bank employees all over the country;

(d) the percentage of beneficiaries as a result thereof; and

(e) the total amount of additional expenditure involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) Indian Banks Association has reported that it has signed Vith Bipartite Settlement with the bank employees' unions on 14.2.1995. The salient features of the Settlement are given in the enclosed statement

(c) to (e) The wage revision for the workmen employees will have incremental impact of 10.5% on the existing wage bill. The cost in terms of the quantum would be approximately Rs. 388 crores per annum. This benefit is available to all the award staff employees in the public sector banks. This settlement covers only the award staff and not the officers.

STATEMENT

Salient Features of Sixth Bipartite Settlement

Scales of Pay**Clerks:**

1750-100/2-1950-145/4-2530-195/4-3310
-215/3-3955-230/4-4875-395/1-5270-230/1-5500

Subordinate Staff:

1600-40/1-1640-50/1-1690-60/4-1930-70/
4-2210-80/3-2450-90/3-2720-100/3-3020

Dearness Allowance

Dearness Allowance payable for 4 points rise or fall over 1148 points

Upto Rs. 4800=0.35% plus

Above Rs. 4800=0.29% plus

Upto Rs. 7700

Above Rs. 7700=0.17%

Provident Fund

Provident Fund on proposed basic pay @ 10%

City Compensatory Allowance

Area		Rate	Amount
Higher		4.5%	Min. 100
Centres	clerks		Max. 200
	Sub-staff	4.5%	Max. 125
Lower		3.5%	Min. 75
Centres	Clerks		Max. 150
	Sub-staff	3.5%	Max. 75

**House Rent Allowances
(Clerks and Sub-staff)**

Area	Rate
Special/Semi-Special Places	12%
2 Lakhs & above	10.5%
10, 000 to 2 lakhs	9.5%
Below 10,000	8.5%

Medical Aid (Annual)

Existing ceiling raised by Rs. 370/- p.a. per employee. The proposed ceiling of annual medical will be as under:—

(i) Service upto 5 years Rs. 870/- p.a.

(ii) Service above 5 years Rs. 1070/- p.a.

Conveyance Allowance

Rs. 100/- p.m. to clerical and subordinate staff

Special Allowance

Existing Special Allowance enhanced by 20% DA payable on special allowances.

SOME IMPORTANT MANAGEMENT ISSUES

1. Functions of special allowance carrying posts have been substantially enhanced—Monetary limits for handling independently transactions involving cash/cheques, instruments, etc. more than doubled in most cases.
2. Statement of the unions exhorting members for all out efforts for better customer service.
3. Resorting to restrictive practices as also misbehaviour towards customers to be deemed as misconduct attracting disciplinary action.
4. Contesting elections without explicit written permission, to be deemed as gross misconduct.
5. Misbehaviour towards customers shall tantamount to gross misconduct attracting disciplinary action.

Loans for Ceramic Tiles Project In Gujarat

1686. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent any request to the Union Government for sanctioning long term loans for Ceramic Tiles Project proposed to be set up in that State; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in regard thereto?

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

[Translation]

Development of Airport at Jalgaon

1687. DR. GUNVANT RAMBHAU SARODE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether an airport has been constructed by the State Government at Jalgaon;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to provide assistance to the State Government for further development and expansion of this airport; and

(c) if so, the details of the proposed assistance and the expenditure likely to be incurred for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c), Jalgaon airport belongs to the State Government of Maharashtra. Due to lack of demand from airline operators, the National Airports Authority has no plan to develop this airport.

[English]

Strategic Business Units of SBI for Larger Customers

1688. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India is establishing strategic business units of its larger customers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which these units are likely to help the larger customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). State Bank of India (SBI) have reported that they propose to establish strategic business units for handling specialised businesses like leasing and corporate banking. Such units are intended to cater to large customers both in the private and public sectors requiring large leasing finance facilities and other corporate banking services.

Protection of Investors

1689. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the efficiency and functioning of the capital market, to promote import growth and for providing adequate protection to investors;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that PSUs after disinvestment make inordinate delay in transferring and returning the PSU share certificates to the investors; and

(c) if so, the action being taken to prevent such delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has been established with statutory powers and functions for regulating the securities market promoting its development, and protecting the interests of investors. Keeping in view these objectives, and to impart growth and efficiency to the capital market, several measures have been taken by SEBI. These include the restructuring of the Governing bodies of Stock Exchanges with stock-broker-Directors and outsiders on a fifty-fifty basis, inspection of books and other documents of various intermediaries in the stock market such as Stock Exchanges and stock-brokers, prescription of capital adequacy norms for stock-brokers, prescription of norms for regulation of transactions in securities between clients and stock-brokers, issue of guidelines for disclosure and investor protection for compliance by issuers of capital in the primary market, and vetting of offer documents of companies before raising of capital.

(b) & (c) Some cases have come to the notice of Government of delays in transferring shares and Government have advised the PSUs concerned about the need for transferring shares as quickly as possible.

Jute Purchasing Centres

1690. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the production of jute in the country during the last three years alongwith the target set for 1994-95; and

(b) the details of purchasing centres of JCI likely to be set up in the country in near future, statewide?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY):

(a)

Year (July/ June)	Production of raw jute (in lakh bales of 180 kgs.)	Target
1992-93	89.89	—
1993-94	84.81	—
1994-95(Prov)	89.05	93.00

(Source: Jute Commissioner's office)

(b) JCI do not have any plan for opening any new purchase centres.

Saving Bank Accounts

1691. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nationalised banks in the country have made an increase in the amount of minimum deposits in their saving bank accounts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this decision of nationalised banks has badly hit the small customers;

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

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

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

(a) to (e). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have not issued any directives/instructions of commercial banks with regard to minimum balance in savings bank/current accounts. Such stipulations are made by individual banks taking into account the cost of servicing such accounts, etc. RBI have further reported that Indian Banks' Association have advised its member banks that each bank should fix the amount of minimum balance in savings bank/current accounts, as considered appropriate.

Keeping this in view RBI have not considered it desirable/appropriate to intervene in the matter.

Held up Stock of Encyclopaedia Britannica

1692. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the stocks of 1995 edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica have been held up at Bombay dock for over six months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the time by which the stock is likely to be released?

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

(a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise. However, a consignment of Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1994 edition, which has been found to contain incorrect depictions of the external boundaries of India has not been allowed entry since import of such books into India is prohibited under the provisions of the Notification No. 19 Customs, dated 6th March, 1976.

Import of Caustic Soda/Flakes/Solids/Lye/Soda Ash

1693. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Soda Ash/Caustic Soda/Flakes/Solids/Lye are being imported into the country under the value based advance licensing scheme; and

(b) if so, the total quantity imported under duty free and with payment of duty, separately during each of the last three years with its C.I.F. rate per M.T.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Soda Ash/Caustic Soda/Flakes/Solids/Lye are allowed for import under Value Based Advance Licensing Scheme for export of various Chemical and Allied Products where input output and value addition norms are standardised and notified.

(b) Details of itemwise imports under Duty Exemption Scheme and on payment of duty are not maintained separately. However, the total quantities and values of imports of these items during last 3 years are as follows:

(Quantity: in MT)
Value: in Rs. Crores

Item	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95 (April- Sept.94)		Average CIF value per MT for 3 years Rs./MT
	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.	
Soda Ash	2001	0.92	5027	2.46	400	0.24	4876
Caustic							
Soda Lye	61005	30.53	110634	44.22	22637	5.89	4151

Item	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95 (April-Sept. 94)		(Quantity: in MT) (Value: in Rs. Crores)
	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.	Average CIF value per MT for 3 years Rs./MT
Caustic Soda Flakes	923	1.30	240	0.04	603	0.41	9904
Caustic Soda other than flakes	2429	2.83	6407	2.52	11059	3.65	4528

[Translation]

Emigration

1694. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the news-item appeared in the 'Hindustan' (Hindi) dated January 20, 1995 under captioned 'Pachees Bhartiya Yatri Singapore Se Jabran Bharat Vapas Bheje Gaye';

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

(c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome of the inquiry, and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) According to the available information, 25 persons were sent by some Recruiting Agents to Singapore by Russian Aeroflot Flight No. SU 557 leaving New Delhi on 16.1.1995. On reaching Singapore these persons were deported by Aeroflot Flight No. SU 560 reaching New Delhi on 19.1.1995, as they were stated to be travelling on forged documents. An FIR (First Information Report) was lodged with police authorities at Indira Gandhi International Airport in this regard by one of Deported workers. After investigations, the police authorities arrested 4 persons allegedly involved in this case. One main accused was reported to be absconding. It was also found that the Emigration Check Not Required (ECNR) endorsement was obtained in respect of 23 of these workers by M/s Royal Agency, Sheikh Sarai, New Delhi by submitting false affidavit. The Government has refused to renew the validity of the Registration Certificate of this Recruiting Agent, which has already expired.

Export of Tobacco

1695. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of tobacco exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years; country-wise;

(b) whether the Government have fixed any target for the export of tobacco during 1995-96;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Total quantity of tobacco and tobacco products exported and foreign exchange earned during the last three years are as follows:

year	Quantity exported (Tons)	Value (Rs. crores)
1991-92	84245.08	377.03
1992-93	88252.45	474.04
1993-94	1,05,019.59	460.96

(Source: DGCIS)

The country-wise details of such exports for the last three years are available in the regular monthly publication of the Foreign Trade Statistics of India (Principal Commodities & Countries), copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(b) & (c). No target has been fixed for the export of tobacco during 1995-96.

(d) Efforts made of boost exports of tobacco include, inter-alia, reorientation of production of tobacco to meet changing international needs, enhancement of quality and productivity levels, monitoring and strict control of pesticide residues, aligning grading to international grading standards and permitting imports for product development.

Export of Carpets

1696. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) the targets fixed for the export of carpets during the last three years and the extent to which it has been achieved;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned through the export of carpet during the said period;

(c) the target fixed for 1995-96; and

(d) the steps taken to boost the export of carpets?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) (a) and (b) The targets fixed for the export of carpets during the last three years and the extent to which it has been achieved and the amount of foreign exchange earned are as under:—

Sl. No.	Year	Targets		Achievements	
		Rs. in Crores	Million US \$	Rs. in Crores	Million US \$
1.	1992-93	967.00	345.00	1043.19	365.39
2.	1993-94	1260.00	400.00	1390.00	443.18
3.	1994-95	1570.00	500.00	1445.10	460.73

(April '94 to Jan' 95)
(provisional)

(c) Rs.1950.00 Crores. (Million US \$ 622)

(d) The steps taken to boost the export of carpets include organisation of buyer-seller meets, sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams abroad, participation in international fairs and exhibitions, overseas publicity and publication of catalogues, conducting of workshop and seminars and organisation of Indian Carpet Trade Fair annually.

[English]

Interest rates on deposits

1697. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nationalised banks during last few months have been frequently changing the interest rates on deposits;

(b) if so, the reasons for not keeping the long term plans in view; and

(c) the total amount received under short term deposits during last six months?

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

(a) and (b). As a step towards rationalisation of deposit rates, effective 22-4-1992, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have prescribed a maximum deposit rate for maturity of 46 days to 3 years and above. The banks are free to fix various maturities and interest rates within the prescribed maximum rate taking into account factors such as the cost and return on funds, the inter-bank borrowings/lending status of individual bank, their perception of the future course of inflation and real rate of interest etc. With a view to evolving a more stable asset liability balance, and to ensure that deposit rate remain attractive, effective February 10, 1995 the maximum term deposit rate has been increase from "not exceeding 10.0 per cent per annum" to "not exceeding 11.0 per cent per annum". Since the banks have been given freedom to fix their own interest rate for different maturities within the maximum rate prescribed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), they are free to make changes in deposit rates as decided by them to attract the depositors.

(c) Accretion to aggregate deposits of scheduled commercial banks during the past six months, i.e. between September 2, 1994 and March 3, 1995 was Rs. 25,727 crores (7.6 per cent) as compared with Rs. 25,324 crores (8.6 per cent) during the corresponding period of 1993-94.

Mexico Syndrom

1698. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Institutional Investors are selling Government bonds and other stocks;

(b) if so, whether a Mexico type economic situation is being experienced in the country; and

(c) if not, the precautionary steps being taken to avert

such a situation and to enthruse Foreign Institutional Investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) have not hitherto invested in Government Bonds or other money market instruments.

(b) and (c). There are several differences in macro-economic fundamentals between the two countries. Mexico's current account deficit to GDP ratio was nearly 8% as against 0.6% for India in the current year. Further, the portfolio investment to gross reserve ratio was as high as 110% for Mexico for 1993 while it was only 18% for India, for end March 1994. The low ratio for India indicates that any eventuality of outflows of portfolio investments would not amount a substantial depletion of reserves that can pose a Mexican type threat to the economy. Ceilings have been prescribed for individual/collective investments by FIIs in the paid up capital of an Indian company and an individual FII's exposure to debt instruments is also restricted to 30% of its total investment in India. The initiatives taken by the Government towards capital market reforms as part of the liberalisation process are intended to create a favourable environment to investors both domestic and foreign.

Recovery of Loans from State Government

1699. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan assistance given to the States during the last three year, State-wise;

(b) the total loan to be recovered from each State at present; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to recover the loans from the State Governments?

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

(a) and (b). A statement indicating the amount of loan assistance given by this Ministry to States during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 and the loans outstanding against the State Governments as on 31.3.1994 is enclosed. The amounts of loans outstanding against the State Governments as at the end of the current financial year can be known only after the year is over.

(c) The amounts of loan assistance are released to the State Governments on certain terms and conditions relating to rate of interest and the repayment period. During any particular year, instalment of repayment of principal as well as interest due on the loan are recoverable. The State Governments do not in general default in making the payment on account of repayment of principal or interest. In very rare cases, the amounts due have been adjusted against non-statutory devolutions (Plan assistance) to the concerned State from the Centre.

Statement

Amount of Loan assistance given by the Ministry of Finance to the States during the last, three years and amount of loans outstanding as on 31.3.1994.

(Rs. in Crores)

S T A T E S	Amount of Loan assistance given to States during			Loan out- standing as on
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	
1	2	3	4	5
1. Andhra Pradesh	872.39	977.10	1472.50	6979.66
2. Arunachal Pradesh	21.79	26.44	26.01	141.35
3. Assam	126.48	173.22	194.86	3115.73
4. Bihar	789.73	671.46	799.83	7120.64
5. Goa	48.88	50.73	35.64	679.49
6. Gujarat	1072.52	769.19	764.06	6958.12
7. Haryana	250.31	237.33	297.12	2190.72
8. Himachal Pradesh	98.17	109.10	139.18	978.10
9. Jammu & Kashmir	110.97	121.78	160.21	2467.06
10. Karnataka	500.68	639.51	666.75	4284.60
11. Kerala	365.11	389.36	507.29	3052.74
12. Madhya Pradesh	554.35	484.76	565.32	4625.57
13. Maharashtra	1492.18	1176.89	1476.27	10935.35
14. Manipur	13.15	12.58	20.09	161.49
15. Meghalaya	19.01	19.13	26.74	180.00
16. Mizoram	12.66	12.77	16.24	94.28
17. Nagaland	32.38	18.88	27.31	192.96
18. Orissa	358.13	409.54	425.74	3266.49
19. Punjab	952.40	922.84	1335.80	8393.14
20. Rajasthan	506.74	554.09	631.07	4605.32
21. Sikkim	9.79	11.07	10.99	94.04
22. Tamil Nadu	825.06	945.50	1059.54	5430.61
23. Tripura	33.39	34.40	29.53	282.56
24. Uttar Pradesh	2054.76	1913.12	1725.41	14334.45
25. West Bengal	828.22	792.54	1143.10	7860.42
Total	11951.25	11473.33	13556.60	98424.89

All India Syndicate Bank SC/ST Employees Association

1700. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Syndicate Bank SC/ST Employees's Welfare Association (Regd.) has served a notice for hunger strike on March 20 and 21, 1995 at the Syndicate Bank, Head Office, Manipal; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government/bank authorities to redress the grievances of SC/ST employees?

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

(b) Syndicate Bank has reported that the latest developments and the action taken by the bank various issues raised by the Association have been intimated by the Chief Liaison Officer for Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Bank to the General Secretary of the All India Syndicate Bank SC/ST Employees Welfare Association who had been advised by him to desist from the agitational approach.

[Translation]

Smuggling of narcotics, antiques and wild-life products

1701. SHRI BIBHU KUMARI DEVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the smuggling of narcotics, antiques and wild-life products out of India is on the increase;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected during the last one year; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to curb such smuggling?

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

[Translation]

Construction of New Airports

1702. SHRI SURYA NARAIN YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new airports in Bihar;

(b) if so, the names of the places where the Government propose to construct these airports; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). The National Airports Authority has no plan, at present, to set up new airports in Bihar.

[English]

Inflow of Tourists to H.P.

1703. PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been sharp increase in tourist inflow to Himachal Pradesh during the last few years;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Union Government to tackle the increase in tourist inflow to the State;

(c) whether additional infrastructure in the fields of communications including railways and hotel accommodation has been created to cope up with the increase in tourist inflow, especially the foreign tourists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) According to the information available from the State Government, the tourist inflow to Himachal Pradesh during the last three years was as given below:-

Year	Tourist arrivals to Himachal Pradesh (In Lakhs)
1992	15.39
1993	14.67
1994	17.73

(b) The development of infrastructural facilities for attracting more tourists to the State is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, financial assistance is provided by the Central Department of Tourism on the basis of specific proposals received from them for the creation of various facilities like tourist

complexes, way side amenities, tourist lodges, transport facilities etc. The Central financial assistance sanctioned for the development of tourism infrastructure in Himachal during the last three years are as given below:-

Year	Amount sanctioned (Rs. Lakhs)
1991-92	150.96
1992-93	111.94
1993-94	350.42

(c) and (d) In order to cope with the increase in tourist inflow particularly during summer months, the railways has augmented the capacity of some of the trains and increased the frequency of Delhi-Jammu-Tawi Express. All the important tourist destinations in the States are presently connected with STD and Fax facilities. There is also considerable increase in the availability of hotel accommodation in the State and a number of approved hotel projects are under implementation.

Non-Payment of Minimum Wages

1704. SHRIMATI GIRUJA DEVI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the news report appearing in 'Pioneer' dated March 6, 1995 regarding non-payment of statutory wages to the workers by the electronic goods manufacturers in Delhi; and

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

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

(b) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both Central and State governments are responsible for fixation, revision and enforcement of minimum wages in scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction. The Government of National Capital Territory Region of Delhi, which is the appropriate Government for fixation, revision and enforcement of minimum wages in industrial units manufacturing electronic goods in Delhi, had reported that the issues mentioned in the Press Report were under investigation and necessary action as provided under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 would be taken against defaulting employers.

Export of Coconut Oil

1705. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have banned the export of coconut oil in bulk; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir, As per Sl. No. 24(1) of Part-II of the Negative list of Exports,

vegetable oils, including coconut oil, in consumer packs above 5 kgs., is permitted for exports under licence.

(b) Does not arise.

Pending Cases

1706. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases of disputes relating to Central Excise, Customs and Income Tax pending in the various courts of law in the country;

(b) the number of cases in which stay orders have been issued by the courts and the steps taken by the Government to get those stay orders vacated;

(c) since when these cases are pending and the steps taken to get them finalised to recover the revenue of the Government locked up in those cases;

(d) whether the Government had appointed any committee to go into the matter and to suggest ways and means to overcome the increase in the litigation cases;

(e) if so, whether the committee had submitted any report thereon; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

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

(a) and (b) The number of cases relating to Central Excise, Customs and Income Tax pending in High Courts (H.Cs.) and the Supreme Court (S.C.) and the number of cases in which stay orders have been granted by the said courts are as under:

	Total No. of pending cases		No. of cases in which stay orders have been granted	
	S.C.	H.Cs.	S.C.	H.Cs.
(i) Central Excise (as on 31.12.94)	2710	4471	365	1616
(ii) Customs (as on 31.12.1994)	1627	7940	111	317
(iii) Income Tax (as on 30.9.94)	6398	48954	17	2873 (prov.)

(c) All possible efforts are made in consultation with the Ministry of Law to get the stay orders vacated. Information regarding the period of pendency is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

High Level Committee on Tea

1707. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a high level committee on tea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received the recommendations from the committee;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir. Government has not appointed any high level committee for giving recommendations on tea. However, a Core Committee on Tea has been functioning since 1993 for closer interaction with the Industry.

(b) to (e) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

Conversion of Hyderabad Airport Into International Airport

1708. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government to provide assistance for the conversion of the Hyderabad Airport into an international airport;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have agreed to the proposal sent by the Andhra Pradesh Government; and

(c) the total amount likely to be spent on the conversion?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Hyderabad airport belongs to the National Airports Authority (NAA). The airport is being brought to international standards at an estimated cost of Rs. 43.66 crores by NAA. Its declaration as the international airport will follow thereafter.

Procurement of Pashmeena Wool In J&K

1709. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wool Board run by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir procured only 2 kgs. of Pashmeena Wool this fiscal year against 13, 800 kgs. last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the shepherds of Jammu and Kashmir particularly in the region of Changthang or in the north upland valleys, are bartering their entire annual output of "Pashmeena Wool" with Chinese traders;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (e) The J&K State Sheep and Sheep Products Development Board procured 14 kgs. of Pashmeena Wool during the current financial year, while no pashmeena Wool was procured last year. One of the

reasons for procuring very less quantity of Pashmeena Wool was that the Board was having 2.5 tonnes of Pashmeena Wool in its stock, and it had to dispose of this stock during the year 1994-95 at a loss of Rs. 5 lakhs. The wool growers of Changthang region in J&K were also reluctant to sell Pashmeena Wool to the State Board at the prices fixed by it. Reportedly, the State Government is seized of the problem and have authorised the Board to procure Pashmeena Wool from the wool growers at reasonable prices.

Trade Deficit

1710. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the major items of export and import during April November, 1994 with corresponding percentage of increase or decrease in value as compared to 1993;

(b) the names of countries with which our trade deficit has increased as compared to the corresponding period of 1993; and

(c) the steps taken for promoting our exports to those countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Major product/product groups of exports which recorded increase during April-November, 1994 over April-November, 1993 are plantations (39.4%), marine products (44.5%), ores & minerals (11.9%) leather and manufactures (14.3%), gems & jewellery (10.5%) sports goods (62.7%), chemicals and related products (30.7%) engineering goods (8.3%), electronic goods (30.6%) project goods (43.3%) textiles (26.4%), handicrafts (28.2%) and petroleum products (3.5%). Major products/product groups which showed decline during this period, are agricultural & allied products (8.3%) and carpets (1.4%). During April-November, 1994 major products/product groups whose imports increased are edible oils (282.8%), metaliferrous ores and metal scrap (136.7%), non-ferrous metals (62.6%), iron & steel (61.5%) machinery (32.9%), project goods (28.6%) and raw material group (40.1%). However, there was a decline in imports of pearls, precious and semi precious stones (43.9%), and cereals and preparations (67.5%) during April-November 1994 compared to April-November 1993. The detailed information covering April-November 1994 and April-November 1993 is available in the brochure 'Foreign Trade Statistics of India (Principal commodities and countries)', November 1994, published by DGCI & S, Calcutta. Copies of the publication have been made available to Lok Sabha Library.

(b) Of the 10 major countries, namely, the USA, Japan, Federal Republic of Germany, the U.K, Hong Kong, UAE, Italy, Belgium, Russia and Singapore which among themselves account for nearly 64% of our exports and 47% of our imports during April-November 1994, the trade deficit has increased only in respect of Japan, FRG, UAE and Russia during April-November 1994 compared to April-November 1993. Country-wise details of exports and

imports on the basis of which trade deficit/surplus could be observed are available in the brochure 'Foreign Trade Statistics of India (Principal Commodities and Countries)', November 1994, published by DGCI & S, Calcutta copies of which are, as already indicated in part (a), available in the Lok Sabha Library.

(c) Export promotion is a continuous process and trade performance is under constant view, country specific and commodity specific measures are taken to boost exports in response to changes in the international and national economic situations.

Loans Under Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana in Kerala

1711. SHRI THAJIL JOHN ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) The number of entrepreneurs in Kerala provided with bank loans under Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana during 1993-94 and 1994-95; and

(b) the number of educated unemployed persons whose names had been recommended by the District Industrial Centre but have not been sanctioned loan so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the number of entrepreneurs who have been sanctioned loans by banks under the Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) during 1993-94 and 1994-95 (upto 31st January, 1995-latest available) are 1577 and 5741 respectively.

(b) As per information available with RBI, 8047 applications sponsored by the sponsoring agencies in Kerala under PMRY scheme were pending with banks, as on 31st January, 1995.

Internal Borrowing

1712. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of India's internal borrowing during the current financial year;

(b) the spheres in which the Government propose to utilise this borrowing; and

(c) the steps taken to lessen the burden of internal borrowing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The total internal borrowings including other liabilities during the current year is estimated at Rs. 57088 crore in RE 1994-95. The proposed borrowing is for meeting the resource gap on account of revenue deficit and partly towards expenditure on Capital account both under Plan and Non-Plan.

(c) Efforts are being made to contain the fiscal deficit through maximising revenues and limiting the expenditure to the budgeted level.

[Translation]

Seizure of Confiscated Items

1713. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of goods confiscated by the Government during each of the last three years and as on January, 31, 1995; and

(b) the details of the annual revenue earned by the Government by the sale/auction of these items, year-wise?

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

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

Rehabilitation Scheme of BIFR

1714. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick units whose management has been handed over by BIFR to the workers under Rehabilitation Scheme and the results thereof;

(b) the details of the projects for which rehabilitation proposals have been sought from the workers by BIFR;

(c) whether the Government propose to encourage such schemes submitted by the workers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that it has sanctioned revival schemes in respect of five sick industrial companies through Workers' Co-operative. Of these, one is under implementation; one is listed for review, in one case direction has been given to the operating agency to modify the scheme and progress is not satisfactory in two cases.

(b) to (e). BIFR has reported that it does not compile data on cases for which rehabilitation proposals have been sought from workers. However, proposals for revival of sick industrial companies through Workers' co-operative, whenever received, are given due consideration by BIFR.

Identification of sick Textile units for Sale

1715. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has identified 11 sick textile units for sale;

(b) if so, the details of such units and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts made so far to revive these units?

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

(a) to (c). The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that as per the

provisions of Section 20(4) of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA), BIFR can order sale of assets of a sick industrial company found fit for winding up and forward the sale proceeds to the High Court for distribution as per the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956. As on 28.2.1995, BIFR had ordered sale of assets under Section 20(4) of SICA in respect of the following six textile cases:

1. Mayurashi Cotton Mills Limited, West Bengal.
2. Shri Prithvi Cotton Mills Limited, Gujarat.
3. Gogte Textiles Limited, Karnataka.
4. Onemox Synthetic Textile (Pvt.) Limited, Gujarat.
5. Kapri International Private Limited, Uttar Pradesh.
6. Sanchem Processing Industries Limited, Haryana.

Conversion of Airports

1716. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJPATHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert Bhubaneshwar Airport into an International Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some other airports in the country are also proposed to be declared as international airports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). There is no proposal to convert Bhubaneshwar airport into an international airport.

(c) and (d). Hyderabad airport will be declared as International Airport after it is brought to international standards, for which the work is in progress.

[Translation]

Air Traffic in Rajasthan

1717. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to boost the construction of airports and air traffic in Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any action plan or have conducted any survey to set up new airports in the public or private sector to link more cities with air services and to make present air services comfortable and to increase their number;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the name of places selected for the purpose;

(d) whether any proposal from the State Government to set up new airports and to introduce new air routes is pending with the Union Government; and

(e) if so, by when the decision is likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The National Airports Authority is undertaking following works in Rajasthan:—

- upgradation of Jaipur Airport.
- extension of runway at Udaipur.
- extension of terminal building at Jodhpur airport.
- Jaisalmer Civil Enclave terminal has been modified.
- Kota Airport has been made operations for Dornier type of aircraft.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e). A request from the Government of Rajasthan for the construction of an airport at Ajmer was received. The State Government has been requested to acquire the land at the selected site of village Sardana and make it available to National Airports Authority, free of cost.

[English]

Purchase of Ornaments of Nizam

1718. SHRI SOBHANADRESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have taken a decision to purchase the precious ornaments of Nizam Nawab;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Nizam and his successors have to pay huge arrears of income tax and other taxes;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether deduction will be made for these dues to the Central and State Governments;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have acquired on 12th January, 1995, 173 items of jewellery belonging to erstwhile Nizam of Hyderabad in terms of the Orders of the Supreme Court dated 20th October, 1994 and 29th December, 1994. The Government have paid an amount of Rs. 180,37,33,959/- and interest thereon @ 6% from 27th July, 1994 to 10th January, 1995. The payment has been made to two Trusts namely H.E.H. Nizam's Jewellery Trust and H.E.H. Nizam Supplemental Trust as per the Orders of the Supreme Court mentioned above.

(c) and (d). The details of arrears outstanding as on 7.1.95 against the Nizam Group of cases are as under:—

- (i) Wealth-tax arrear demand along with interest in the case of HEH the Nizam's Jewellery Trust. Rs. 1308.98 lakhs
- (ii) Wealth-tax arrears in respect of various funds along with interest. Rs. 1028.66 lakhs
- (iii) Wealth-tax arrears in the case of HEH the Nizam's Supplemental Jewellery Trust along-with interest. Rs. 543.19 lakhs
- (iv) Arrears in the case of Prince Mukarram Jha. Rs. 301.00 lakhs

(e) and (f). No deduction from the purchase price payable by the Central Government in respect of the jewellery items has been made towards outstanding arrears.

However, out of the sale proceeds of the Jewellery received by the Trust, a sum of Rs. 15.45 crores was collected by the Income Tax Department and another sum of Rs. 15.05 crores put infixed deposit has been attached under Rule 26(1)(iii) of the Second Schedule of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

(g) No deductions from the purchase price was made as provisions of section 226(3) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 could not be invoked for recovering the tax arrears from the purchase amount payable by the Central Government.

Bank Defaulters

1719. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news-item captioned "Celebrities figure on bank defaulters' List" appearing in the 'Business Standard', New Delhi dated January 30, 1995;

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

(c) the details of the Reserve Bank of India's Corporate defaulters and the measures proposed to be taken in regard thereto?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has prepared a scheme to collect and disseminate information on defaulters and suit-filed accounts. As per the scheme, the banks and financial institutions are required to submit to RBI by the 15th April and October every year the details of the borrowal accounts which have been classified as doubtful, loss making and suit-filed with outstanding (both funded and non-funded) aggregating Rupees one crore and above. The information collected by RBI in the first stage has been forwarded to banks and financial institutions for making use of the same while considering, on merit, the request for new or additional credit limits by the defaulting borrowers and also by proprietors/partners/directors etc. named in the list, either in their own names or in the names of other units with which they are associated.

Setting up of Airport at Madalpura

1720. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new airport is proposed to be set up at Madaipura, Cannanore, Kerala in the near future;

(b) if so, whether any study has been made about the feasibility of setting up the airport there; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM

(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). The National Airports Authority has no plan to set up a new airport at Madaipura in district Cannanore (Kerala).

[Translation]

Import of Dung

1721. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of the dung imported during January 1, 1993 to February 28, 1995 indicating the import price and total value involved thereof, country-wise;

(b) the reasons for the import thereof;

(c) the names of the States and institutions to which it has been supplied;

(d) the quantity of the dung targetted to be imported during 1995 and 1996; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to curb the import of dung?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e). Under the Current Export and Import Policy, import of animal dung or animal excreta is not permitted except against an import licence. No licence has been granted so far for import of animal dung.

Expansion of Airport at Kheria (Agra)

1722. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand airport located at Kheria in Agra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). the airport at Kheria (Agra) belongs to the Indian air force. The National Airports Authority (NAA) maintains a civil enclave. NAA has plans to expand and modify the terminal building, extension of apron and construction of link taxi-way. The work of the building is likely to commence by June, 1995 and on extension of apron and construction of link taxi-way by September, 1995.

[English]

Board of Trade

1723. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a Board of Trade for the development in the field of international trade;

(b) if so, the details of terms and reference of the Board and its members thereof;

(c) whether the Board has formulated any policy in this regard;

(d) if so, the details there; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Board of Trade has been constituted for providing continuous dialogue with Trade and Industry in respect of major developments in the field of International Trade.

(b) The terms of reference of the Board of Trade are as under:—

(i) to advise the Government on Policy measures for preparation and implementation of both short and long term plans for increasing export in the list of emerging national and international economic scenario;

(ii) to review export performance of various sectors, identify constraints and suggest measures to be taken both by Government and industry/trade consistent with the need to maximise export earnings and restrict imports;

(iii) to examine the existing institutional framework for exports and suggest practical measures for re-organisation/streamlining it with a view to ensure coordinated and timely decision making;

(iv) to review the policy instruments, package of incentives and procedures for exports and suggest steps to rationalise and channel incentives to areas where they are most needed.

(c) to (e). The suggestions made by the Board of Trade are given due consideration while framing the trade policy of the country.

Pilots of IA and AI

1724. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experienced pilots and ground engineers of Indian Airlines and Air India are leaving or thinking to leave their jobs en masse recently;

(b) if so, the reasons for this exodus;

(c) whether they are not satisfied or they are attracted by better service conditions offered by private Air-taxi operating agencies;

(d) the amount Air India and Indian Airlines spend per pilot for their training; and

(e) the steps the Government propose to take to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). While Air India has not experienced any large scale exodus of its pilots/ground engineers, during the period 1992-94 a significant number of pilots and ground engineers of Indian Airlines have left the airline; no reasons have been given by these persons at the time of leaving the organisation.

(d) The approximate amount spent by Indian Airlines/Air India on training pilots varies from Rs. 4.6 lakhs for a B-737 co-pilot becoming an Airbus A 320 co-pilot to Rs. 15.3 lakhs for a Boeing 747-200 commander.

(e) The following steps have been taken to check exodus of pilots/ground engineers from Indian Airlines:—

(i) Private airlines/air taxi operators have been directed not to employ any employee of the national carriers without a 'No Objection Certificate' from the previous employer.

(ii) Notice period for resigning from the service of Indian Airlines has been increased to six months.

(iii) Bond amount for pilots has been increased.

(iv) Two settlements on Flight Duty Time Limitations Productivity linked payments have been signed with Indian Commercial Pilots Association.

(v) A productivity linked scheme is being formulated for engineers, for payment of additional emoluments, directly linked to output.

Export of Grapes from A.P.

1725. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had explored the potential of export of grapes from Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to encourage the farmers to produce grapes for export in various areas of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) There is no specific programme to encourage production of grapes for exports. However, there is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for increasing production of fruits (including grapes) both for domestic and export markets. Additionally, financial assistance is also provided for creating post-harvest infrastructure facilities, export market development, improved packaging, quality control and publicity.

[Translation]

Unemployed in Gujarat

1726. SHRI N.J. RATHVA Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employed post-graduates/degree holders/diploma holders registered with various employment exchanges in Gujarat, particularly in the tribal areas of the State as on January, 1995;

(b) the number of unemployed persons provided with employment through these employment exchanges during each of the last three years;

(c) the number of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes out of them; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for providing more employment opportunities in the State?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Number of job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, registered as post-graduates, degree holders and diploma holders (in engineering) on the live register of employment exchanges in Gujarat as on 31.12.1992 (latest

available) was 8.2, 66.4 and 7.7 thousands respectively. Information separately for tribal areas is not maintained.

(b) and (c) Total number of placements effected by the employment exchanges in Gujarat during the years 1992, 1993 and 1994 was 24.9, 28.1 and 25.3 thousands respectively.

Categorywise breakup is available upto 1993. The details were as under:—

(In thousands)

Year	Total	Scheduled Castes (included in total)	Scheduled Tribes (included in total)
1992	24.9	2.3	4.3
1993	28.1	2.1	4.4

(d) Employment in any State, and so in Gujarat, in general depends on the pace and pattern of development in the State, for which the State Government is responsible. The Union Government supplements the efforts of the State Government in the creation of employment opportunities through Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector special employment programmes of which important ones are the (i) Centrally Sponsored Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Scheme (JRY), Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), and (ii) The Central Sector Special Employment Scheme for self-employment of Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) and Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY).

Development of Silk Industry

1727. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRI N.J. RATHVA:

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the production of silk in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up any silk training centres in the country;

(c) if so, the location thereof; and

(d) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken to develop silk industry in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Statement-I indicating state-wise production of raw silk during the last 3 years (1991-92 to 1993-94) is attached.

(b) and (c) At present 19 Sericulture Training Institutes (including Sericulture Training Schools) of Central Silk Board (CSB) are functioning in the country. The VIII Plan proposals of the CSB inter-alia envisage setting up of two more such training centres in Assam and Meghalaya.

(d) The schemes for the development of sericulture

industry are primarily formulated and implemented by the concerned State Sericulture Departments. However, in order to supplement their efforts, the Central Silk Board extends necessary R&D, extension, training and infrastructural support for the development of sericulture industry through its country-wide net work of 340 units. Statement-II indicating state-wise break-up of the number of such units is attached.

Besides, the following sericulture projects are being implemented in the States indicated under each:—

1. World Bank/Swiss assisted National Sericulture Project:

Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

2. Indo-Swiss Mulberry Project:

Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

3. Purvanchal Sericulture Project:

Uttar Pradesh.

4. Project for Development of Nature Grown Tasar Cocoons:

Madhya Pradesh.

In addition, the Central Silk Board has drawn an action plan to intensify development of sericulture in North-Eastern States.

Statement-I

State-wise production of raw silk (in metric tonnes) during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94

State	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
Andhra Pradesh	2847	3140	2859
Assam	465	469	514
Arunachal Pradesh	5	6	7
Bihar	289	339	214
Gujarat	NEG.	1	NEG.
Himachal Pradesh	4	9	11
Haryana	NEG.	NEG.	NEG.
Jammu & Kashmir	27	23	15
Karnataka	5489	7285	8250
Kerala	1	NEG.	2
Madhya Pradesh	21	24	45
Maharashtra	6	4	8
Manipur	163	179	191
Mizoram	1	1	NEG.
Meghalaya	128	130	156
Nagaland	35	19	22
Orissa	74	76	83
Punjab	NEG.	NEG.	NEG.
Rajasthan	1	NEG.	NEG.
Sikkim	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	1188	1342	1099
Tripura	3	2	NEG.
Uttar Pradesh	21	21	19
West Bengal	995	1090	1038
Total:	11763	14168	14533

Statement-II

State-wise List of Institutions/Units Established by Central Silk Board in Different States

State	No. of Units
1. Karnataka	44
2. Andhra Pradesh	32
3. Tamil Nadu	20
4. West Bengal	38
5. Jammu & Kashmir	21
6. Kerala	10
7. Maharashtra	17
8. Gujarat	8
9. Madhya Pradesh	22
10. Orissa	20
11. Bihar	30
12. Rajasthan	6
13. Uttar Pradesh	20
14. Himachal Pradesh	4
15. Haryana	3
16. Punjab	2
17. Assam	25
18. Meghalaya	9
19. Manipur	3
20. Mizoram	1
21. Arunachal Pradesh	1
22. Tripura	1
23. Nagaland	2
24. Sikkim	1
Total:	340

[English]

DA of PSU Employees

1728. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of Public Sector Undertakings have demanded early resolution to the dearness allowance issue;

(b) whether these employees have threatened to go on strike as reported in the Economic Times dated January 21, 1995; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):
(a) to (c) The Government is aware of the news item under the caption "PSU strike threat" that appeared in the 'Economic Times' dated January 21 1995. The Government have already brought under implementation increase in Industrial Dearness Allowance rate from Rs. 1.65 to Rs. 2.00 per point rise in the All India consumer Price Index beyond 800 points, with effect from 1.1.89. A proposal for introducing slab system of Dearness Allowance to employees of the Central Public Sector Enterprises is under consideration.

Indo-Russian Joint Commission

1729. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the meeting of the Indo-Russian Joint Commission was held recently in Moscow to discuss various issues including the payment of Indian debt to Russia; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the meeting on each of the issues discussed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b)-The First Session of the Indo-Russia Joint Commission was held in Moscow on September 13-14, 1994. A large number of issues including those relating to payment of debt to Russia were discussed during the session. Some of the important decisions taken during the Session are summarised below:

(i) To take concrete measures towards hastening the conclusion of agreements and decisions in the spheres of trade, economic, scientific and technological cooperation reached during the Russian President's visit to India in January, 1993 and of the Indian Prime Minister to Russia in June-July, 1994.

(ii) To prepare specific proposals to double the volume of trade between the two countries in the near future;

(iii) To prepare in the shortest possible time, agreements on mutual protection of investments, air services and merchant shipping in order to continue improving the legal foundation of Indo-Russian Cooperation.

(iv) To set up two separate Working Groups on Information Technology and on Protection of Environment and Natural Resources in view of the vast scope for cooperation between the two countries in the fields of informatics and ecology.

(v) To set up a separate sub-group on transport under the aegis of the Working Group on Trade & Economic Cooperation to look into difficulties being faced in land, sea and air transport and to take specific initiatives in this regard; the group was also directed to work out the parameters for cooperation in the development and modernisation of the Novorossisk Port;

(vi) To work out a long term plan for 3 years for purchase of tea, tobacco, soyameal & pharmaceuticals using debt repayment funds;

(vii) To ensure transparent effective and predictable mechanisms in bilateral economic and commercial relations, including in the mechanism for utilisation of debt repayment funds;

(viii) To prepare proposals on possible projects of cooperation in the territories of India, Russia & third countries, with a view to utilising a part of the debt repayment funds.

(ix) To promote cultural ties between the two countries and to hold the Days of Russian culture in India and the Days of Indian culture in Russia.

Cooperative Banks

1730. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cooperative banks functioning in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi together with their financial status;

(b) the details of proposals received from these States for opening new cooperative banks; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Short Term Cooperative Credit Structure in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi together with their financial status is given in the STATEMENT-I

Long Term Cooperative Credit Structure in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar is unitary in nature with State Land Development Bank at the apex level functioning through their branches. The details of the State Land Development Banks (SLDBs) alongwith their financial status are indicated in Statement-II. There is no long term cooperative credit structure in Delhi.

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have Reported that no proposals from these States have been received by them for opening new cooperative banks.

Statement-I*Short Term Cooperative Credit Structure*

The State-wise position is given below:

Bihar

In Bihar the ST cooperative credit structure comprises 3 tiers viz. the Bihar State Cooperative bank at State Level, 34 DCCBs at district level and 7057 Primary Level cooperative credit societies (PACS) at village level. The financial status of DSCB, DCCDS and PACS is given below :

(Rs. in lakhs)

	(Position as on 31.3.1993)		
	B.S.C.B.	D.C.C.Bs.	P.A.C.S.
(i) Owned Funds	4926	10927	3479
(ii) Deposits	29521	27340	Not available
(iii) Borrowings	17334	34982	39930
(iv) Loans Outstanding	33003	37108	23517

Uttar Pradesh

The ST cooperative credit structure in the State of Uttar Pradesh comprises 3 tier viz. the Uttar Pradesh Cooperative Bank Ltd. (UPCB) at the State level, 60 DCCBs at the district level and 8599 primary level credit societies at the village level.

The financial status of UPCB, DCCBs and PACS is furnished below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

	(Position as on 31.3.1994)		
	U.P.C.B.	D.C.C.Bs.	P.A.C.S.
(i) Owned Funds	15376	24723	17562
(ii) Deposits	120863	186205	6219
(iii) Borrowings	251890	78099	75994
(iv) Loans Outstanding	135033	167810	122263

Delhi

The ST cooperative credit structure in the State of Delhi comprise two-tier, viz. The Delhi SCB at the State Level and 100 primary level cooperative credit societies at the village level. The financial status of DCB and affiliated societies is furnished below:

	(Rs. in lakhs)	
	D.S.C.B. (As on 31.3.93)	P.A.C.S. (As on 31.3.94)
(i) Owned Funds	197	18
(ii) Deposits	7843	3
(iii) Borrowings	468	187
(iv) Loans Outstanding	2414	202

Statement II*Long Term Cooperative Credit Structure*

The long term co-operative credit structure in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar is unitary in nature with State Land Development Bank at the apex level functioning through their branches. The position is given hereunder:—

	Uttar Pradesh	Bihar
State Land Development Bank (SLDB)	1	1
Branches	287	187

The financial status of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh SLDBs as on 30.3.1994 is as under:

	(Rs. in lakhs)	
	Uttar Pradesh	Bihar
(i) Share Capital	6824	3218
(ii) Reserves	23467	604
(iii) Deposits	29	1965
(iv) Borrowings	84958	18070
(v) Loans Outstanding	81723	14340

UNDP Assistance for Flower Production

1731. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether UNDP has agreed to assist a project aimed at significant expansion of India's cut-flower export sector based on improved production expertise and market knowledge;

(b) if so, whether any concrete proposals in this regard have been worked out; and

(c) the details of grants likely to be provided by the UNDP for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b), Yes, Sir. A Project titled "Promoting Export of Floriculture Products" is being implemented with the assistance of UNDP through Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for enhancing production and exports of cut flowers through improved production expertise and market knowledge. Some of the activities to be undertaken in this project include advising entrepreneurs on production and strategies for export of flowers; preparation of crop manuals and market survey reports; providing market information; holding of seminars and buyer-seller meets.

(c) The total UNDP assistance for this Project for three years 1994-95, 1995-96 And 1996-97 will be US\$ 6 lakhs in kind.

[Translation]

Loans Disbursed by Banks in Backward Areas

1732. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large population in the country and particularly rural people have not received the benefits of economic development so far;

(b) if so, the response thereof;

(c) the details of the loans given by the banks in backward area and the total amount of deposits received by these banks from these areas during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government have asked the banks to formulate a new policy for the development of rural areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a), (b), (d) & (e): Expansion and effective deployment of credit in the rural area and in the agricultural sector is necessary to cover large sections of the rural population and for development of economic activities. In addition, specific poverty alleviation and employment generation schemes have been already taken by the Government to channelise benefits to the rural population. In this context, Government of India, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have kept the flow of rural credit under constant review during the last two years. A number of steps have been taken to revamp the rural credit delivery system. The banks are required to advance at least 18 per cent of the net bank credit to the agriculture. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have advised all scheduled commercial banks to make every effort to achieve the stipulated target and sub-targets for lending to the priority sector. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have also urged the banks to draw up a special credit plans to finance innovative and high-tech agricultural projects with a view to achieving a distinct and marked improvement in the flow of credit to agriculture. A series of measures have been identified by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and NABARD to strengthen and revitalise the cooperative banks and the Regional Rural Banks for increasing of flow of rural credit. For timely and adequate credit for agricultural production, the banks have been advised to extend a flexible line of credit in the form of cash credit facility which would meet their composite credit requirements. To meet the increasing demand for seasonal agricultural operations, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had sanctioned to NABARD an increased limit comprising Rs. 4850 crores under the General Line of Credit-I and Rs. 750 crores under the General Line of Credit-II for the

year 1994-95. Recently, NABARD's share capital has also been increased from Rs. 120 crores to Rs. 330 crores. The programme for 1995-96 in this connection for rural areas has been announced in the Budget Speech by the Finance Minister.

(c) The details of loans given by the banks in the backward areas and the total amount of deposits received by these banks from these areas during the last 3 years will be compiled and submitted to the extent available.

[English]

Health Insurance

1733. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the existing health insurance policies in India and approximate number of families/persons covered by the schemes, presently;

(b) whether the Government propose to go in for a comprehensive health insurance plan to ensure better medicare to the salaried class;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (d) A number of Medical Insurance Policies are already being marketed by the four subsidiaries of the General Insurance Corporation of India viz. (i) National Insurance Co. Ltd., (ii) New India Assurance Co. Ltd., (iii) Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd., and (iv) United India Insurance Co. Ltd. in the country and anyone, including salaried class, can purchase any of these policies from these insurance companies. The details of these policies are as under:

(1) *Individual Medi-claim Policy*: The Policy Covers reimbursement of Hospitalisation and/or Domiciliary Hospitalisation expenses only for illnesses/disease contracted or injury sustained by the insured persons. The policy cover all persons including children from 3 months onwards provided the parents of the concerned children are also covered and is also available to persons above the age of 70 years with reduced limits of liability.

(ii) *Group Medi-claim Policy*: The benefits offered under this policy are basically similar to those available under the Individual Medi-claim Policy. The Scheme provides for discounts depending on the size of the group. There is also provision for Bonus/Malus depending on the claims experience.

(iii) *Group Health Insurance Scheme*: In addition to Group Medi-claim Policy, exclusive tailor-made policies could also be offered to corporate bodies who take out Health Insurance for their employees as a group.

(iv) *Bhavishya Arogya*: The Scheme, designed with a view to provide health security to individuals in their old age has been introduced in the country w.e.f. 1st December, 1990. Under the Scheme, a

person will pay a single premium or nominal premium during his earning years and get reimbursement of Hospitalisation and Domiciliary Hospitalisation expenses from a future selected age between 55 and 60 years.

(v) *Overseas Medi-claim Policy*: Overseas Medi-claim Insurance was introduced from 1984 to offer cover for medical expenses abroad for emergency treatment. The premium charged is based on age, trip band (varying from 14 days to 180 days) and Territory grouping.

In addition to the aforesaid policies issued by the four subsidiary companies, the New India Assurance Co. Ltd., offers two other policies the details of which are given below:

(i) *Cancer Insurance Policy*: This Policy has been introduced by 'New India' providing for reimbursement of expenses on treatment of Cancer upto Rs. 50,000/-. The company also has a tie-up arrangement with Cancer Patients Aids Association (CPAA) whereby the members of the CPAA would have the benefit of Cancer Insurance Policy covering the cost of treatment upto a specified limit. The maximum limit is Rs. 2 lakhs.

(ii) *Senior Citizens Unit Plan*: This Plan was introduced in collaboration with Unit Trust of India which provides that members and spouses can avail of medical treatment in any of the selected hospitals in 23 cities on attaining the age of 58 years.

2. The Life Insurance Corporation of India had operated between 7th September and 30th November, 1993, a close ended insurance Scheme known as 'Asha Deep' for persons in the age group of 18 to 50 years. The Scheme provides for the following benefits to the policyholder if he is affected by any of the four major ailments, namely, Cancer, Paralytic Stroke, Renal failure and Coronary Artery disease requiring by-pass surgery, subject to certain exclusions, during the term of the policy:

(a) Immediate payment of 50% of the Sum Assured;

(b) Waiver of all future premiums;

(c) Yearly payment of 10% of the Sum Assured till the end of the term of the policy or till death of the life assured, should this occur earlier;

(d) Payment of balance 50% of the Sum Assured together with vested bonus on full sum assured, on the date of maturity or on earlier death of the life assured.

3. It has been reported by the Life Insurance Corporation of India that about 6 lakhs policies with a total sum assured of Rs. 4,000 Crores, were issued by them during the above period. As regard the number of families/persons covered under the Schemes being administered by the four subsidiaries of GIC, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Hawala Racketeers

1734. SHRI G. K. KUPPUSWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that in the recent months, crores of Indian rupees regularly found their way into Bangladesh where hawala racketeers have found a new haven for laundering money; and

(b) if so, steps being taken by the Government to prevent this activity in border area?

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

(a) and (b) Some cases of hawala transactions between India and Bangladesh have been detected by the Enforcement Directorate in the recent past. The Calcutta office of the Directorate has been alerted and strict vigil is being kept on such transactions.

National Airports Authority

1735. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether technical staff of National Airports Authority observed country-wide agitation in 1994 and also in early months of 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such strikes have become a regular feature; and

(d) the measures taken to avoid such strikes/agitations in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b), While there was no country-wide indefinite agitation in 1994, the National Airports Authority Technical Staff Union went on country-wide mass casual leave with effect from 1.2.1995 to 3.2.1995 with one day's advance notice to press their demand for time-bound promotion.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) To redress the grievances and avoid agitation by the employees, periodical meetings are held between the management and the unions to discuss staff problems and various issues raised by the Unions.

Revenue loss in Petroleum Sector

1736. SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA):

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been incurring massive revenue losses from petroleum sector;

(b) if so, the amount of loss incurred in the current financial year so far; and

(c) the steps being taken to plug the loopholes in this regard?

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

(a) to (c) The customs revenue from petroleum products during April, 94 January, 1995 has shown a shortfall of 15.75 per cent in comparison to the collection made in the corresponding period last year. This shortfall was mainly due to lower import of crude oil during 1994-95. However, collection of excise duty has shown an increase of 28.58 per cent during the said period.

Consumption Pattern

1737. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

PROF. ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Sample Survey Organisation has conducted a survey about the consumption pattern of various sectors of population in the first two years of the economic reforms process;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the rich-poor chasm has widened as a result of the economic reforms process;

(d) if so, its repercussion on the social set-up; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to arrest the process of marginalisation of the poor sections of society?

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

(a) The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), Department of Statistics, Government of India has conducted Annual Survey on Consumer Expenditure during July-December, 1991 (Forty Seventh Round) and January-December, 1992 (Forty-Eighth Round).

(b) to (d). In the latest Survey, the data in sample refers to calendar year 1992, a year in which the economy was still substantially affected by the economic crisis of 1991-92. Therefore, it is an inappropriate sample to assess the benefits of economic reforms for the poor.

(e) To protect the weakest and the poorest segments of the society from the rigours of structural adjustment and stabilization policies during the transition, Government has substantially increased the Central Plan outlays for Social Sectors and poverty alleviation programmes in the last three budgets. The budgetary allocation for Education has been increased by 92 per cent over the past three years, with the outlay for Elementary Education going up by 129 per cent and that for Adult Education increasing by 95 per cent. The allocation for Health was hiked by 122 per cent. The Central Plan outlay for Rural Development, which encompasses the major programmes for poverty alleviation and employment generation, was raised by 148 per cent over the past three years to a level of Rs. 7700 crore in 1995-96 (BE).

The Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) were launched in 1993-94 and are being strengthened and expanded. New Schemes of National Social Assistance and Group Life Insurance have been proposed during 1995-96 budget for the benefit of the poor and needy. A scheme to provide

Mid-day Meals for primary school children has also been proposed in 1995-96 Budget.

Trade with Canada

1738. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK:
SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Canadian Minister of International Trade and Economic Development has visited India recently;

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

(c) whether, as revealed in recent visit, Canada is willing to have joint venture collaborations with India in hydro and thermal power generation, construction, transportation, project management systems and technology fabrications;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any trade agreement has been signed with Canada in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Minister for International Trade of Canada, Mr. Roy Mac Laren visited India from 7th to 12th October, 1994 accompanied by a ministerial delegation and a large business delegation with the objective of exploring trade and investment opportunities in India.

(c) and (d). During the visit, Mr. Mac Laren informed that the Canadian companies are enthusiastic about the Investment Climate in India and a number of joint ventures and technology transfer agreements are being considered in the private sector.

(e) and (f) No trade agreement has been signed between the Government of India and the Government of Canada.

Import of Indian Steel by U.S.

1739. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new tariff has been announced by the US authorities on import of certain items including steel, stainless steel, wire rods and steel pipes and tubes from India subsequent to the GATT agreement and the establishment of World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such tariff revision was in pursuance of bilateral consultations or announced unilaterally; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) India and the USA grant each other MFN status as contracting parties to GATT. USA has recently imposed anti-dumping duties on imports of certain stainless steel items from

India. Anti-dumping duty is imposed by Governments under national laws conforming to Article VI of GATT.

(d) As a matter of practice, Government extends technical assistance, to the extent possible, to individual exporters facing anti-dumping actions.

Boeing Jumbos

1740. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has recently been allowed to acquire two Boeing Jumbos;

(b) if so, the total cost of the aircraft; and

(c) the total number of aircraft with Air India after the new acquisition and those which are in operation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Government has approved a proposal of Air India for acquisition of two B747-400 aircraft at an estimated cost of Rs. 1137.70 crores which are scheduled to be delivered in July and August, 1996. Air India has 26 aircraft in its fleet at present; with the addition of two more Boeing 747-400 aircraft the fleet strength would be 28 aircraft in 1996.

[Translation]

Seizure of Mandrax In Gujarat

1741. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI:
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of raids conducted to seize mandrax in Gujarat during the year 1994-95 and the value of the mandrax seized during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) whether the quantity of mandrax seized during the current year is more than the quantity seized last year;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of persons arrested in this regard during the current year and the action taken against them, and

(e) the concrete steps taken by the Government to check the smuggling of mandrax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) There have been 2 cases of seizure of mandrax in Gujarat during the year 1994-95. No precise valuation of drugs, which are often of indeterminate strength and composition and are liable for destruction is feasible.

(b) Quantity of mandrax seized in Gujarat during the current year 1994-95 is 5660,500 kgs and during the last year 1993-94 it was 2067 kgs.

(c) Increased vigilance has resulted in seizures of large quantities.

(d) The number of persons arrested in Gujarat were 5. All persons are liable for stringent punishment under the NDPS Act.

(e) Acetic Anhydride, a precursor chemical for manufacture of heroin and methaqualone has been declared as a 'Controlled Substance' under the NDPS Act and a regulation order has been issued to regulate the manufacture, distribution, sale, imports-exports and consumption of Acetic Anhydride. Control has been imposed on the movement of the chemical within 50 kms of Indo-Pak border and 100 kms of Indo-Myanmar border under the Customs Act. Import and Export of acetic anhydride has also been regulated.

Instructions have been issued to all the enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts under the stringent provisions contained in the NDPS Act. Training is being imparted to officers to improve their effectiveness. Vehicles and communication equipments have been provided. A part of Indo-Pak border has been fenced.

[English]

ITPO Fair in Moscow

1742. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA:
SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) has organised a trade fair in Moscow recently;

(b) if so, the details of Indian and foreign companies participated in the said fair;

(c) whether any joint venture has been signed by the Indian companies with Moscow; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made in the said fair?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) organised an exclusive India Trade Exhibition in Moscow during July 18—27, 1994.

A total number of 109 leading Indian Companies including Haryana State as a partner participated in the exhibition. Since the objective of this exhibition was to project and promote Indian goods and Services, no Foreign company participated nor invited to take part in the exhibition.

(c) and (d) Though, no joint venture was signed by the Indian side, serious negotiations took place between the FICCI delegation and their Russian Counterparts. The total business generated at the exhibition was to the tune of Rs. 391.36 crores for the products like petrol pump units, OIL coolers radiators, welding equipments, Compressors, Air conditioners, Consumer durables, plastic bags for packing purposes, tea, spices, leather goods, detergents, herbal cosmetics, bed linens and knitted garments. Besides, a total number of 231 serious trade enquiries were also received.

Credit deposit ratio of banks in Kerala

1743. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: the details of action taken to implement the recommendations of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Task Force to improve the credit deposit ratio of banks in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that as recommended by the Task Force on Credit Deposit Ratio (CDR) in Kerala, the Government of Kerala have constituted a monitoring committee to follow up the implementation of its recommendations. The Committee held its first meeting on 19-12-1994. The progress made in the implementation of its recommendations is being co-ordinated by Canara Bank, the convenor bank of State-Level Banker's Committee (SLBC) for Kerala. The various recommendations of the Task Force have also since been discussed in the meeting of the State Level Banker's Committee (SLBC) for Kerala and the action points have been referred to the concerned agencies for necessary action.

Operation by Private Airlines

1744. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether private airline operators have approached the Indian Airlines and Air India for help in their operations;

(b) if so, the area in which assistance has been sought; and

(c) the decision taken in this regard?

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

" (b) and (c) Private Operators approached Indian Airlines for its assistance in provision of maintenance facilities, acceptance of each other's traffic documents, and training of pilots. Air India has been approached for assistance in repairs/overhaul of engine components and testing/calibration of their equipment etc.

Indian Airlines has decided not to provide maintenance assistance to private operators. No decision has so far been taken regarding the other areas.

Air India provides assistance whenever possible—subject to availability of surplus capacity of manpower and machinery.

[Translation]

Writing off of loans by Banks

1745. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether commercial banks in the country have been granted permission to write off the bad debts to the

limit of rupees twenty five lakhs instead of the present limit of rupees twenty five thousand;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check the misuse of the extended limit of debts;

(d) the number of bad debts written off upto December 31, 1994 with the total value of such debts; and

(e) the break-up of the number of bad debts written off upto Rs. 1 lakh, between one lakh and 5 lakhs, between 5 lakhs and 10 lakhs, between 10 lakhs and 25 lakhs?

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

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

Streamlining the working of IA

1746. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to streamline the working of Indian Airlines with a view to make it more responsive to passengers needs and pay more attention to the complaints of passengers; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines has taken various measures in the areas of reservations, passenger handling at the airports, baggage handling, inflight service and handling of delayed/disrupted flights etc. to make it more responsive to passengers' needs.

(b) The measures taken by Indian Airlines has resulted in better customers' satisfaction. Letters of appreciation and commendations from customers have been received.

Recruitment of class III employees by LIC

1747. SHRI RATILAL VARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation of India has started the process for recruitment of about 2500 Class III employees in Gujarat during the year 1993, the written examination for which was conducted in January, 1994;

(b) if so, the reasons for not declaring the result thereof so far; and

(c) the time by which the result of the said examination is likely to be declared and recruitment process completed?

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

(a) The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) have informed that they had issued a notification in October, 1993 for empanement of 2272 candidates in Gujarat, the written test for which was conducted on 2nd January, 1994.

(b) and (c) LIC have reported that the notification for the above recruitment did not provide for reservation of vacancies for OBCs. Therefore, it was decided to calculate the vacancies that would have been reserved for OBC candidates, notify the same; conduct tests separately for filling them up and operate both the panels simultaneously while filing up the vacancies. The result of the test conducted in January 1994, therefore, can be declared only after the results of the test conducted for OBC candidates are available.

[English]

Investments by UTI/IDBI in Industrial Houses

1748. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the investments made by the UTI, IDBI etc. in the industrial houses (including public sector units);

(b) if so, the total investments made by the UTI and IDBI in terms of investments, equity, debt, etc. in ten top industrial houses during the last three years;

(c) the details of the policy guidelines, if any, formulated for making such investments;

(d) whether these guidelines are being followed strictly; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) and (b) Names of first 10 companies in terms of investments made by the Unit Trust of India as on 30.6.93, 30.6.94 and 31.12.1994 are given in the statement. Information in respect of IDBI which is being collected will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(c) to (e) Investment decisions of these institutions are left to the commercial perceptions of the respective organisations. In the case of UTI, the investment decisions are governed by the UTI Act & Regulations and are subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees of the Executive Committee as well.

STATEMENT

First 10 companies in terms of investment by UTI

As on 30.6.1993

Sl. No.	Company Name	Amount (Rs. crore)
1.	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam	1952.84
2.	I C I C I	1219.45
3.	Tata Iron and Steel Co.	1022.90
4.	Grasim Industries Ltd.	886.90
5.	I D B I	857.75
6.	Steel Authority of India	824.57
7.	Reliance Industries Ltd.	770.95
8.	T E L C O Ltd.	762.47
9.	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	687.50
10.	Industrial Finance Corpn.	644.87

First 10 companies in terms of investment by UTI

As on 30.6.1994

Sl. No.	Company Name	Amount (Rs. crore)
1.	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	3677.67
2.	I C I C I Ltd.	1670.08
3.	Reliance Industries Ltd.	1336.26
4.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	1144.31
5.	Hindustan Petroleum Corpn Ltd.	1025.57
6.	Grasim Industries Ltd.	1012.42
7.	Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd.	997.51
8.	I D B I	906.97
9.	Industrial Finance Corpn. of India	662.97
10.	T E L C O Ltd.	655.07

First 10 Companies in terms of investment by UTI

(As on 31.12.1994)

Sl. No.	Company Name	Amount (Rs. crore)
1.	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	3678.62
2.	Reliance Industries Ltd.	2113.69
3.	I C I C I Ltd.	1768.98

4.	Grasim Industries Ltd.	1053.05
5.	Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd.	1046.33
6.	Hindustan Petroleum Corpn Ltd.	1037.72
7.	I D B I	790.17
8.	T E L C O Ltd.	665.57
9.	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.	649.57
10.	Indian Organic Chemicals Ltd.	619.15

Externally Aided Projects in Andhra Pradesh

1749. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of externally aided projects presently under implementation in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the details of progress made in respect of those projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) The details of externally aided projects presently under implementation in Andhra Pradesh and the progress made thereof are enclosed at Statement I and Statement II.

Statement I

Details of Externally Aided Projects in Andhra Pradesh

(DC in million)

S.No.	Source	Loan description	Currency	Loan/Grant Amount (DC)	Cumulative Utilisation as on 28.02.95 (DC)	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95 (DC)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1.	Japan	IDP-43 Srisailem Left Bank Power Stn. Ph-I.	Japanese Yen	26101.0	14750.50	11350.50
2.	Japan	IDP-85 Srisailem Power Tranm. Sys.	Japanese Yen	3806.000	2.00	3804.00
3.	ADB	Rayalseema Thermal Power Proj.	US Dollars	190.000	143.81	46.19
4.	IDA	A.P. Forestry Proj.	US Dollars	77.400	4.13	73.27
5.	IFAD	A.P. Tribal Development	US Dollars	20.649	6.72	13.93
6.	Sweden	Environment Training Proj. Hyderabad	Swedish Kroner	15.000	1.41	13.60
7.	UK	A.P. School Building Ph-II	UK Pound Sterling	27.900	21.41	6.49
8.	UK	Hyderabad Habitat Ph-III	UK Pound Sterling	14.940	10.11	4.83
9.	UK	A.P. School Health Proj.	UK Pound Sterling	6.690	0.65	6.04
10.	IDA	Hyderabad Water Supply & Sanitation	US Dollars	79.900	40.30	39.61
11.	UK	Vijaywada Slum Improvement Proj.	UK Pound Sterling	16.250	7.22	9.03
12.	UK	Chinagadili Area Improvement Proj.	UK Pound Sterling	1.500	1.43	0.08
13.	IFAD	AP Participatory Tribal Dev Proj.	US Dollars	26.710	1.80	24.91
14.	U.K.	Visakhapatnam Habitat	UK Pound Sterling	9.191	9.03	0.17
15.	U.K.	A.P. Coal Proj.	UK Pound Sterling	11.250	10.67	0.58
16.	U.K.	Nagarjuna Sagar Power Project	UK Pound Sterling	12.930	13.31	0.00
17.	IDA	II A.P. Irrigation	US Dollars	140.000	177.07	0.00

STATEMENT II*Details of Externally Aided Project in Andhra Pradesh
(Multistate Projects)**(DC in million)*

S.No.	Source	Loan description	Currency	Loan/Grant Amount (DC)	Cumulative Utilisation as on 28.02.95 (DC)	Undrawn Balance as on 28.02.95 (DC)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1.	TDA	Shrimp & Fish Culture	US Dollars	85.890	5.61	80.28
AP.BI.ORJ.UP.WB						
2.	IDA	Technician Edn. II	US Dollars	255.735	41.36	214.37
AP.AS.HAR.HP.MA.WB.TN.PU						
3.	IDA	ICDS	US Dollars	74.348	32.03	42.32
AP.ORI						
4.	Swiss	Sericulture Promotion—AP & TN	Indian Rupee	41.055	22.27	18.78
AP.TN						
5.	TDA	National Sericulture	US Dollars	133.346	84.62	48.73
AP.JK.KAR.TN.WB						
6.	ADB	Ind Roads Project	US Dollars	250.000	81.81	168.19
AP.UP.ORI.WB						
7.	ADB	Road Improvement Project	US Dollars	188.000	97.51	90.49
AP.KAR.TN						
8.	ADB	Second Port Proj.	US Dollars	129.000	50.13	78.88
AP						
9.	Swiss	National Sericulture	Swiss Franc	40.000	12.15	27.85
AP.WB.TN.KAR						
10.	IDA	National Water Management	US Dollars	136.975	134.68	2.30
UP.AP.TN.KE.KAR.MP. MA.GU.BI.HAR						
11.	IDA	Rainfed Watershed Area Project	US Dollars	29.783	27.58	2.20
AP.MP.KAR.MAH						

* Multistate Projects.

Marketing Facilities to Artisans and Weavers

1750. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of marketing facilities provided to small and marginal handicrafts and handloom manufactures; and

(b) the extent to which the artisans, craftsmen and weavers have been benefited through new policy of export?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT-SWAMY): (a) The marketing facilities provided to small and marginal handicrafts and handloom manufactures include: holding of crafts bazars/exhibitions, product promotion programmes, market meets, national handloom expos, mini level expos, design development, product adoption for the target market abroad, quality control, assistance to central/state handicrafts and handloom development corporations/apex cooperative societies, primary handloom weavers cooperative societies and voluntary organisations to undertake market related activities, including setting up of permanent urban crafts haat bazars.

(b) Since the export of handicrafts and handloom

products is allowed freely i.e., without any license of export control restrictions and also in view of various liberalisations of export policies and procedures by the Government of India, the exports of these products have been showing an increasing trend during the last few years. Consequently new employment opportunities have been generated and the artisans, craftsmen and weavers are getting remunerative prices for their products.

[Translation]

Harassment to Foreign Tourists

1751. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:
SHRI LAL BABU RAI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

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

(a) whether the Government have received complaints about harassing and fleecing foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received and the action taken thereon by the Government;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action to check the recurrence of such incidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) 209 complaints with effect from January, 1992 received by the Department of Tourism were taken up for remedial action with the agencies providing hotel and tourism services as well as with the Law enforcing agencies at the State and Central levels through its headquarters as well as Regional Offices. The Government of India Tourist Offices also handle complaints directly. Action is taken for providing satisfaction to the tourists by amicable settlement or through the law enforcing agencies. Complaints are received both by the Headquarter as well as the Regional offices and are dealt with depending on the nature of the complaints. Every effort is made to see that the tourist is satisfied. The Consumer Protection Act of 1986 offers a legal redress of such grievances for the individual tourist also.

Action Plan for Loan to SSIs

1752. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:

SHRI MANJAY LAL:

DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the action plan formulated for providing loan to small scale industries and the terms and conditions laid down therefor together with the criteria for grant of such loans.

(b) whether any relaxation is given to the SSIs in the matter of repayment of the loans;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the amount of loan provided to the small scale industries during the last three years; and

(e) the amount of loan proposed to be given to the small scale industries during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (d) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the amount of loan disbursed to small scale industrial (SSI) units under Annual Action Plan (AAP) drawn under Service Area Approach is as under:

(Rs. Crore)

YEAR	ALL INDIA DISBURSEMENT UNDER AAP
1991-92	2558.29
1992-93	3028.04
1993-94	3953.10

(b) and (c), RBI has issued general guidelines in regard to rehabilitation of sick SSI units under which if a bank is satisfied that the unit is potentially viable according to its commercial judgement, the time limit for reliefs/concessions and repayment of restructured debts should not exceed 7 years from the date of implementation of rehabilitation package. In the case of tiny/decentralised sector units, the repayment period will be 3 years.

(e) RBI has reported that the target under its Annual

Credit Plan for 1994-95 in respect of SSI units for all India is Rs. 5048.09 crores.

Public Sector Banks in Bihar

1753. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of public sector banks in Bihar, bank-wise;

(b) the bank-wise amount deposited in the banks during the last three years, the total amount sanctioned for farmers and the amount actually disbursed to them;

(c) whether the nationalised banks have achieved the target fixed for disbursing such loans;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the corrective steps taken in regard thereto; and

(e) the amount recovered from the farmers during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) There were 3017 branches of public sector banks functioning in Bihar as at the end of December, 1994. Bank-wise details of these branches are given in the enclosed statement.

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

Statement

No. of branches of public sector banks in Bihar (Bank-wise) as on 31.12.1994

S.No.	Name of the Bank	No. of branches
1.	State Bank of India	912
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	9
3.	State Bank of Patiala	1
4.	Allahabad Bank	223
5.	Andhra Bank	3
6.	Bank of Baroda	98
7.	Bank of India	385
8.	Bank of Maharashtra	1
9.	Canara Bank	100
10.	Central Bank of India	369
11.	Corporation Bank	3
12.	Dena Bank	9
13.	Indian Bank	25
14.	Indian Overseas Bank	16
15.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	2
16.	Punjab & Sind Bank	10
17.	Punjab National Bank	431
18.	Syndicate Bank	22
19.	UCO Bank	208
20.	Union Bank of India	74
21.	United Bank of India	110
22.	Vijaya Bank	8
TOTAL		3017

Export of Wheat and Rice

1754. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:
SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Indian delegation has visited several countries abroad for expanding export of wheat and rice;
(b) whether any agreement has been signed in this regard particularly from UAE, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and China;

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

(d) the total quantity of rice and wheat likely to be exported during 1995 and the foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom, country-wise and variety-wise?

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

[English]

Setting up of a Task Force to increase Tobacco Export

1755. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Task Force to increase the exports of tobacco and tobacco products;

(b) if so, the time by which the said Task Force is likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A long term strategy to boost exports is already being implemented by the Tobacco Board and is subject to constant review.

Joint Venture with Singapore to Develop Tourism

1756. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any tie up with the Government of Singapore has been made for development of tourism in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) and (b). An agreement on Tourism Cooperation between India and Singapore was signed in New Delhi on 24.1.1994. A Tourism Plan for India was prepared by the Singapore Tourism Promotion Board and submitted to the Government of India for consideration. To discuss this a meeting was held between Singapore Tourism Promotion Board and the Department of Tourism on 15.12.94 at New Delhi. Further discussions were held at Calcutta on 4.1.95, wherein the Department of Tourism along with 11 State Governments/UTs interacted

with Singapore Tourism Promotion Board and some entrepreneurs from Singapore on investment opportunities in tourism in India.

Fifth Pay Commission

1757. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA:
SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:
KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE:
SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA:
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the working of Fifth Pay Commission for the Central Government employees;

(b) whether the Government have directed the Pay Commission to submit the report within a period of eighteen months;

(c) if so, whether the Commission propose to submit its report within this period; and

(d) if not, the new time frame fixed for the submission of report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) It has been informed by the Commission that it is presently engaged in (i) examining the demands/ suggestion raised in nearly 18000 memoranda submitted by individuals and employees' associations and (ii) conducting on-the-spot study about living and working conditions of Central Government employees in different States. It has also drafted an elaborate questionnaire and circulated the same to 5746 persons in various walks of life to ascertain their views.

(b) to (d) As per the terms of reference of the Commission, the Commission is required to make recommendation as soon as feasible. Further, the terms of reference also provide that the Commission may send a Report on the demands of the Staff Side for grant of another instalment of Interim Relief and merger of a further portion of DA with pay (for the purpose of gratuity alone) if the Commission feels that it will not be possible for them to submit their final Report within a period of 18 months from the date of its appointment.

Involvement of Private Sector in setting up of Airports

1758. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE:
SHRI TARA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government have expressed willingness to involve private sector in the setting up of international and domestic Airports in the country;

(b) whether any scheme has been formulated to set up new Airports in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The Government of India has given its no objection for construction of airports of international standards in Bangalore in Karnataka and Cochin in Kerala to the respective State Governments. The respective State Governments are to firm up the cost of the project and other modalities. National Airports Authority and International Airports Authority will provide technical assistance.

(b) and (c) It is proposed to set up new airports at Tura in Meghalaya and Lengpui in Mizoram.

Wage Boards for Journalists

1759. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wage Boards for Journalists and the Non-Journalists of Newspaper employees constituted by the Government on September 2, 1994, started functioning;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the criteria the Ministry has followed in selecting the workers representatives on both the Boards?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Secretariat of the Wage Boards has been doing preparatory work since their constitution. A meeting of the Wage Boards has also been convened on 3.4.1995. Workers' representatives on both the Boards have been selected on the basis of the recommendations of the Working Journalists' and Non-Journalist Newspaper Employees' Organisations.

[Translation]

Supply of Drugs

1760. DR. G.L. KANAUIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed by the Government for the supply of drugs such as opium, ganza and bhang etc. to producers as ingredients for the manufacture of Ayurvedic medicines;

(b) whether the Government propose to bring forward any action plan to manufacture and maximise export of Ayurvedic medicines for the treatment of insomnia, psychiatric disease and pain, in the country itself in order to get rid of foreign manufacturers of patent allopathic medicines in the world;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) The supply of medicinal opium to manufacturing

chemists as ingredients for the manufacture of Ayurvedic medicines is made by the Government Opium & Alkaloid Works Undertaking Ghazipur on the basis of specified quantities allotted to them by respective States Drug Controllers. Supply of ganza and bhang is not regulated by the Central Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Nil in view of (b) above.

(d) No such necessity has arisen so far.

Savings Rate

1761. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise savings rate during the last three years;

(b) whether the savings rate has declined during this period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to increase the savings rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) Data pertaining to the savings rate is prepared by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) on an all India basis. As per the latest available data the details of savings rate over the last three years are as under:

*Rates of Gross Domestic Savings by Type of Institutions
(as percentage of GDP)*

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94(Q)
1. Household Sector	17.8	15.5	15.9
Financial Savings	10.1	7.8	10.3
Savings in Physical assets	7.8	7.7	5.6
2. Private Corporate Sector	3.2	3.0	4.0
3. Public Sector	2.1	1.5	0.2
4. Gross Domestic Savings (1+2+3)	23.1	20.0	20.2

GDP: Gross Domestic Product at market prices; (Q) Quick Estimates

Note: Figures may not add up due to rounding.

(c) The fall in savings rate is largely attributed to a combination of fall in public sector savings and measured estimates of household sector savings in physical assets.

(d) For promoting savings it is imperative to improve the parameters which have a bearing on savings behaviour. These include rate of growth in the economy, level of fiscal deficit, tax policies, inflation, efficiency of the banking system and the capital markets and confidence in the economy. The various economic reform measures undertaken so far are expected to have a favourable impact on the aggregate savings.

Development of Handloom in Gujarat

1762. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from the Government of Gujarat for the development of handloom and handicrafts in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken so far by the Government on the aforesaid proposal?

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

(b) & (c) On the basis of the proposals received from the Government of Gujarat, assistance has been released under the following on-going schemes for the development of handloom and handicrafts in the State during 1994-95 upto 22.3.95:—

<i>Handlooms</i>	
	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1. Setting up of Handloom Development Centres/Quality Dyeing Units	14.29
2. Janta Cloth Subsidy	147.15
3. Hank Yarn Price Subsidy Scheme	15.48
4. Market Development Assistance Special Rebate Scheme	15.51
5. Project Package Scheme	18.00
6. Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme	32.00
7. Thrift Fund Scheme	3.614
8. Health Package Scheme	4.60
9. National Silk Yarn Bank Scheme	4.25
10. Margin Money for Destitute Weavers.	1.58
	254.454

Handicrafts

The Schemes under Handicrafts Sector do not envisage assistance to State Governments directly. However, on the basis of proposals received, a sum of Rs. 7.00 lakhs has been released during 1994-95 (upto 22.03.1995) to Gujarat State Handicrafts Development Corporation, Ahmedabad for holding exhibition.

Helicopter Service for Hilly Areas of U.P.

1763. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION & TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Uttar Pradesh Government to provide helicopter services for hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh such as Srinagar, Gauchar, Joshimath (Auli) in summer; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Export of Foodgrains

1764. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed any target for the export of foodgrains for the next three years;

(b) if so, the details of various varieties of foodgrains, year-wise and country-wise; and

(c) the total foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In 1993-94, export of foodgrains was for the value of US \$ 447.3 Million/Rs. 1402.32 crores. It is not possible to estimate the foreign exchange earnings for the next three years.

Retrenchment Benefits

1765. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enhance the retrenchment benefits;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received a positive response from the work force; and

(d) if not, the further steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (d). Based on the recommendations made by Ramanujam Committee on New Industrial Relations Law and deliberations held at various forums and after taking into consideration the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Group on Industrial Restructuring, specific proposals (including the proposal to enhance the retrenchment benefits) for amending the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 have been considered for finalisation at the appropriate time.

Import of Rubber

1766. SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL:
SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any gap between the demand and supply of natural rubber during the last three years;

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

(c) whether the prices of tyre and other rubber products are on the rise in the domestic market despite the import of rubber at zero duty in the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have decided to import natural rubber during 1995;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government have also levied any condition on the importers for importing natural rubber;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Government to meet the growing demand and to safeguard the interests of rubber tree growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The production and consumption of natural rubber in the country during the last three years are as given below:

	1991-92	1992-93 (Tonnes)	1993-94
Production	366,745	393,490	435,160
Consumption	380,150	414,105	450,480
Gap	13,405	20,615	15,320

(c) & (d) The manufacturers of tyre have increased the price of tyres by 5.5% to 8.5% from 1.10.1994 when price of rubber went up to Rs. 32/- per kg. against a Bench Mark Price of Rs. 24.90/- per kg. No increase in price of tyres and tubes has been reported thereafter.

(e) to (i) Yes, Sir. As the domestic production of natural rubber in the country is short of demand, 10,000 tonnes of NR have been allowed to be imported by actual users (industries) free of import duty during the current lean season. Imports shall be strictly subject to actual users condition and such imports are required to be completed before 31.8.1995. This is not likely to adversely affect the interests of rubber growers.

[English]

Loans to Minorities

1767. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received several complaints that minorities are not getting loans from Scheduled banks for development and for starting their business;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide loans to backward classes of society including minorities on priority basis;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to encourage the minorities to establish their own banks and to organise their own cooperative credit societies;

(e) if so, the facilities likely to be given to them for the purpose; and

(f) if not, the reasons there-for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have advised the banks to take various steps to facilitate a smooth and adequate flow of credit to minority communities under the various welfare programmes of the Government and under Priority Sector Advances of the banks. However, whenever any complaints regarding non-sanctioning of loans or any other difficulty in obtaining the banks loans from the public including those belonging to the minority communities are received, the same are taken up with the banks concerned by RBI/Government. As per the data pertaining to priority sector credit furnished by RBI, number of borrowal accounts belonging to the minority communities have increased from 12.25 lakhs in March, 1990 to 12.76 lakhs in March, 1994 in 41 identified districts having minority concentration. The balance out standing have increased from Rs. 721 crores to Rs. 1070 crores during the same

period in the 41 identified districts having minority concentration. The priority sector credit to minorities for all the districts in the country have increased from Rs. 4332 crores in March, 1990 to Rs. 6352 crores in March, 1994 and the number of borrowal accounts belonging to the minority communities have increased from 52.90 lakhs in March, 1990 to 59.11 lakhs in March, 1994.

(d) to (f) The present policy of RBI is to allow establishment of primary cooperative banks on the basis of need, potential and prospects of the proposed primary cooperative banks to attain viability within the stipulated time. No primary cooperative banks is to be established on the basis of caste/creed/profession/avocation of a specific Section of the population of society.

[Translation]

Seizure of Foreign Currencies, Drugs and Gold

1768. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of foreign currencies, gold and drugs has been seized by the Government during the last three months;

(b) if so, the quantity of each of the items seized indicating the details of the seizure;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action against such persons;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

[English]

Cess on Marine Products

1769. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total cess collected and utilised for the welfare of marine sector during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government proposed to abolish cess on export of marine products; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The total Cess collected under MPEDA Act 1972 and expenditure

incurred by MPEDA on plan and Non Plan budgeted schemes for the development of Marine sector during each of the last three years has been as follows:—

Year	Cess collected	Expenditure incurred by MPEDA
1991-92	687.95	896.40
1992-93	884.28	1111.48
1993-94	1251.81	1208.86

(Source: MPEDA).

(b) and (c) The Govt. has not so far taken a final view on abolition of cess on export of marine products.

[Translation]

CBI Enquiry Against ITDC Officers

1770. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE:
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:

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

(a) whether some officers of ITDC face inquiries by CBI for various charges;

(b) if so, the time by which the inquiries are likely to be completed; and

(c) the action the Government propose to take against those officials under investigation by CBI till the completion of the inquiries?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The information is being collected.

[English]

Child Labour

1771. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the news-item regarding plea to free child labour in bondage as appeared in 'Hindustan Times' dated January 30, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, the identification and rehabilitation of bonded labour is the responsibility of the State Governments concerned. The Government of India have accorded the highest priority to the problem of eradication of bonded labour system. The implementation of the Act by the State Governments is closely monitored by the Government as part of the 20 Point Programme. To supplement the efforts of the State Governments, the Ministry of Labour launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation of Bonded Labour w.e.f. 1978-79.

The scheme provided rehabilitation assistance upto a ceiling of Rs. 6,250/- per bonded labourer, half of which is given as Central Share. The State Governments have been advised to suitable dovetail this scheme with other poverty alleviation and employment generation schemes for the purpose of effective rehabilitation of identified bonded labourers. Minimum Wages are fixed by Central and State Governments in respect of scheduled employments falling in their respective sphere. Adequate publicity is being given through media.

Unsound Banks

1772. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the nationalised banks having unsound financial positions during 1993-94, banks-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to improve their financial health; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in regard thereto so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) the list of nationalised banks which have incurred losses in 1993-94 is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Government and RBI have been impressing upon the banks the need for strengthening their machinery for credit appraisal and for exercising effective supervision and control over banks so as to ensure proper end use of the funds advanced, to create recovery cells in the Head Offices and to improve productivity levels. Prudential norms of capital adequacy, income recognition, asset classification and provisioning have been introduced. Government has also established Debts Recovery Tribunals to speed up the recovery of banks dues. Computerization in busy selective areas has been undertaken.

STATEMENT

Details of nationalised banks which have incurred losses during 1993-94

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	(Rs. in crores)
1.	Allahabad Bank	— 367.72
2.	Andhra Bank	— 162.25
3.	Bank of India	— 1089.15
4.	Bank of Maharashtra	— 296.93
5.	Central Bank of India	— 711.93
6.	Dena Bank	— 69.84
7.	Indian Bank	— 390.65
8.	Indian Overseas Bank	— 351.18
9.	Punjab National Bank	.
10.	Punjab & Sind Bank	— 175.99

11. Syndicate Bank	— 299.40
12. United Bank of India	— 618.06
13. UCO Bank	— 546.45

* Balance-sheet not yet finalised.

[Translation]

Susplus Land of NTC.

1773. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI ANNA JOSHI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTC/UTI/IDBI have since taken any decision to sell/purchase surplus lands of NTC;

(b) if so, the details of the land to be sold and the funds likely to be mobilised through selling those land pieces; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to utilise the aforesaid funds?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c). The Textile Research Associations have prepared plans for modernisation of the NTC mills, involving an investment of Rs. 2005.72 crores. The modernisation plan also include restructuring of 36 unviable mills into 18 viable mills. The Labour Ministry's Special Tripartite Committee on the NTC has recommended, inter-alia, that the NTC mills as well as its taken over mills can be made viable by modernisation as proposed by the Textile Research Associations, and that the surplus land and other assets of the NTC mills may be disposed of and the proceeds utilised by the management for modernisation, working capital etc. The Unit Trust of India has also agreed in principle to purchase surplus land owned by the NTC in different cities in India. However, no decision has been finalised by NTC/UTI/IDBI with regard to sale/purchase of specific piece of land. Various details of the modernisation plans, including source of funding, etc. are being examined in Government and no decision had been taken so far. Since the cases of 8 out of 9 subsidiaries of the NTC have been referred to the BIFER, any final scheme that may emerge would also required the approval of the BIFR.

Salaries to NTC workers

1774. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that dues of payment viz. gratuity, leave with pay, etc. have not been paid to workers of National Textile Corporation and British India Corporation for the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILE (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c). There have been some outstanding dues on account of gratuity, leave with pay etc. for periods

ranging from 9 months to 2 years in respect of 5 out of the 9 subsidiary Corporations of the NTC on account of acute shortage of working capital. A turn around plan for revival of the NTC mills is under consideration in Government. The plan envisages, inter-alia, provision of interim liquidity which would help in meeting such requirements.

In respect of BIC there has been no outstanding as on date.

Export of salt to Bangladesh

1775. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangladesh propose to import more than two lakh tonnes of uncrushed salt and refined salt from India;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the total foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Export of salt is under Open General Licence, and orders are received directly by salt exporters in India. It is learnt from exporters that Bangladesh had placed orders for about 70,000 tonnes of uncrushed and refined salt during the first quarter of 1995.

(b) The Government have placed export of salt under OGL with a view to facilitating export of surplus production of common salt.

(c) Two lakh tonnes of salt if exported to Bangladesh would yield approximate foreign exchange earning of about US\$ 4.2 million.

[Translation]

Import of Cloth

1776. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state:

(a) the norms under which a large number of used clothes including pantaloons, coats, jackets are imported from the developed countries;

(b) whether permission to import such garments was given only for remanufacturing the cloth after recycling these garments;

(c) if so, whether some companies are not adhering to the above norms and are supplying them direct in large scale in the market; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check this practice?

THE MINISTER FOR TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (b). Under the current Exim Policy, import of used clothes including pantaloons, coats, jackets are covered by the Negative List of Imports. However, in terms of Para 27 (1) of the Handbook of Procedures, 1992-97, woollen rags/synthetic rags/shoddy wool in completely

mutilated form are allowed to be imported without a licence, subject to the conditions that mutilation must conform to the requirements as specified by the customs authorities through their Public/Trade Notices.

Export of Rice

1777. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that export of rice has come down during each of the last three years;

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

(c) whether the Government have formulated any plan to boost the export of rice; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Export of rice during last three years are as under:

ITEM	1991-92		1992-93		1993-94	
	QTY.	VALUE	QTY	VALUE	QTY.	VALUE
Basmati Rice	266528	49917.85	324790	80064.42	536534	103095.29
Non-Basmati Rice	411935	25640.9	255619	17495.7	268908	24913.78
Total	678463	75558.75	580409	97560.12	805442	128009.07

Qty. in MTs.
Value in Rs. Lakhs

(b) The decline in quantity and value terms in exports of non-basmati rice during 1992-93 was mainly due to decreased domestic production, enhanced international production and depressed global demand leading to low international prices.

(c) & (d). Some of the steps taken to boost export of rice are:

(i) Removal of Minimum Export Price and quantitative restrictions;

(ii) Aggressive marketing in the potential countries by taking trade delegations, participation in International Trade Fairs and inviting potential buyers;

(iii) Providing financial assistance to exporters in improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products, conducting market surveys, etc.

Generation of Black Money

1778. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any action to identify the quantum of black money in our country;

(b) if so, the nature of cooperation and coordination between the CBDT, R.B.I. and the Directorate of Enforcement to detect illegal money generated in the economy;

(c) whether the Government have identified the reasons for the generation of black money;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to curb the black money generation and prevent the conversion of black money into white through various means?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) At the instance of the Central Government the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy conducted a study regarding estimate of black money generated in the Indian Economy. The study was published in March, 1985 under the heading "Aspects of Black Money in India". This study estimated the black money in the year 1983-84 between Rs. 31584 crore to Rs. 36786 crore. The estimate was based on a number of assumptions and approximations. Thereafter no authentic study seems to have been made in this regard.

(b) The representative of various enforcement agencies meet on a regular basis in the meetings held by Economic Intelligence Council and share information on matters of mutual interest.

(c) and (d). The reasons under lying the phenomenon of generation of black money are deep rooted in the economy. Some of the reasons which had been identified in the aforesaid report include inter-alia structure of taxation, complexity of economic controls, increase in Government's spending, inflation and weak deterrence against tax evasion. The aforesaid reasons operate not only as isolated elements but also jointly.

(e) Combating Tax Evasion and curbing the generation of black money are continuous processes inherent in any economy. The Government has been taking necessary legislative, fiscal and administrative measures, as deemed appropriate, from time to time, to curb the generation and growth of black money. Rate of taxation has been progressively reduced and slabs of income have been progressively rationalised. At the same time, Income-tax Act, 1961 contains a number of provisions aimed at curbing the generation of black money. These include, inter alia, provisions regarding

compulsory maintenance and audit of accounts in appropriate cases under sections 44AA and 44AB, restrictions on cash transactions under sections 40A (3), 269SS and 269T, pre-emptive purchase of properties under Chapter XXC and provisions regarding penalties and prosecutions for punishing tax defaulters. The Act also contains provisions regarding summons, surveys, searches and other investigations to detect tax evasion. These provisions are resorted to in appropriate cases.

[Translation]

Ban on Import of Indian Pepper In Abroad.

1779. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM:
SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some countries have imposed ban on a particular variety of Indian pepper;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

LABOUR LAW

1780. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government contemplate to enact a comprehensive Labour legislation;

(b) if so, the salient features of the intended legislation;

(c) whether this would help early redressal of the grievances of the labour and upkeep of industrial relations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (d). Based on the recommendations made by the Ramanujam Committee on the New Industrial Relations Law and the deliberations held at various forums and after taking into consideration the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Group on Industrial Restructuring, specific proposals to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and Trade Unions Act, 1926 have been considered. The proposals to amend the Trade Unions Act have since been finalised and the amendment Bill stands referred to the departmental related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare for examination and report. The proposals to amend the Industrial Disputes Act have been considered for finalisation at the appropriate time.

Airport Facilities in Goa

1781. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have worked out a comprehensive plan of action to strengthen and upgrade airport facilities in Goa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to provide night landing and cargo facilities at Goa to meet the fast growing international tourists inflow;

(d) the total number of foreign tourists visited Goa during the last three years, year-wise and projections for the next five years; and

(e) the details of the action plan to strengthen the infrastructure network facilities to sustain the inflow of foreign tourists in Goa?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e). At the Naval airport of Goa, the National Airports Authority is carrying out modification of existing terminal building and construction of a new block for international traffic and expansion of Apron. Night landing facilities are being upgraded by Indian Navy.

The number of foreign tourists who visited Goa during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Arrivals
1992	121442
1993	170658
1994 (upto August)	118523

The State Government has not made available any projections for the next five years.

[Translation]

Expenditure Incurred on SSIs

1782. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small scale industries set up in the country so far and the total expenditure incurred thereon;

(b) the total number of sick industries and the amount involved therein as on date;

(c) whether an inquiry has been conducted into the cause of their sickness;

(d) if so, the number of such units which are lying sick due to the negligence of their owners; and

(e) the status of repayment capacities of these sick units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as at the end of March 1994 (latest available), there were 23.84 lakh small scale industrial (SSI) units in the country.

The data reporting system of RBI does not generate information on the total expenditure incurred thereon.

(b) As at the end of March 1994 (latest available), there were 256, 425 sick SSI units with amount outstanding of Rs. 3,680.37 crores in the portfolio of all scheduled commercial banks.

(c) RBI had constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Shri P.R. Nayak to examine the adequacy of institutional credit to SSI sector. The Committee had made a number of recommendations and almost all its major recommendations have been accepted by RBI and necessary instructions issued to banks.

(d) and (e). The data reporting system of RBI does not generate information in the manner asked for.

[English]

Committee Regarding Stock Exchanges

1783. DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have appointed a three member Committee to look into carry forward business in Stock Exchanges;

(b) if so, the composition and terms of reference of the Committee;

(c) the main recommendations made by the Committee so far; and

(d) whether the committee has achieved any desired results so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had set up a Committee to review the system of carry forward of transactions in securities in the stock Exchanges.

(b) The members of this Committee were the following persons:

- (1) Shri G.S. Patel;
- (2) Shri Deepak Parekh;
- (3) Shri M.R. Mayya.

Shri Rajiv Nabar, Division Chief in SEBI, was the Secretary to the Committee. The purpose of setting up of the Committee is as stated in reply to (a) above. Apart from this, there are no specific terms of reference for the Committee.

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

Installation of Ultra Violet Machines in Banks

1784. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has instructed all the banks to instal ultra violet machines to check fake currency notes; and

(b) if so, the number of banks that have installed such machines alongwith the number of machines installed so far and the results achieved therefrom?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Fake Drafts

1785. SHRI BARE LAL JATAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in 'Jansatta' dated January 3, 1995 wherein Indian banks have been reported to have suffered a loss of Rs.23 lakhs due to fake drafts;

(b) if so, whether the inquiry has since been completed;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has reported that a case was registered by them on 16-9-1994 under provisions of the IPC and Foreigners Act against Shri Rami Shawkat Barri and others. Investigation of the case has been completed and charge sheet has been filed in the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Calcutta.

[English]

Duty Free Import of Capital Goods

1786. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow duty free import of capital goods against seven hundred per cent export obligation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received representations from Indian manufacturers of capital goods and other against the decision; and

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

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

(a) A proposal seeking duty free import of capital goods against an export obligation is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) Some representations have been received and the points made therein would also be taken into account while considering the proposal.

Security Press

1787. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent during 1994-95 towards the construction of Security Press at Mysore;

(b) the total amount spend on the above work so far;

(c) the amount to be required to complete the same; and

(d) the time by which the above Security Press is likely to be commissioned?

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

(a) The amount spent during 1994-95 (between April 1, 1994 to February 28, 1995) towards construction of the proposed Security Press at Mysore is Rs. 99.72 crores.

(b) The total amount spent on the above proposed Security Press at Mysore so far (upto 28th February, 1995) is Rs.135.33 crores).

(c) The latest project cost estimates, as at the fourth quarter 1994 (at current price/exchange values) are estimated at Rs. 878.4 crores.

(d) The first line of production is likely to be commissioned by March/April, 1996. The entire Press is expected to be completed by the year 1990.

C.D.R. In Banks of Kerala

1788. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total average amount of deposits collected annually from Kerala by all the nationalised banks;

(b) the total average amount of credit advanced annually; and

(c) the steps taken and proposed to be taken to augment the lending operation in the state?

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

(a) and (b) Aggregate deposits and gross bank credit of nationalised banks in Kerala as on last Friday of March 1992, 1993 and 1994 are indicated below:

(Amount in Rs. Lakhs)

	1992	1993	1994
Deposits	3771,63	4556,59	5493,85
Credit	1795,88	1992,36	2052,61

The data reporting system of RBI generates information on outstanding deposits and credit as indicated above and not annual averages.

(c) A Task Force was constituted by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to review, among other things, the reasons for low credit deposit ratio in Kerala. The Task Force has since submitted its report. As recommended by the Task Force the Government of Kerala have constituted a monitoring committee to follow up the implementation of various recommendations. These recommendations have also been discussed in the meeting of the State Level Bankers' Committee for the state and the action point have been referred to the concerned agencies for necessary action.

Production of Aircraft for U.S. Companies

1789. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the news-item captioned "India" will produce aircraft for U.S. Co. appearing in The "Times of India" dated January 22, 1995;

(b) whether the Government have agreed to produce light aircraft and helicopters for U.S. Companies.

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether similar order has also been received from any other country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (e) There is no proposal to produce aircraft to helicopters for U.S. Companies or for other countries. Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. is, however producing some components for Boeing, U.S.A.; Fokker, Netherlands; and Airbus Industries, France. M/s. Taneja Aerospace & Aviation limited has started production of small transport aircraft (P68 Observer-2 & AP68TP 600 viator) in collaboration with Partenavia, Italy.

Financial Assistance for Tourism Project in Kerala

1790. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:
SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE:

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

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any Tourism Development Projects to the Union Government for getting financial assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount which has been released by the Union Government for the development of tourism in Kerala?

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

(b) and (c) The Central Department of Tourism sanctioned seven projects/schemes amounting to

Rs.168.65 lakhs for development of Tourism in the State of Kerala during 1994-95. The details of the projects sanctioned with amount are given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Project/Scheme	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Yatri Niwas at Calicut	41.14
2.	Yatri Niwas at Peermade	34.98
3.	Yatri Niwas at Alleppey	38.93
4.	Tourist Lodge at Aranmula	22.41
5.	Cafeteria at Adoor	11.19
6.	Assistance for organising Gandhi Boat Race at Ernakulam	15.00
7.	Assistance for production of Publicity materials	5.00

Debt Relief Scheme in Gujarat

1791. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers and rural artisans benefited by Debt Relief Scheme in Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) the amount released for Gujarat since April, 1994 under this scheme; and

(c) the time by which the outstanding amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) The Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990 formulated by Government of India was a one-time measure and no year-wise allocations were made. The Scheme came to an end on March 31, 1991. All eligible borrowers satisfying the eligibility criteria laid down under the scheme were provided relief by the banks within the cut-off date. The public sector banks provided debt relief of the order of Rs. 140.12 crores (approximately) to 3,78,027 farmers and 81,198 rural artisans in the State of Gujarat under ARDR Scheme, 1990.

The debt relief provided by Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks in the State of Gujarat was of the order of Rs. 341.81 crores to 8,84,297 beneficiaries under ARDR Scheme, 1990. However, break-up details of farmers and rural artisans benefited is not available.

(c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have requested that all the claims of public sector banks, cooperative banks and Regional Rural Banks in the State of Gujarat have since been settled.

Value of Rupee

1792. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian rupee registered a fall against major European currencies during February and March, 1995;

(b) if so, the extent to which value of Indian Rupee fall during the above period;

(c) the main reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken to strengthen the rupee vis-a-vis other major currencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Rupees per unit of selected European currencies for the months of January '95 February '95 and upto 16th March '95 are as follows:

Currency	Rupees per unit of foreign currency (Based on FEDAI Indicative Rates)		
	January	February	March Upto (16.3.1995)
Pound Sterling	49.3578	49.3380 (0.04)	50.9161 (-3.10)
Deutsche Mark	20.4685	20.8666 (-1.86)	22.4667 (-7.17)
Netherlands Guilder	18.3064	18.6190 (-1.68)	20.0386 (-7.08)
Swiss Franc	24.4356	24.6645 (-0.93)	26.8651 (-8.19)
Belgian Franc	0.9961	1.0144 (-1.80)	1.0877 (-6.74)
French	5.9339	6.0051 (-1.19)	6.3397 (-5.28)

Figures in brackets show appreciation (+)/ Depreciation(-) of the rupee over the preceding month.

(c) and (d) The exchange rate of the rupee is determined by demand and supply conditions in the foreign exchange market.

Auction Centres/Platforms for Purchase of Tobacco

1793. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of places where auction centres/platforms for purchase of tobacco from tobacco growers are functioning in the country;

(b) the details of qualities of tobacco which are being purchased by these centres and the reasons for not purchasing other qualities;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation from the tobacco growers for purchasing all the varieties of tobacco in these centres;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Tobacco Board has established auction platforms at the following places for sale of Virginia tobacco:—

Andhra Pradesh

1. Bhadrachalam
2. Thorredu
3. Kapavaram
4. Nandigama
5. Kanchikacherla
6. Guntur
7. Chilakaluripet
8. Vellampalli
9. Ongole-I
10. Ongole-II
11. Tangutur-I
12. Tangutur-II
13. Podili
14. Kandukur
15. Kaligiri
16. D.C. Palli
17. Devarapalli
18. Koyyalagudem
19. Jangar eddygudem

Karnataka

1. H.D. Kote
2. Hunsur
3. Periyapatna-I
4. Periyapatna-II
5. Periyapatna-III
6. Ramnathpura
7. Shimoga

(b) to (e) Tobacco Board establishes platforms for auction of Virginia tobacco grown by the registered growers. In accordance with the provisions of the Tobacco Board Act, only Virginia tobacco growers are registered by the Board. As such it has not been possible to accede to the representation from tobacco growers for purchase of all varieties of tobacco at these centres.

Export of Garments to Germany

1794. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Germany have banned the sale of garments printed and dyed with carcinogenic chemicals in their country;

(b) whether this ban is likely to hit Indian exports to Germany; and

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) The German Government have issued an ordinance according to which a textile product whose contact with human body is intended to be not merely of a

temporary nature and which has been dyed and printed with azo dyes that can form any of the listed carcinogenic amines would not be allowed for import in Germany. The date of implementation of this ban, which was to come into effect from 1.1.95, has been deferred to 1.7.95.

In the context of the German Government's legislation to ban import of textiles involving the use of specified azo dyes from July, 1995, the Government of India has initiated steps to review these dyes and to identify alternate permissible dyes so as to maintain the tempo of exports. Besides, the Textiles Committee, different Textile Export Promotion Councils, Textile Research Associations etc. are actively engaged in creating awareness among the textile industry and trade regarding the dyes to be used for exports of eco-friendly textiles in line with the German legislation.

[Translation]

Production of Janata Cloth

1795. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the agencies in Uttar Pradesh which are manufacturing Janata Cloth;

(b) the targets fixed for manufacturing Janata Cloth in the State during 1993-94 and extent to which the target is achieved in this regard; and

(c) the target fixed for the year 1994-95 in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The names of the agencies in Uttar Pradesh which are manufacturing Janata cloth are:

1. U.P. State Handloom Corporation Ltd., Kanpur.
2. U.P. Industrial Cooperative Association Ltd. Kanpur.

(b) Target: 80.00 Million Square Metres.

Achieved: 72.65 Million Square Metres. (including equity assistance under package II against surrender of 30.00 million square metres).

(c) 70.00 Million Square Metres.

Export of Fruit and Vegetables

1796. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of fruit and vegetables exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to boost to export of fruits and vegetables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The total quantity of fruit and vegetables exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years are as under:—

QTY: MTS.
VALUE: Rs. Lakhs.

	1991-92		1992-93		1993-94	
	QTY	VALUE	QTY	VALUE	QTY	VALUE
1. Fruits and vegetables	493200	29398	512996	34708	475332	38548
2. Processed fruits and vegetables.	79952	15778	95476	20593	120522	26850

(Source: DGCIS, Calcutta)

(b) Steps taken for increasing the production and exports of fruits and vegetables include, inter-alia, (i) schemes for development of infrastructural facilities such as assistance to exporters for purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre-cooling facilities with proper air handling system, establishment of cold stores at air/seaports for export purposes; (ii) setting up of mechanised post-harvest handling; (iii) improved packaging; (iv) strengthening of quality controls; (v) supply of products samples; (vi) publicity; (vii) promoting exports of identified products through brand promotion campaigns; (viii) arranging buyer-seller meets; and (ix) participation in International Fairs/Exhibitions.

[English]

World Bank Loan

1797. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has finalised a \$ 700 million financial sector loan recently;

(b) if so, the main objects of the loan and its sector-wise allocation; and

(c) the terms and conditions on which this loan is likely to be granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Government of India have completed negotiations for a \$ 700 million loan with World Bank for the Financial Sector Development Project. The loan has yet to be approved by the Board of Directors of the World Bank.

(b) and (c) The loan consists of three components. First, a Capital Restructuring component of \$ 350 million seeks to assist Government in making Tier-II capital contribution to six nationalised banks in order to enable them to achieve the capital adequacy norms stipulated by RBI. Second, the Modernisation and Institutional development component of \$ 150 million aims at building the financial strength and long-term competitiveness of these six banks in a more liberalised banking environment and would cover activities such as automation, computerisation, asset liability and credit management and organisational improvements. Third, a Backstop Facility component of \$200 million aims at providing nationalised banks and All-India public financial institutions liquidity assurance to assist in an orderly development of the

foreign currency term landing market. This is sought to be done by offering them an option to borrow funds under stipulated conditions during financial market disruption.

Export Promotion Fund

1798. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a special fund for providing financial assistance to the exporters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said fund is likely to be set-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

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

Import of Aviation Turbine Fuel

1799. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to stop the import of aviation turbine fuel;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the said decision is likely to hit/affect national carriers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) Aviation Turbine Fuel is covered by list of 'canalised Items' and can be imported by the Canalising Agency viz. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. The item is also allowed to be imported against freely transferable Special Import Licences, issued to the Export Houses, Trading Houses, Star Trading Houses, Super Star Trading Houses, etc.

Review of Export and Import Policy is an ongoing process and changes are made as and when considered necessary.

Bank loans to entrepreneurs of North Eastern States

1800. SHRIMATI BIBHU KUMARI DEVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of entrepreneurs in each of the North Eastern States provided with bank loans during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of educated unemployed persons whose names had been recommended by the District Industrial Centres but have not been sanctioned loans so far in each of the above States; and

(c) the steps taken for sanctioning loans to all those persons whose cases have been recommended by District Industrial Centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY: (a) to (c) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the loans sanctioned by banks under the scheme for providing Self-Employment to the Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) and the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY).

PMRY which was launched on 2nd October, 1993 is aimed at providing employment to educated unemployed youth. SEEUY has since been subsumed in PMRY with effect from 1st April, 1994. The information about the number of applications received and sanctioned under PMRY during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95 (upto 31st January, 1995) in the North Eastern States as furnished by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), is given in the enclosed Statement.

Banks are under instructions to dispose of loan applications upto a credit limit of Rs. 25,000/- within a fortnight and those for over Rs. 25,000/- within 8 to 9 weeks. RBI/Government have advised the banks to dispose of the applications within the prescribed time limits.

STATEMENT

Number of applications received and sanctioned under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) by all scheduled commercial banks in the Northern Eastern States during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95 (upto 31.1.1995).

Sl. No	States	1993-94			
		Number of applications		Number of applications	
		Received	Sanctioned	Received	Sanctioned
1.	Assam	161	43	163	49
2.	Assam	945	751	2816	704
3.	Manipur	224	167	647	74
4.	Meghalaya	170	136	315	202
5.	Mizoram	40	14	238	13
6.	Nagaland	130	70	190	117
7.	Sikkim	—	—	117	38
8.	Tripura	221	121	785	66

* Upto 31st Jan. 1995, latest available.

India's Exports

1801. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received suggestion from Federation of Indian Export Organisation that the exports were suffering due to lack of infrastructural facilities and their poor upkeep in recent months;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for providing various infrastructural facilities and financial assistance for boosting exports from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) In the Board of Trade meeting held on 24th Feb. '95 under the Chairmanship of Commerce Minister, the Federation of Indian Export Organisations submitted a set of suggestions including those for Infrastructure Development. The areas where improvement has been requested for are in power, transportation & communication sectors.

(c) Government has initiated several steps for infrastructure development in the country as also for better upkeep of existing infrastructure facilities. Private Sector participation is already permitted in infrastructure development activities. This Ministry regularly holds meeting of Standing Committee on Promotion of Exports by Air & Shipping (SCOPE-AIR & SCOPE-SHIPING) to address issues concerning export infrastructure. Besides developing Export Processing Zones, Export Promotion Industrial Parks Scheme has also been formulated to provide infrastructure of international standards in States.

US Investment

1802. SMT. DIL KUMARI BHANDARI:
DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. trade mission has expressed certain predictions particularly about possibilities of investment in India during their recent visit;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether the Government propose to take some specific steps to attract the US investment and capital base which is shifting to other countries from China;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India has been identified by the US Department of Commerce as one of the top ten emerging markets. The US Trade Mission expressed confidence and optimism about flows of US capital to India.

(c) to (e) Government of India's foreign investment policy and related initiatives are in recognition of the growing importance of foreign direct investment as an instrument of technology transfer, augmentation of foreign exchange reserves and globalisation of the Indian economy. Country-specific investment incentives are, however, not pursued by Government.

NRI Investment

1803. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of NRI Investment proposals submitted to the Government for investment in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government have approved all the proposals for the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether such investments need approval of the Central Government essentially or the State Government can also take independent decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) After the New Industrial Policy 1991, till 28-2-1995 Government have received 15 proposals out of which 12 proposals have been approved, envisaging NRI investment of about Rs. 2688.00 lakhs, for setting up of industries in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(d) Such NRI equity investments require the approval of Central Government and RBI. The State Government provides essential infrastructural facilities to these units viz. power, water etc.

National Plan for employment Generation

1804. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a national plan for employment generations scheme is being drawn up jointly by the employers and State trade unions;

(b) if so, the main features of the plan; and

(c) the likely time schedule for implementing the plan?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) The Government is not aware of any national plan for

employment generation scheme being drawn up jointly by the employers and State Trade Unions.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Modernisation of Delhi Airport

1805. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise Delhi Airport;

(b) if so, the details of the plan drawn up for the modernisation of the airport; and

(c) the funds earmarked for the same?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) A project for modernisation of Air Traffic Control facilities at Delhi Airport has been taken up by the National Airports Authority at a cost of Rs. 176 crores (approx). Besides, the International Airports Authority of India has plans to construct International Terminal Complex Phase-II, additional Remote Parking Bays, Hanger Annexe and Apron for private airlines, Cargo Bays, Multi-level car park, Public Amenities Block at Cargo Complex at a cost of about Rs. 520 crores.

Closure/Shifting of Branches of Banks in Kerala

1806. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to close down or shift any of the branches/offices of any of the nationalised banks in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any such branches/offices have been closed/shifting during 1994; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India has not received any proposal for closure/shifting of any branch of any Nationalised Bank in Kerala.

Goswami Committee Report

1807. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the industrialists have opposed the Goswami Committee Report on industrial sickness;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to implement the recommendations of the Goswami Committee;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to work out any

mechanism to wind up sick companies faster; and

(f) if so, the time stipulated therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (f). The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) had submitted a memorandum in July 1994 which, inter-alia, emphasised the need for speedy decision making for revival of sick companies by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and providing mandatory powers to the BIFR for expeditious implementation of rehabilitation schemes.

The Government had appointed in 1993 a Committee on Industrial Sickness and Corporate Restructuring under the chairmanship of Dr. Omkar Goswami which has, inter-alia, recommended amendment of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA) to allow for early detection of sickness, restructuring of BIFR into a fast track facilitator and setting up of winding up tribunals. The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration of Government.

Financial Assistance for Export of Seeds

1808. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage the export of seeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have provided any financial incentives for boosting the export of seeds;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e). Measures adopted to encourage export of seeds include inter-alia, exports being freely allowed without restrictions except in certain categories which form part of the Negative List of Exports under the EXIM Policy, reduction in import duties, tax benefits for in-house research and development and pre-shipment and post-shipment credit at concessional rate of interest.

Re-Export of Sugar

1809. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imposed ban on re-exporting sugar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that Sugar Importers' Association has decided to approach foreign banks through their overseas collaborators for issue of back-dated letter of credits and contracts in order to circumvent the notification issued by the Government for banning the re-export of sugar;

(d) if so, the number of cases detected by the custom authorities and the total quantity exported out of the imported sugar;

(e) whether the Government have taken a serious view on the sugar-re-exporters'; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government to check re-exporting of sugar from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (f). Re-export of imported sugar has been placed in Part II of the Negative List of Exports relating to restricted items, where exports are permitted only under licence, vide Notification No. 64 dated 13.1.1995, copies of which are available in Parliament Library. The said Notification does not provide for any transitional facility as envisaged under para 5 of the Policy, in respect of imported sugar, including imported sugar which has already landed and is pending clearance at the Customs. Hence any attempt by parties to obtain back dated letters of credit and contracts in order to circumvent the Notification and avail transitional facility would not serve any purpose.

[Translation]

Special Education Scheme for the Labourers

1810. SHRI: RAM PAL SINGH:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any special education scheme for the labourers including child labour working in hazardous industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of labourers who are likely to be benefited from the above scheme; and

(d) the date from which the above scheme is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (d). According to information received from Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education), no new scheme for education of labourers/child labourers working in hazardous industries has been formulated. However, the Department of Education is already implementing the programme of Non-Formal Education since 1979-80 for imparting education to children in 6-14 age groups who are unable to attend formal schools due to various socio-economic constraints.

In addition to the above, under the National Child Labour Projects scheme of the Ministry of Labour, children withdrawn from work in various occupations including hazardous occupations are given primary level education through special schools set up for the purpose.

Government is presently engaged in the process of preparing a major action plan to eliminate child labour in hazardous occupations which is estimated at 20 lakhs. Under the scheme children working in hazardous occupations are proposed to be withdrawn in a phased

manner from hazardous occupations in which they are engaged and diverting them into special schools. The year 2000 is the target date for the elimination of child labour in hazardous occupations.

Imposition of Ban on Import of Indian Drugs by UAE

1811. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA):

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Arab Emirates has imposed a ban on the import of certain drugs from India;

(b) if so, the details of these drugs and the estimated loss being incurred by Indian drug manufacturing industry as a result thereof; and

(c) the initiative taken by the Union Government for the removal of such restrictions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Revised registration procedures for import of drugs were notified by UAE authorities in January, 1994. Since Indian exporters have been unable to meet the new criteria, export of drugs to UAE has been severely affected.

(b) Various categories of drugs and pharmaceuticals exported from India to UAE including drugs which were registered with the UAE authorities prior to the enforcement of the revised criteria have been affected. CHEMEXCIL have estimated the loss of exports to be approximately Rs. 25-30 crores per year.

(c) Delegations comprising officials and members of the trade visited UAE and held detailed discussions on the issue with the UAE authorities concerned. Our Mission in UAE has also taken up the matter with the authorities there. Based on these discussions further appropriate steps have been initiated to resolve the problem.

12.00 hrs.

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM (Inner Manipur): Sir, I want to bring before the august House the fact that Shri Mutum Deben Singh was a prospective candidate of the Manipur People's Party in the last election. At the same time, he was a Minister in the Council of Ministers of the State of Manipur. He was shot dead while he was campaigning for his election along with his followers numbering over a hundred. He was shot dead in broad day light on 11th February, 1995. On the very same day, Sir, one prominent leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), namely Shri Madhu Mangal Sharma, was also shot dead at his residence. The Minister, Shri Deban Singh, who was a Minister of State was brutally murdered and the MPP demanded the Government for coming out with a White Paper on it. But up-till now, nothing has come out. I am raising this question in this august House because it appears to us, to the Party there, that this murder is a politically motivated one because, the ex-Minister was a sitting Member. Also Sir, no condolence was paid by the Government, the Government even did not condemn the killing. So it is taken as a murder which is politically motivated. Now, Sir, I bring it to the notice of the House

that the Central Government be urged through this House that the enquiry, the investigation must be referred to the CBI so that there may be fair investigation into the murder.

Sir, my last point is that no *ex-gratia* amount has been granted to the bereaved family up-till now. No announcement has been made. Therefore, I urge the Government through this august House that an *ex-gratia* grant of rupees five lakh be granted to the bereaved family on humanitarian consideration.

[Translation]

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA (Chatra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, around 400 candidates and their election agents of Bihar have been called to Delhi where the elections have been concluded. I submit that instead of calling all of them to Delhi the Election Commission can go to Patna or send any of its officials there to get any information from them because those 400 people are finding it difficult to get reservation in trains and they have to incur expenditure for that also. That is why I would like to draw your attention to it that the Election Commission should consider this suggestion and instead of calling those people to Delhi, they should be talked to in Patna only.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to submit that heavy hailstorm ravaged large parts of Rajasthan including 12 districts, namely, Jhalavar, Tonk, Rajsamund, Jhunjhunu, Dausa, Jaipur, Alwar, Baansvada, Chittore, Udaipur and Ajmer. Standing crops of farmers worth crores of rupees were damaged in these districts. The heavy hailstorms have damaged several houses also thereby rendering several people homeless. I demand from the Central Government, through you, that a team of official be sent to hailstorm-affected areas to take stock of the damage having been done to the people and crops and the farmers whose standing crops have been damaged and people whose houses have been damaged or have caved in should be provided central assistance. I urge upon you to kindly launch the crop insurance scheme in those areas also. I am hopeful that the Central Government would immediately sent a team of official to take stock of the situation and provide assistance to those farmers whose crops have been damaged and make arrangements to construct the damaged houses because it is a very important question as it concerns farmers.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali): I just want to support him regarding the Manipur killings. Our President also supports it... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, today it has come out in the newspapers that there have been explosions at 15 places in the city of Delhi and in places like Connaught Place injuring 15 persons. This is a very serious incident and warrants a statement from the Government as to how this incident has taken place in the city of Delhi in such important places of the city.

I demand that a statement be made by the Home Minister today on this incident. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I think we have one Ordinance to be passed and yesterday also the Members very kindly

cooperated. I think it would be necessary to pass that Ordinance; otherwise we would be required to sit on Saturday.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please ask the Government to give a statement in regard to the bomb-blasts which took place in Delhi. It is a very serious matter as well as an important one. The Delhi administration does not have enough police to tackle such incidents. The Central Government should assist the Delhi administration to enable the Delhi Government to properly deal with such incidents of bomb-blasts...(*Interruptions*)

1209 hrs.

[*Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair.*]

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: One by one please; all of you will have a chance.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: My request is, you please resume your seat.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: The Government should make a statement on this. This is a very serious matter. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will have a chance.

[*Translation*]

DR. P.R. GANGWAR (Pilibhit): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, police raped two Dalit women in my constituency. But neither any enquiry has been held in this case nor any report has been registered nor any other action has been taken. I demand through you that orders be issued to enquire into this matter and the guilty police personnel be punished...(*Interruptions*)...Two local police constables and an ASI raped those women, tore their clothes, broke utensils but nobody listened to them...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will have a chance...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will call the names one by one. You all will get a chance to speak...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government about a very serious and urgent matter of public importance. In the Sahara International Airport in Bombay, many undesirable and nasty things are happening. The people who are returning from the Gulf countries are put to a lot of difficulties and harassments by the touts. This issue has been raised by many hon. Members including myself in this august House many a time. It has not been responded by the Government of India and no action has been taken by the Maharashtra Government.

Last Tuesday, as reported in the newspapers, three people who returned from the Gulf countries and on their way to Kerala had been accosted by touts and taken them to a hotel in Kurla. They have been robbed of their

valuables and their hard earned money and they have been put to a lot of difficulties and hardships. The police reluctantly arrested two people when the complaint was filed with them. I allege that these things are happening with the connivance of a section of the police. The inaction of police on such complaints is a result of this lethargic attitude of the officials and the Government.

There are a number of passengers who are coming from the Gulf countries and whose destination is Kerala and who are the victims of these touts.

Therefore, I take this opportunity to urge the Government to take it as a serious matter and give the protection to the travellers who are coming to Sahara International Airport from Gulf countries and proceed to various destinations from Bombay.

I hope the Government will take necessary immediate steps to prevent these undesirable elements and take action against them...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will call all the names provided you cooperate. The Zero Hour comes to an end by 12.30 P.M. It is for you to cooperate. Each of the hon. Member will get one minute each...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government to a very serious problem. A gang is actively operating in the Firozabad city of Uttar Pradesh which indulges in kidnappings of teenaged students and sending the abducted teenagers to some other big city. This way around 40 students have so far been kidnapped from this city and Firozabad Police administration has not been able to make any headway in this matter. That is why the whole city is tense. The school students have even held a demonstration in this regard and have demanded that the gang be apprehended.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, that of late the law and order situation has worsened to such an extent in Firozabad that five Industrialists have been kidnapped from there, yet, the S.S.P. has not been able to find out anything in this regard.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a very important matter that Firozabad's population of Hindu and Muslims is almost similar in number and if the increasing cult of kidnappings misleads one community into believing that it is being done at the behest of the other community then it is likely to make the situation of not only Firozabad but the whole country very explosive. Aligarh and Agra have also witnessed riots among minorities. That is why, through you, I would like to urge upon the Government to take immediate steps and find out about the kidnapped wards of the people and then they should be restored to their parents.

Since you have allowed me only a minute to have my say, I conclude without going into details.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want to make it clear to all

of you. You all have given notices. The names are here. Why do you not consume the time of the House in a better way?... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a matter relating to 41, Jahanabad constituency of Bihar. This area is infested with terrorists. The poor and harijan youth are not being able to progress in that area and hence, they are getting isolated from the main stream. I have repeatedly submitted to the Government that Jahanabad should also be included in those districts which have been identified under Integrated Jawahar Rozgar Scheme and the criteria fixed for it should be amended. You must be coming across news-items in the dailies that terrorism is taking this area in its stranglehold. We demand that Jahanabad is included under Integrated Jawahar Rozgar Scheme by relaxing the rules, to get this area free of terrorist outfits because development is the only weapon which can root out terrorism.

[*English.*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. K.V.R. Chowdary.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): Mr. Deputy Sepaker, Sir... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have called Dr. K.V.R. Chowdary.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: I am also Choudhury, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are a senior Choudhury, I am calling a junior Chowdary.

DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY (Rajahmundry): Sir, I like to bring to your kind notice about the defects in the Panchyat Raj Act. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Chowdary, reading out the speech is prohibited. If at all you want to say something, just put it in the capsule form.

DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY: Sir, Recently, the Andhra Pradesh Government misused the Act by conducting elections to local bodies, Panchayat Sarpanch posts, Mandals and Zila Parishads elections separately. By doing this there has been a loss to the exchequer to the tune of about Rs. 75 crore. Also, by issuing the notifications separately, there has been a loss of more than two month for carrying out development activities in the rural areas because all the developmental activities there have come to a grinding halt.

I request the Rural Development Minister and the Urban Development Minister to make arrangements for holding elections simultaneously for Councils, Mandals and Panchayats in one day so that we can save the money.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMDEW RAM (Palamau): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Palamau, which is a district of Bihar falls under my constituency. There is a cement factory in the Hussainabad division which has been closed down since long. Thousands of workers of that area are dying of starvation and there are no facilities of medicine or education for their

families yet nobody is willing to listen to their grievances. The Government are betraying them. It has been rightly said 'Daga kisi ka saga nahin hai, na mano to kar ke dekho jis-jisne daga kiya hai, uska jakker ghar dekho.' I urge upon them to provide facilities to those workers.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the Ministry of Communications have decided to set up another telecommunications division. The other division is being set up at Dehradun but the districts which have been included under it are not ideally selected. Agra division, Bareilly division, Kumaon division and Moradabad division have been included under it which are geographically far from Dehradun. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the condition of those Mandals is very bad because there is no proper transportation route whereas Lucknow is very close to it. If the Government intend to work in the right direction then Bareilly would be the ideal choice. If the second division is proposed to be set up then it should be set up in Bareilly. The Central Government have decided to develop Bareilly as the counter magnate city which is beneficial from every point of view. Around one lakh telephone consumers would be affected by it and the departmental expenses would also come down. I would like to say that it should be reconsidered and necessary directions should be issued to set up another division of Uttar Pradesh in Bareilly.

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI (Robertsganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government to such backward districts of our country, namely Sonbhadra in Uttar Pradesh and Singrauli in Madhya Pradesh, which are of a different kind. In 1950 at the time of laying a foundation stone of Pansagar, a spring bridge had also been constructed under it on Renu River to link both the areas. This bridge caved in during monsoons in 1991. At that time you had allowed me to raise this matter in this House and then this bridge had been repaired. Now, in September, 1994, it collapsed again delinking my constituency in Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh where there are NCC, NTPC and Government of India Coal Mines and private aluminium factory, Kanodia chemicals and Hi-tech carbon etc. factories. The traffic of this place has been jammed. Besides, our adivasis, go from Renu Sagar to Renukoot for shopping and medical facilities. Today, there is no transportation facility for them in those jungles and that is why they are on the verge of starvation because our adivasis are not permitted to use the dam on Pansagar and Renu Sagar.

That is why, through you, I would like to urge upon the Government, I had demanded at that also that a passenger train should be introduced from Banaras. But our Minister of Railways seems annoyed with me because he discontinued this rail facility. I request that this passenger train be resumed and an immediate action be taken by NCL, NTPC and the Central Government to start the construction work of this bridge soon.

[English]

SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA (Keonjhar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very sorry to draw the attention of this august House about an incident in the recent elections in my State. There was some religious propaganda which was taking place in my parliamentary constituency. I am very sorry to inform this august House about this sort of religious propaganda which is going on in India. Sir, India is a democratic country where we shall have to fight with each other, that is, there must be only two parties in India to fight with each other. For example, in the British empire there are two parties only. That is called democracy. In India there are several parties. They are distributing money and exploiting the *Adivasi* people who are there in my parliamentary constituency. They are exploiting these *Adivasi* people and are capturing the booths and they are also threatening our *Adivasi* people and capturing the booths and getting the votes.

In my parliamentary constituency, Keonjhar, I have only five M.L.As. In one of the seats, the headquarters town of my parliamentary constituency, Keonjhar, my son, Shri Lingraj Munda was to win the seat by 6,000 votes. But these religious parties, whom I cannot name in this House, have done religious propaganda and he lost the seat by 4,000 votes. I would like to draw the attention of this House to the point that this sort of religious propaganda should not be propagated. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, some companies claim to make LPG easily available to the common people. They also claim to have been granted permission by the Central Government and issued licences. But according to my information, they possess no infrastructure, no bottling plants and no transport facilities. These companies are earning lakhs of rupees only by appointing distributors or by granting dealerships.

LPG has been made available to none by these. I would like to know the names of the companies which have been issued licences or authorised for promising to make LPG available to the people and accumulating wealth that way. Like the Gagan company and the chit fund companies of many other banks, the Peerless, Laxmi Chand Bagga etc. gulped down public's crores of rupees. Does not there exist such a possibility? Hence, in order to allay such apprehensions the Government should give the names of such companies and also affirm whether these are authorised companies?

SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazaribagh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government to Hazaribagh district. One year ago the electronic machine got burnt in Hazaribagh which has not been replaced so far. There is no communication facility available there. In this connection, I also met Shri Sukh Ram and wrote dozens of letters to him but all in vain. I also met and wrote letters to the Chief General Manager of Patna. The deplorable part of it is that even he did not take any action in this regard. My telephone at Hazaribagh is out of order for the past one year and, thus, I am not able to talk to

anybody. The office-bearers there burnt the machines worth 7 crores of rupees because their channel of income was blocked. These officials are earning Rs. 20-25 thousand due to machine being out of order. Such machine was also burnt at Dhanbad. An inquiry should be conducted into this matter and an electronic machine re-installed at Hazaribagh as soon as possible.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Bombay-South Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Directorate of Handicrafts under the Central Textile Ministry has issued orders for shifting the office of Regional Design and Technical Development Centre for Handicrafts situated in Bombay to Bhopal. Jawahar Lal ji through his letter had informed hon. Venkat Swamyji that 99 percent export of handicraft items is done from Bombay. Therefore, this office should be situated in Bombay itself. The workers are working there for the past 38 years. They have not got their wages of last three months. Venkat Swamyji is present here. I request him not to shift this office to Bhopal. The 250 odd people who were being imparted training there can also be paid their wages. Wages may be paid to them and a decision in this connection taken forthright.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there has been a sudden death of LPG in Rajasthan including Kota. The Gas Authority of India had set up an LPG refilling plant in Sawai Madhopur but some days back the supply of LPG in Rajasthan was disrupted due to work to rule and the strike. LPG has not been available there for more than three months.

On the one hand LPG is not available and on the other the Central Government has not supplied full quota of kerosene oil for the last 6 months. Thus, neither LPG nor kerosene is available to the people there. Kerosene is sold at the rate of Rs. 12-15 per litre in the markets of Rajasthan. My submission is that the Central Government should immediately issue orders of installing a rebottling plant in Sawai-Madhopur and ensure the proper supply of LPG cylinders in Rajasthan at war footing because the common consumer is in great trouble there. Today morning, I received a phone call from the District Magistrate of Kota and he said that people are really facing hardships there. I hope that the hon. Minister will definitely take steps in this direction...(Interruptions)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Jaipur is also facing the problem of non-availability of LPG as well as kerosene. I urge that both the items be made available in Jaipur...(Interruptions) The condition in Jaipur is worse than Kota...(Interruptions)

SHRI JANARDAN MISRA (Sitapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the 40 per cent increase in the prices of paper. In 1991, hon. Narasimha Rao ji and the hon. Finance Minister enforced the new industrial policy due to which the prices of paper increased by Rs. 17.50 per kg in that very year. In January 1994, there was another increase of Rs. 20-30 per kg and in early 1995, the prices of paper increased to Rs. 35-40 per kg. On this, 7.50 per cent sales tax is levied and the freight charges have also increased. As a result of this India's book trade will not

flourish, the students can not get education, there will be a decline in the rate of literacy, education will be inaccessible, the reservoirs of knowledge will be emptied and there will be a decline in art and culture. Therefore, I urge upon the Government that in order to check the increase in the prices of paper, salvage the book trade from these crisis, the excise duty should be lessened so that the prices of paper register a fall.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, picking up the same thread, I would like to submit that be it the news-print or any other industry, be it the question of book-publishing or raising the level of literacy in the country, making note-books available to the students or the publication of text-books in the state, the whole publication industry is in a crisis. There has been a 45 per cent increase in the prices of paper during the last four months. It is an unprecedented crisis and the whole country is facing it. The publisher, the book-binder, the writer are all facing this problem. The crisis of newsprint is extremely grave and newsprint organisations have repeatedly submitted memoranda but no action is forthcoming. I urge upon the Government to increase the production of both newsprint and ordinary paper and give relief to the affected parties. Alongwith this, the distribution of paper should be decontrolled and arrangements made for independent import of paper so that its prices can be reduced.

DR. P.R. GANGWAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a boom in the incidents of decoity, theft, rape and terrorism in Uttar Pradesh since the Mulayam Singh Government assumed the power in the state. He has no control over administration. In this connection, I would like to say that on 28th of the last month one Inspector and two constables of Police station Dheoria, village Barkhedakata in my constituency Pilibhit raped two Dalit women—Ramkumari aged 22 and Munni Devi, 20. They tore off their clothes and broke their household goods and utensils. After this incident, when the victims complained to me, I sent them to the S.P., Pilibhit and also made a phone call to him. But no action has been taken so far. Now, the S.P. of the same police Station has been appointed as an inquiry officer. I wonder how can the S.P. of the same police station in the jurisdiction of which this incident took place conduct a fair inquiry and submit an impartial report? No punishment has been awarded to the culprits so far. *(Interruptions)* I would like to urge upon you to punish the guilty policemen after conducting an inquiry there and give relief to the victims...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while supporting what Dr. P.R. Gangwar said I would like to say that the Police have inflicted heavy atrocities on Dalits in Agra. 21 people were injured in police crackdown. Besides, the same number of people were injured and one killed when they were beaten by I.S.I. supported elements. The police is oppressing and harassing the Dalits in Agra.

[Translation]

The Government is denying the cases of assault

perpetrated by the I.S.I. agents and it is hatching conspiracy to divide the details and cause conflict among themselves.

Sir, my submission is that the atrocities perpetrated against dalits by the Mulayam Singh Government should be checked. The police also is giving protection to the ISI supporters. I, therefore, would like to submit to the Government to protect the downtrodden and other people from persecution of the Mulayam Singh Government.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balrampur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Uttar Pradesh and particularly towards a district in Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The farmers, the poor landless workers of Eastern U.P. and Gonda district from which I hail have been suffering from the pangs of fire. No assistance is given by the State Government there. A large number of villages in my Constituency Balrampur were burnt in January last. The poor farmers had to take shelter under the trees during winter. There is a rule, under which the Government has to provide an amount of Rs. 750 as provisional assistance immediately to each victim. This amount of assistance is not being paid for the last 3 years and now the calendar year of 1995 is going on but no assistance has been provided so far by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The farmers are living under trees.

Sir, my submission is that it is possible that farmers may save something from floods but nothing can be saved from fire. Dr. Manmohan Singh is here. The General Insurance Scheme was being discussed just now. The Government has introduced the Cottage insurance and the barn insurance schemes to provide assistance to those farmers whose cottages and barns have burnt in fire, but such assistance is not being provided at all. I demand that the Ministry of Finance should pay attention to it. Secondly, through you, I would like to demand the Government of Uttar Pradesh to provide provisional assistance to those farmers and they should not be meted out inhuman treatment. Provisional assistance should be given to the farmers of the Gonda district, particularly Balrampur area. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGARHI (Deogarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Orissa which accounts for one third of the total coal reserve of the country, of late, a subsidiary coal company, the Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd., was established which is now three years old. But it is expanding very rapidly. The situation is such that there will be another company in course of time after about five years. But although one Company has already been working there now and has been established, there is only one Director (Technical) besides the CMD in that company. The posts of Director (Personnel) and Director (Finance) are yet to be sanctioned and work is being affected because of these posts lying vacant. Smooth functioning and the plant expansion are not possible unless these Directors posts are filled up.

Talcher is a vast coalfield which again account for two-

thirds of the total coal production of the Company and there the need of the hour is to have the Coal Division under the MCL posted with a full time Director (Technical).

Therefore, I would request the Government to understand the urgency of the matter and take steps in this direction expeditiously.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your permission I would like to draw the attention of the House to the recent cancellation of a cultural programme in Delhi by a Pakistani singer Ms. Abida Parveen, who is an eminent exponent of Sufiana music which is a common heritage of the entire sub-continent. This cancellation became necessary because of some administrative mix-up. But perhaps something needs to be said about the visa policy with regard to programmes of cultural importance.

As a diplomat, I know that there is a principle of reciprocity to govern the relations between two independent States, but when objectives are different, there cannot be an absolute reciprocity.

The objective of Pakistan is to keep the people of the two countries apart. Our objective is to promote contact and cultural interaction between the people of the Sub-Continent. Therefore, I plead that there should be a clear-cut policy on this matter that on programmes of cultural intercourse and on visit of Pakistani artistes to India, there should be an open-door policy and that visas should be granted readily to all Pakistani cultural experts for visits to India in the future so that Pakistan does not derive the propaganda advantage by declaring that we are not true to our word when talk about promoting cultural relations between India and Pakistan.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the House that thousands of houses of Lolia fishermen, who have migrated from the coastal Andhra Pradesh and who have been staying near Konarak at the Sea Beach, had been burnt by some miscreants and the whole *basti* had been burnt. They have not got any houses now. They have lost all their fishing implements and their belongings. They are without clothes. But since they have not settled there—though they are staying there for fifty years—the Government of Orissa is not giving them any help under the ground that they are not the people of Orissa since their names are not there in the revenue records. These people's houses had been burnt. It is a human problem. Therefore, the Government of India should impress upon the Government of Orissa to give them help for rebuilding their houses. Unfortunately, the miscreants have not yet been arrested. They belong to the political parties. Those who did it, they have not yet been arrested. The Government had not taken action against those miscreants. So, I demand that the Government of India should impress upon the Government of Orissa to give them help to rebuild their

houses. The Prime Minister should also release some funds to these helpless people who are staying at the Sea Beach.

[Translation]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to the atrocities perpetrated on the people of Rajasthan and North India living in Lakhimpur area of Assam. At first Shri Deepak Kumar Aggarwal and Shri Indra Singh Sethi were kidnapped in Lakhimpur and thereafter two body guards of a big leader were arrested. Later on, their dead bodies were recovered. It was found that there was a big conspiracy behind these murders. Many memoranda were served there, bandh and strikes were held... (Interruptions) A few legislators were involved in the murder of innocent people in 1992, 1993 and 1994 in Bojai, Bagaigaon, Kokrajhar and Barpata districts. Both guards were apprehended. They were murdered in police custody so that the entire issue may be hushed up. The body guards were murdered and two persons were murdered. Previously, Ulfa committed atrocities. Now Bangladeshi emigrants are committing atrocities. My submission is that the Government should issue a white paper about these murders, and the hon. Minister of Home Affairs should make a statement in this House.... It is a very serious matter. Two persons from Rajasthan have been murdered.. (Interruptions) Atrocities are being committed on persons from Rajasthan in Assam. Stringent action should be taken in this regard and the hon. Minister of Home Affairs should make a statement in this connection. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If anything is against the Constitution, the names will be removed.

...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you expect a reply in the Zero Hour? Kindly oblige me.

...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Rasa Singh Rawatji, you have read the rules. You are a seasoned politician. You cannot simply Rise as and when you like and talk. There is a rule for that. If at all you want a particular reply to be given on the floor of the House by a concerned Minister, there is a relevant provision in the rules. Why do you not make use of it?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Neither he will give a statement about the bomb blasts in Delhi nor he will say anything about Assam. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No more explanations can be offered now. Your name was called and you were not present. Shri Basudeb Acharla's name was called he was

** Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

not present.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House is not concerned where you had gone. When your name is called, it is your responsibility to be on your seat and respond to it. Shri Acharia was absent when his name was called.

... (Interruptions)

DR. V. RAJESHWARAN (Ramnathapuram): Sir, the biggest corporate take-over battle will be a challenge to the globalisation policy being adopted by our Government with no support to the Indian company either by way of financial contribution in diversification proposals or in technology upgradation plans. It is a surprise that BAT attempts to take-over ITC by dubious ways and means. LTC is a flagship company in India, supporting globalisation efforts. The growth and profits generated by the company is a reflection of excellent professional management of the company. Therefore, we demand that BAT should disinvest their shares and financial institutions should support the present management. Grabbing of a profitable company by BAT by raising its stake in ITC to 51 per cent should not be allowed as the present management's track record is good.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now we shall take up Papers Laid on the Table of the House.

12.46 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Home Affairs for 1995-96 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): Sir, on behalf of Shri S.B. Chavan, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the detailed Demands for Grants (Vol. I) (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Home Affairs for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7164595]

- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Vol. II) (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Home Affairs (Union Territories without Legislature) for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7165/95]

International Airports Authority of India (Condition of service of Chairman and other whole-time Members) Amendments Rules, 1993.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

A copy of the International Airports Authority of India (Conditions of service of Chairman and other Whole-time Members) Amendment Rules, 1993 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 545(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th

July, 1993 together with an Explanatory Note thereon, under sub-section (3) of section 36 of the International Airports Authority Act, 1971.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7166/95]

Annual Report and Review of the Working of Carpet Export Promotion Council, Noida for 1993-94

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Carpet Export Promotion Council, Noida, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Carpet Export Promotion Council, Noida, for the year 1993-94.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7167/95]

Annual Accounts, Audit Report and Annual Report of Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi for 1993-94 etc.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94 together with Audit Report thereon under section 36 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.
- (2) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi for the year 1993-94, under section 34 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Board for workers Education, Nagpur, for year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7168/95]

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Board for Workers education, Nagpur for the year 1993-94.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7169/95]

- (4) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the employees' Provident Fund Organisation, New Delhi for the year 1993-94.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7170/95]

Review of the working of and Annual Report of Projects and Equipment Corporation of India Ltd. New Delhi for 1993-94 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
Sir, on behalf of Shri P. Chidambaram, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Projects and Equipment Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94

(ii) Annual Report of the Projects and Equipment Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7171/95].

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the State Trading Corporation of India Limited, for the year 1993-94.

(ii) Annual Report of the State Trading Corporation of India Limited, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7172/95]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Spices Trading Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1993-94.

(ii) Annual Report of the Spices Trading Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7173/95]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited, Bombay, for the year 1993-94.

(ii) Annual Report of the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited, Bombay, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7174/95]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1993-94.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1993-94.

(iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1993-94 together with Audit Report thereon

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7175/95]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Packaging, Bombay, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the Indian Institute of Packaging, Bombay for the year 1993-94.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7176/95]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Spices Board, Cochin, for the year 1993-94.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Spices Board, Cochin, for the year 1993-94.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Spices Board, Cochin, for the year 1993-94.

[Placed in Library. See LT-7177/95.]

(6) A copy of the detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Commerce for the year 1995-96

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7178/95]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Arbitration, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94' alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of Arbitration, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7179/95]

Notification under State Bank of India (Subsidiary) Act, 1959, etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy of the Notification No. SBD No.9/1994 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th July, 1994 making certain amendments in Regulations 52(2) and 62(2) of the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur/Hyderabad/Indore/Mysore/Patiala/Saurashtra and Travancore (Officers') Service Regulations, 1979, under sub-section (4) of section 63 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary) Act, 1959.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7180/95]

(2) A copy of the Indian Overseas Bank Officer Employees (Conduct) (Amendment) Regulation, 1992 (Hindi and English versions) published in

Notification No.IRD/184/82 in Gazette of India dated the 16th July, 1994, under sub-section (4) of Section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7181/95]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 12 of the Government Savings Certificates Act, 1959:—

- (i) The Kisan Vikas Patra (Amendment) Rules, 1995 published in Notification No.G.S.R. 119 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1995.
- (ii) The National Savings Certificates (VIII Issue) (Amendment) Rules, 1995 published in Notification No.G.S.R. 120(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1995.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7182/95]

- (4) A copy of the Post Office Time Deposit (Amendment) Rules, 1995 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No.G.S.R. 118 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1995, under sub-section (3) of section 15 of the Government Savings Banks Act, 1873.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7183/95]

- (5) A copy of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 1995 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No.G.S.R. 121 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th March, 1995 under sub-section (3) of section 30 of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7184/95]

- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

- (i) G.S.R. 795(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th November, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No.155/94-Cus., dated the 13th July, 1994.
- (ii) G.S.R. 857(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th December, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No.88/94-Cus., dated the 1st July, 1994.
- (iii) G.S.R. 882(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th December, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No.257/92-Cus., dated the 12th August, 1992.
- (iv) G.S.R. 886(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum extending the validity of Notification No. 16/89-Cus., dated the 1st February, 1989 upto the 30th June, 1995.
- (v) G.S.R. 891(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain

amendments in the Notification No.88/94-Cus., dated the 1st March, 1994.

- (vi) S.O. 937(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th December, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice versa* for the purpose of assessment of imports.
- (vii) S.O. 938(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th December, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of exports.
- (viii) S.O. 62(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th January, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency of *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of imports.
- (ix) S.O. 63(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th January, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of imports.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7185/95].

- (7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961:—

- (i) The Income-tax (Thirteenth Amendment) Rules, 1994 published in Notification No. S.O. 928(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd December, 1994.
- (ii) The Income-tax (First Amendment) Rules, 1995 published in Notification No. S.O. 17(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th December, 1995.
- (iii) The Income-tax (Second Amendment) Rules, 1995 published in Notification No. S.O. 108(E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th February, 1995. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-7186/95]

- (8) A copy of the Wealth-tax (First Amendment) Rules, 1995 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 70(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st January, 1995, under sub-section (4) of section 46 of the Wealth Tax Act, 1957.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7187/95]

- (9) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944:—

- (i) G.S.R. 829(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to '9 mm Pistols' and '7.62 mm SLRs' manufactured by M/s Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad from the whole of the duty of excise leviable thereon when supplied to the Armed Forces of the Union and Police Forces of the

States or the Union Territories.

- (ii) G.S.R. 854(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to rubberised textile fabrics from the whole of the duty of excise leviable thereon.
- (iii) G.S.R. 877(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd December, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No.20/94-CE, dated the 1st March, 1994.
- (iv) The Consumer Welfare Fund (Amendment) Rules, 1995 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 29(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th January, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (v) The Central Excise (Amendment) Rules, 1995 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 37(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th January, 1995.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7188/95]
- (10) A copy of the Order (Hindi and English versions) regarding relaxation of conditions laid down in Section 32AB (5) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 to M/s Orissa Mining Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the assessment year 1990-91, under clause (c) of sub-section (2) of section 119 of the said Act.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7189/95]
- (11) A copy of the Coinage (Standard Weight and Remedy of Commemorative Coins) of one hundred Rupees (containing Silver 50 percent, Copper 40 percent, Nickel 5 percent, and Zinc 5 percent) Fifty rupees and five rupees (containing Copper 75 percent and Nickel 25 percent) coined to Commemorate the occasion of "50th Anniversary of United Nations-1995" Rules, 1995 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 19(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 1995, under sub-section (3) of section 21 of the Coinage Act, 1906.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7190/95]
- (12) A copy each of the following Annual Reports and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Rural Banks for the year ended on the 31st March, 1994, together with Auditor's Report thereon:—
- (i) Thane Gramin Bank, Thane (Maharashtra)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7191/95]
- (ii) Murshidabad Gramin Bank, Berhampore (West Bengal)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7192/95]
- (iii) Manipur Rural Bank, Imphal
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7193/95]
- (iv) Gaur Gramin Bank, Malda (West Bengal)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7194/95]
- (v) Sree Anantha Grameena Bank, Anantapur (A.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7195/95]
- (vi) Vindhyavasini Gramin Bank, Mirzapur (U.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7196/95]
- (vii) North Malabar Gramin Bank, Kannur (Kerala)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7197/95]
- (viii) Marathwada Gramin Bank, Nanded (Maharashtra)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7198/95]
- (ix) Sabarkantha Gandhinagar Gramin Bank, Himatnagar (Gujarat).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7199/95]
- (x) Pithoragarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Pithoragarh (U.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7200/95]
- (xi) Marudhar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Churu (Rajasthan)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7201/95]
- (xii) Kutch Gramin Bank, Bhuj (Gujarat)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7202/95]
- (xiii) Alaknanda Gramin Bank, Pauri Garhwal (U.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7203/95]
- (xiv) Bhandara Gramin Bank, Bhandara (Maharashtra)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7204/95]
- (xv) Etah Gramin Bank, Etah (U.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7205/95]
- (xvi) Godavari Grameena Bank, Rajahmundry (A.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7206/95]
- (xvii) Gorakhpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Gorakhpur (U.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7207/95]
- (xviii) Junagadh Amreli Gramin Bank, Junagadh (Gujarat)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7208/95]
- (xix) Ballia Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ballia (U.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7209/95]
- (xx) Tungabhadra Gramin Bank, Bellary (A.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7210/95]
- (xxi) Ratlam Mandsaur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Mandsaur (M.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7211/95]
- (xxii) Kakathiya Grameena Bank, Hanamkonda, Distt. Warangal (A.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7212/95]
- (xxiii) Bastar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Jagdalpur (M.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7213/95]
- (xxiv) Panchmahal Vadodara Gramin Bank, Godhra (Gujarat)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7214/95]
- (xxv) Sri Visakha Grameena Bank, Srikakulam (A.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7215/95]
- (xxvi) Kalpatharu Grameena Bank, Tumkur

- (xxvi) Kalpatharu Grameena Bank, Tumkur (Karnataka)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7216/95]
- (xxvii) Bhagirath Gramin Bank, Sitapur (U.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7217/95]
- (xxviii) Aligarh Gramin Bank, Aligarh (U.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7218/95]
- (xxix) Banaskantha Mehsana Gramin Bank, Patan (Gujarat)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7219/95]
- (xxx) Chitradurga Gramin Bank, Chitradurga (Karnataka)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7220/95]
- (xxxi) Prathma Bank, Moradabad (U.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7221/95]
- (xxxii) Ranchi Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ranchi (Bihar)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7222/95]
- (xxxiii) Muzaffarnagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Muzaffarnagar (U.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7223/95]
- (xxxiv) Dewas Shajapur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Dewas (M.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7224/95]
- (xxxv) Valsad Dangs Gramin Bank, Valsad (Gujarat)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7225/95]
- (xxxvi) Jhabua Dhar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Jhabua (M.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7226/95]
- (xxxvii) Pratapgarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Pratapgarh (U.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7227/95]
- (xxxviii) Indore Ujjain Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ujjain (M.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7228/95]
- (xxxix) Barabanki Gramin Bank, Barabanki (U.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7229/95]
- (xl) Rajgarh Sehore Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Sehore (M.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7230/95]
- (xli) Sultanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Sultanpur, (U.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7231/95]
- (xlii) Nimar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Khargo (M.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7232/95]
- (xliii) Gwalior Datia Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Datia (M.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7233/95]
- (xliv) Hissar Sirsa Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hissar (Haryana)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7234/95]
- (xlv) Patliputra Gramin Bank, Patna (Bihar)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7235/95]
- (xvi) Sarayu Gramin Bank, Lakhimpur Kheri (U.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7236/95]
- (xvii) Gurdaspur Amritsar Kshetriya Gramin Vikas Bank, Gurdaspur (Pb.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7237/95]
- (13) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under article 151(1) of the Constitution:—
- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 4 of 1995) for the year ended the 31st March, 1994 (Revenue Receipts-Indirect Taxes)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7238/95]
 - (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 5 of 1995) for the year ended the 31st March, 1994 (Revenue Receipts—Direct Taxes).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7239/95]
- (14) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Housing Bank for the period from the 1st July, 1993 to the 30th June, 1994, alongwith Audited Accounts under sub-section (5) of section 40 of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7240/95]

12.48. hrs

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES FORTY-SECOND AND FORTY-THIRD REPORTS AND MINUTES

[Translation]

SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ (Sarangarh): Sir, I beg to lay a copy each of the Reports (both Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes including Minutes (both Hindi and English versions) of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto:

- (i) Forty-first Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-second Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Re: Reservation and employment for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Ministry of Industry (Department of Heavy Industry) regarding Cement Corporation of India Limited.

- (2) Forty-second Report of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited regarding reservation and employment for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

- (3) Forty-third Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-fourth Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, regarding implementation and monitoring.

12.48½ hrs

[English]

Committee on Government Assurances Twenty Seventh Report)
Twenty Seventh Report)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-seventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

12.49 hrs

[English]

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
(Seventeenth and Eighteenth Report)

SHRI TARA SINGH (Kurukshetra): Sir, I beg to present the following reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Agriculture:

(1) Seventeenth Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the third report of the Committee on Annual Report (1992-93) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation).

(2) Eighteenth Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the fourth report of the Committee on Annual Report (1992-93) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying).

12.50 hrs.

[English]

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
Ninetieth Report

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra): I beg to present the Ninetieth Report (Hindi and English versions) on Action taken on Eighth Report of the Public Accounts Committee (Tenth Lok Sabha) regarding Assessment of Lottery Business.

12.50½ hrs

Business of the house

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) on behalf of Shri Vidyacharan Shukla: With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing 27th March, 1995 will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Submission to the Vote of the House the Demands on Account (Railways) for 1995-96.
3. Discussion & Voting on Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1994-95

4. General Discussion on the Jammu & Kashmir Budget for 1995-96
5. Submission to the Vote of the House the Demands on Account (Jammu & Kashmir) for 1994-95
6. Discussion & voting on Supplementary Demands for Grants (Jammu & Kashmir) for 1994-95
7. Consideration and passing of:—
 - (a) The National Environment Tribunal Bill, 1992
 - (b) The Cotton Transport Repeal Bill, 1994 as passed by Rajya Sabha
 - (c) The Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 1994

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): I request that the following subjects may be included in the next weeks' agenda:

- (1) need to repeal the decision of transfer of the office of the Salt Commissioner, the Government of India at Jaipur to Gujarat and continue the office at Jaipur as usual.
- (2) Need to allocate special budget to start the work of linking the Ajmer based oldest Railway workshop loco and carriage with broad gauge line as required.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): I request that the following may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (1) Discussion on the atmosphere of fear and insecurity prevalent among common people in the wake of naxalite activities in past in border areas of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh and running parallel Government in tribal dominated areas like Bastar.
- (2) Need to link Nasirabad-Mahu route with National highway and thoroughly consider the impractical policy of National Highways regarding the Link roads of backward areas of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): I request that the following may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (1) Discussion on "the role of Parliament and the functioning of CEC."
- (2) Problem of drinking water in various areas particularly coal belt of Orissa.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL (Phulpur): I request that the following may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (1) The sale of lotteries is at the peak in various states of the country. According to a civilised society it is an official gambling. Action should be taken at once to close up the lotteries for the welfare of our citizens.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): I request that the following may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (1) Need to set up TV relay centre instantly at Barangnagar in Rajasthan.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): I request that the following may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (1) Discussion on the problem arising from the theft and smuggling of human organs in large scale as a result of which lakhs of poor people are selling their organs like kidneys, eyes etc.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): I request that the following may be included in the next weeks' agenda:

- (1) Discussion on the 50% hike in the prices of books, note books of school children and newspapers within only 4 months in the wake of the new economic reforms.
- (2) Need to send a team to Rajasthan to compensate the loss of crops, buildings due to severe hailstorms in 12 districts of Rajasthan.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): I request that the following may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (1) The need to make suitable amendment in the sections of urban land ceiling Act. Keeping in view the interest of the farmers, which has been lying pending for a long period before the Union Government.
- (2) The Government should announce to set up the Fifth Pay Commission for those more than the three lakh Extra Departmental postal employees of postal Department working in the country for which the Government has already given its assurance.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I request that the following may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (1) Remedial measures to check large scale subsidence taking place in and around Asansol-Raniganj coal belt due to unscientific mining operation.
- (2) Continuous strike at AIIMS by resident doctors.

12.56 hrs.

[English]

ANNOUNCEMENT Re: RESIGNATION BY MEMBER

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that the hon. Speaker has received a letter dated 24th March 1995 from Shri Arjun Charan Sethi, an elected Member from Bhadrak Parliamentary Constituency of Orissa, resigning his seat in Lok Sabha. The resignation

is written in his own hand-writing. The hon. Speaker has accepted his resignation with effect from 24th March 1995.

12.56½ hrs.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR BUDGET, 1995-96

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): I beg to present a statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the State of Jammu and Kashmir for the year 1995-96. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7241/95]

12.57 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (JAMMU AND KASHMIR), 1994-95

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the State of Jammu and Kashmir for 1994-95. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7242/95]

12.57½ hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need for early clearance of the Baijal Nal Minor Irrigation Project, District Gajapati, Orissa**

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berhampur): The long-awaited Baijal Nal Minor Irrigation Project, with its location near Parlakhemundi town headquarters of the new Gajapati district of Orissa State remains unimplemented for nearly 15 years as on date.

The feeder to this proposed project is a perennial hill-stream, which retains copious water flow even during peak summer months. When properly harnessed, it has the capacity to irrigate approximately 1500 acres during Kharif season and nearly 1000 acres during Rabi season. Hundreds of farming families in the border areas of Orissa State as well as the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh will be immensely benefited by this project. Originally, the cost of this project was estimated at Rs. 75 lakh. However, owing to the price escalation over the years, its present estimated cost is approximately Rs. 5 crore. It is reliably learnt that the Government of Orissa has favourably recommended the aforesaid scheme to the Centre for necessary environmental clearance.

I would, therefore, urge the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests to accord necessary clearance of the over-delayed Baijal Nal Minor Irrigation Project in the new Gajapati District of Orissa, expeditiously.

13.00 hrs.

- (ii) **Need to release adequate funds for construction of a protection wall and embankment to protect the Samadhi of late Shri Y. B. Chavan at Karad in Maharashtra from erosion by river Krishna**

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (KARAD): Sir, I wish to raise the following matter under Rule 377.

The Samadhi of late Shri Y. B. Chavan, the former Deputy Prime Minister of India, is located on the banks of river Krishna at Karad in Maharashtra. During rainy seasons the floods erode the banks and pose danger to the Samadhi. There is a proposal to construct a protection wall and embankment to protect the monument. The hon. Minister for Water Resources, Shri Vidyacharan Shukla has himself visited the site in April, 1992. The plans have been drawn up by the State Government. The Central Government has promised to support them.

I request the Central Government to release funds for carrying out this work immediately in keeping with the sentiments of the people of Karad.

- (iii) **Need for diversion of National Highway No. 52 and Construction of Bridge on Mangaldoi River at Mangaldoi Town in Assam**

SHRI PROBIN DEKA (MANGALDOI): Sir, there is great need for diversion of National Highway No. 52 at district headquarter Mangaldoi Town, my Parliamentary constituency in Assam. Due to diversion, Mangaldoi Town would be protected from river Brahmaputra and communication will be more convenient.

Moreover, the condition of bridge on Mangaldoi river is deteriorating day by day as it was constructed during British rule, in 1936. It may collapse any time. Therefore, there is a great need for reconstruction of the bridge.

I urge upon the Central Government to look into the matter early.

- (iv) **Need for early release of more Funds from Calamity Relief Fund to Orissa**

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (PURI): The State of Orissa which is ravaged by natural calamities in the shape of drought, cyclone and flood every year has also experienced an unprecedented calamity of flood thrice this year. Funds under Calamity Relief Fund is too meagre to meet the requirement of the State. A memorandum has already been submitted by the State Government to the Union Government to enhance the annual corpus of the funds to Rs. 110.00 crore. Considering the genuine demand of the State, the Central Government may consider release of at least Rs. 100.00 crore as a Non-Plan grant to enable the State Government to carry on restoration work without interruption. The immediate requirement of funds for repair and restoration of projects is estimated at Rs. 188.40 crore.

I urge upon the Government of India to release the amount required by Special Assistance early.

- (v) **Need to sanction adequate funds for Construction of pucca embankments on Falgu River in Nalanda District, Bihar**

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (NALANDA): Mr. Speaker Sir, Bihar is the most backward State from the point of irrigation. More than one crore rupees will be required if pucca embankments are constructed on both sides of Falgu river. The Central Government has assured that the construction work will be undertaken after making an assessment of the expenditure involved in it but the Government has not taken any step in this direction.

Therefore, my submission to the Central Government is that steps should be taken immediately to construct embankments so that it proves helpful in irrigation.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the House stands adjourned to meet at 2.00 p.m.

13.03 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)

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF THE SECURITIES LAWS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE: AND

SECURITIES LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up Items No. 16 and 17 together. The time allotted is one-and-half hours. Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (BAREILLY): I beg to move the Resolution:

"That this House disapproves of the Securities Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 1995 (No. 5 of 1995) promulgated by the President on January 25, 1995."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it appears from the Government policy of bringing the ordinance, that this Government is running merely on the basis of ordinance. It seems to me that the ordinances have lost their importance.

The sessions of the Lok Sabha are held after a short period. Even then if there is a weak long holiday, an ordinance is brought, be it of some use or not. I do not

want to say anything against SEBI but there are certain things, which the Government must know and take effective steps accordingly. SEBI was set up in 1991 and it was expected that it will start functioning immediately since it was set up very late, a loss of thousands of crores of rupees was suffered. What is the effect of making up that loss? Recently the ordinance was issued on 25th January but what has happened after that? These days M.S. Shoes is very much talked about but even after that SEBI has been keeping silence. It was discussed throughout the country. Its managers were from SBI, Capital Market, Tourism And Financial Corporation of India, Loyd Finance, Bank of India, Bank of Baroda and Merchant Bank etc. Even then no effective step has been taken by SEBI. I am at a loss to know, what was the lacuna in the ordinance, brought earlier?

I am not a scholar of economics, but I know the meaning of SEBI and what are its main functions. The main function of SEBI is to give protection to the small depositors and investors but it is sad that the same is not going on. When the nationalisation of banks was done, the faith of the people in the banks increased. They thought that the banks will function in a proper way. But the result is that some banks are running in loss of more than 8.5 thousand crore rupees and these include the nationalised banks also. I would not like to take time by giving the details of the loss but certain things should be understood. SEBI had rights earlier also. It is written in Article 11(2) (B) that:

[English]

"to register and regulate the working of market intermediaries"

[Translation]

but it is not being done. Our Finance Ministry and the hon. Finance Minister is worried as to whether we will be able to work in a proper way after reconstitution. The population of our country is 80 crore. There are a number of small investors. If they loose their confidence, the economy of the country will definitely be affected. The hon. Finance Minister should pay attention towards what is going on in the country at present. If we do not protect the money of the small investors and if we work for a few people then it will be of no use at all. I am taking about the small investors since, there is a bank Kashinath in the area, to which I belong. It is a separate thing that recently I have come to know that the bank is going to be handed over to the Toranto group but for the last one and half years, the future of the depositors and the employees is very uncertain. Even today the people come to us and tell us that their money is deposited in that bank, they have the receipt of the fix deposits and why they are not getting the refund of their money.

There are so many chit companies and finance companies in the country. If you look at it you will see that all the chit companies have been going to contracting people personally to collect small amounts from the people for the last many years. Only small investors invest in these chit fund companies with solely one thing in their

mind that they will not get much through the banks while these chit companies allure them with high return. These companies claim that your money would increase four times in five years and 10 times in 10 years. The people who deposit their money in these companies, are small depositors who deposit their daily wages after earning from their business, but that chit company clandestinely closes down after 4-5 years and its owners disappear. I have written several letters to the hon. Minister of Finance in this regard that there are such big companies like Loyd Company, Sahara Company, Janpriya company which are earning crores of rupees but they are not making the due payments to the public. I got a reply from the Ministry of Finance that they are unable to get the dues recovered from them. This way such people betray the trust of the Ministry of Finance.

The WIMCO company cheated people of Uttar Pradesh and the farmers of the country while being hand-in-glove with NABARD. They brought the farmers of the whole country to such a pass that now the farmers are almost on the verge of being forced to sell off their land. When we raise this matter at district level and write to NABARD to look into it, then NABARD says that they cannot do anything. The farmer does not get a remunerative price for his produce and in order to pay back his dues to the bank he is forced to sell off his land. I would like to know about the role of SEBI in all this. SEBI should not confine itself to be concerned about a handful of investors or public issue owners. But in fact, it is his duty to be concerned about the whole country. We have to work according to that. I desire that you should take all these works under your jurisdiction which would make your stand legal and then when you work accordingly, I am sure, we would be able to work towards achieving our objectives and at the same time the small investors would also benefit from it. They would also feel that their money is secure and then they would be more motivated to deposit more amount. But I feel attention is not being given accordingly.

These days newspapers are publishing advertisements such as 'invest in the 'Tree scheme' and you will get your amount ten fold, twenty-fold, twenty-five fold after twenty years.' Is the Ministry of Finance taking guarantee of this? Is the Ministry of Finance making it sure that a person who is investing ten thousand rupee will actually get one lakh rupees after 20 years? Will his Rs. 10 thousand be safe? If it is not so, then stringent steps must be taken in this regard. Action should be taken in this regard with alacrity. The district to which I belong has more than one hundred registered finance companies and there are some such finance companies which exist only on paper. Such companies get people invest their money in them but do not refund their amount. I am of the view that all these things come under the purview of SEBI.

It can be believed that after coming into being in 1991 SEBI might have felt that it has not been able to work as effectively as it had been anticipated and that is why some amendments have been proposed in it. As I have understood SEBI has inadequate staff. So, attention should

be given to this fact was to how such a handful of people would be able to run such a big country.

Without prolonging my speech I would like to submit that when we are bringing out a comprehensive Bill and we have issued a comprehensive ordinance then it should not happen that after 6 months it is found wanting. Unfortunately later on, it invariably happens that it is found wanting. People who have indulged in a scam of crores of rupees, are brazenly roaming around free, moving about in five-star hotels in big cars but the poor people whose money is invested in their companies are left to curse their stars as the Government also find themselves unable to pressurise those influential people because they are patronised. I would like to say that people should be confident enough that if somebody has cheated them of their money he will be suitably punished. The punishment should be such that people understand it. And when we come to know that such a direct action has been taken then SEBI's action will be justified.

Now everybody is aware of M.S. Shoes case. I would like people to know that such kind of action was taken after the promulgation of the ordinance. This way the attention of the people would definitely be drawn to this and a feeling of goodwill will be developed in the hearts of the people towards the Government that, yes, now the Government have brought such an ordinance which would definitely be a right step.

While moving my motion I would like to urge upon the Government that the Government should dispense with this tendency of promulgating ordinances and rather put an end to it forever and keep the House into confidence while taking any decision.

With these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 and further to amend the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956, as passed by Rajya Sabh, be taken into consideration."

Sir, upon receiving statutory status on 21 February 1992, in pursuance of the Securities and Exchange board of India Ordinance, 1992 SEBI has been active in regulating and systematising the capital markets in the country. The capital market has also undergone a major transformation during the last two years with new products and participants entering the market. In order to strengthen SEBI's effectiveness and ensure greater discipline in the securities market, the Securities Laws (Amendment) Ordinance 1995 was promulgated on 25 January 1995, conferring larger powers on SEBI while simultaneously enlarging the jurisdiction to newer areas and additional participants. This Bill seeks to replace the Ordinance.

The Bill, when enacted and brought into operation, would provide SEBI with authority to impose monetary penalties in specific cases of violation of the law as laid down in the Bill. The SEBI will also have the powers to

regulate the activities of additional intermediaries like depositories, custodians for securities and other categories of persons associated with the securities market like foreign institutional investors, credit rating agencies and venture capital funds. In addition, SEBI will be empowered to regulate companies on matters relating to issue of capital, transfer of securities and other related matters. The suggested changes will equip SEBI to issue regulations and file complaints without the prior approval of the Central Government which will enhance the autonomy of SEBI. I am confident that the Members will appreciate the need for such powers and functions to SEBI for ensuring the healthy and orderly growth of the securities market.

I would also like to mention that I do appreciate the concern of the House that recourse to ordinances should be minimised. There were compelling necessities why we could not do it. Although SEBI was given statutory power in 1992, since then, we have been in the process of what may be called 'learning by doing.' In a country as complex as India and as vast as India, nobody has the monopoly of prior knowledge and we have been learning and we have been improvising as we go along. In the light of experience gained and particularly because of the turbulence in the capital markets not only in India but all over the world, we felt that it was necessary to give SEBI additional power to inspire greater confidence among investors, particularly, among small investors. That is why, in this situation, the ordinance became necessary. But I do take the point and I respect the sentiments of the House that as far as possible, recourse to ordinances should be a measure of last resort.

With these words, I commend this bill to this august House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motions moved:

"That this House disapproves of the Securities Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 1995 (No. 5 of 1995) promulgated by the President on January 25, 1995"

"That the Bill to amend the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 and further to amend the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.

I would like to remind the House once again that the time allotted for this Bill is about one and a half hours. At 3.38 PM. we have to start the Private Members' Business. Please keep in mind that we have to complete this Bill before that.

SHRI RAM NAIK (BOMBAY NORTH) Sir, I support the Motion to oppose the Ordinance and I also seek to express my views on the Securities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1995. Sir, I am not opposing the Ordinance just for the sake of opposition. The hon. Finance Minister has stated that he has some compulsions because of which he is forced to bring the ordinance. I do not agree with those compulsions. As can be seen, 31 Members of this House have given the motion of disapproval. It is not just four or five Members, but a very big number of hon. Members has given the

motion of disapproval. This indicates the feeling of the House that we do not prefer rule or enactment through ordinances.

Sir, the original Act in 1992 was also brought by an ordinance. The situation was unusual at that time and the conditions prevailing in the market were so bad that we did not object to the ordinance brought at that time when the original enactment was done.

But here we do not know as to what exactly the compulsion was.

This Ordinance has been promulgated on 25th January, 1995. The Finance Minister owes it to this House and must tell us as to what actions he has taken in the last one-and-a-half months. If it was so urgent to promulgate an Ordinance, we must know what exactly has been done, say, in the last one-and-a-half month. That must be explained. One of the major provisions in this Bill is to confer the right to charge penalties for various wrong doings and offences which are being committed. Let us know whether there has been at least one offence or one charge for which some penalty has been charged. If that has not been done, then it means that the right has not been used properly.

1426 hrs.

(Shri Tara Singh *in the Chair*)

So, firstly I would like to know the exact action which has been taken by SEBI after this Ordinance was promulgated. Secondly, it is three years now that SEBI has been working. There have been some experiences and the hon. Finance Minister has quite rightly said that they are learning. We are a big country. More and more people are coming forward for investment. We had a very big security scam. Now, I would like to know even after SEBI has worked for three years, has the working of SEBI been satisfactory.

So, I suggest that the Parliament should evaluate the performance of SEBI during the last three years and the best course for this would be to constitute a Parliamentary Committee to evaluate the performance of SEBI during the last three years. Everyone knows that I was a member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. The JPC has given unanimous recommendations. Those recommendations of JPC which have been brought into practice are known to the people today. But so far as SEBI is concerned, we must know of the performance of SEBI during the last three years. We know that some of the big brokers were arrested. I would not say, it was a drama; I will never say that; they deserved to be arrested; they should have been arrested—but we fail to understand: why not even one case against them has been finalised so far? It seems that the department was investigating into all these cases, whether it is Harshad *dalal* or any other person but at least one case could have been cleared.

Justice Variava is known for his good character and also decisions that he has given. Is not the Government in a position to see that one person is convicted? Cases have been filed, where those cases are not proper, more cases have been filed and all those things have happened; but in the last three years, it appears that SEBI or the agencies

which are expected to see that the guilty persons are punished have only filed cases but the guilty persons have not been punished. So, from that point of view also it is necessary to evaluate the performance of SEBI. The Finance Minister should respond to this particular point which, I feel, is very important.

Sir, SEBI has been constituted so that the investors, I would say, the small investors could have confidence and could contribute their mite in the share market and stock exchanges. If they invest more, the country can prosper. We have resources; people do come; there has been a tendency to invest more and more in the shares but if some such things come up every now and then, common person would lose his confidence.

Shri Gangwar has referred to MS Shoe Company, but I would like to go a little further. The Bombay Stock Exchange was closed for three days. Even after the security scam, the share market was not closed like this. So, closing of the share market for three days by itself is such an important thing for which the Finance Minister must explain to the House. We have seen, after three days of closure from 20th March to 22nd march, when the stock exchange opened yesterday, the prices of shares have come down.

The BSE's sensitive index crashed by 74 points. It is not a small amount. This crashing means that people may lose the confidence. So, the Finance Minister must ensure as to how he is going to revive the functioning of the BSE. Otherwise people will feel that the SEBI is not doing anything. It is just doing the work of postman. Similarly, with regard to MS Shoe Company, what role has been played by Mr. R.S. Jhaveri? The State Bank was the lead manager for the shares being brought by MS Shoe Company. We must know as to what has happened and how it has happened. Otherwise, I must repeat again and again that the small investors will lose confidence. You may be aware of what happened in the case of MS Shoe Company. The face value of the shares was just Rs. 10. When it first came into market, it had a premium of Rs. 20 which means that it was expected to be sold at Rs. 30. But the prices zoomed so high that it was sold at Rs. 465. It was such a big leap that everyone—at least those who know about it—would definitely have been scared about it. But it appears that neither the SEBI nor the Bombay Stock Exchange had acted in this regard. Though they have power, they did not act. Even the physical delivery was not given. As it has been reported—I have a personal knowledge also even the old settlement numbers 35, 36 and 37 have not been honoured. How is it that it did not come to the knowledge of the SEBI? All these things must be explained, otherwise it would appear that the SEBI is just mute spectator.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please wind up. We have to finish it by 15.30 hours.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, from our side probably I am the only speaker.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

MR. RAM NAIK: The Finance Minister must explain

what is going to happen about it. MS Shoe Company is not the only company involved in this. Prior to this, Morgan Stanley affair was also there. Then the matter regarding Indian Petroleum Corporation's first public share was raised. Reliance Polyethylene, Reliance Polypropylene, all these matters have come to light but SEBI has not taken any positive action.

I will just go on reading some five-six points which I feel are important. I need not explain them in detail. I will just briefly go on reading them so that the Finance Minister could react on these points and at the same time the time of the House is also saved.

SEBI has failed to protect the right of the investors. It is only doing the work of a post office and simply passing on the complaints of the investors to the companies. Now, they are not exerting themselves. This post office work is not expected of the SEBI. They must take serious cognizance of all the complaints which come to them. Although there are provisions in the Companies Act for penalty and prosecution against the defaulting companies, it has not been followed. We must be explained as to why this is not being followed.

The most important aspect is delivery of shares. Investors are not getting shares for three or four or five months together. How will you control this important aspect of the physical delivery of shares? Whenever the new shares come, they are over-subscribed. How those amounts are to be distributed, is not taken care of and in that a small investor is always neglected. If there are banks or other institutions which subscribe a big quantity, they get full quantity of the shares. A small investor is being overlooked. How do you ensure proportionate allotment of shares and proper delivery of shares in time? A foolproof scheme must be worked out by the SEBI in this regard as this is the most important thing.

Sir, there are two more points on which I would like to stress. One is about the penalties. Sir, some financial penalties are provided for. Everyone knows that if one out of 100 thieves is caught, 99 thieves escape. Similarly, if one share broker is caught, 99 might be going scot-free and if one transaction is noticed many transactions would be going unnoticed. Do you feel that just imposing financial penalties is enough? They earn in crores and if a penalty of some 5 lakhs, 10 lakhs or 15 lakhs, according to calculations which are given here, is imposed, I personally feel that that would not serve as a deterrent. Financial penalties are important but they alone would not serve as deterrents on those people to whom crores and crores of rupees accrue. That is why I feel that some imprisonment must be provided for as is done in the case of other economic laws like income tax and sales tax that on such grounds there will be imprisonment. Why do you not do it in the case of these offences also? That is one point which I would like the Finance Minister to react to.

Another point is about nomination of other Directors on the Board of SEBI. I agree that if Directors of different companies are nominated to the SEBI, their professional skill will definitely be available to SEBI. On that point I do agree, but how to ensure that they will not misuse the

power to their advantage. Some check is expected to be there. As done everywhere like if someone becomes a Minister he resigns from the trusts or companies on which he is operating. In that way there should be some check on those Directors who are nominated to SEBI so that they do not look after their company's interests. How to do it can be sorted out, but I feel such checks are important. Otherwise some of the Directors might use the Board to their advantage which is not expected of a body like SEBI.

I do feel that all this could have been done by a proper legislation in stead of an Ordinance. Now, taking into consideration all the points of view expressed in the discussion, a Parliamentary Committee should be appointed to review the performance of the SEBI. With these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI (Kasaragod): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as did by the earlier speaker, I too oppose the practice of promulgating Ordinances where they are not necessary. Particularly in this case it was not necessary. Though the Finance Minister said that he too did not agree with the practice of promulgation of Ordinances generally he said that there was sufficient reason in this case. But as far as we are concerned an Ordinance was not necessary in this case. Ordinances are necessary in some cases. But in this case an Ordinance was not necessary at all. This Ordinance was proclaimed in an improper way, without any proper reason.

Now coming to the point, I want to say one thing on the amendment to the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992. We have sufficient number of Acts and Rules to safeguard the interests of the ordinary people. Sometimes they are not properly used, sometimes they are used where they are not necessary and some other times they are misused.

We all know that banks have been functioning from time before Independence. The banks were functioning in this country before Independence and sufficient guarantees were there for peoples' money deposited in the banks. We did not hear till about five years back of this kind of scam and this kind of misuse of public money by the brokers. Why suddenly this kind of misuse of public fund had taken place? In this case, there is a doubt as to who had committed this kind of mischief. It is because the Government officials had also connived in misusing the public money. The Government had set up a Joint Parliamentary Committee to go into the misuse of public money. They had submitted their Report some time back and some action was taken. There was one question which was posed by many people, including Shri Arjun Singh and that is, who were the ultimate beneficiaries of this point. The question had not been answered even now. We want to know why this question had not been answered till now.

During the course of hearing by the Joint Parliamentary Committee, Shri Harshad Mehta had made an allegation against our Prime Minister by saying that he had given Rs. 1 crore to the Prime Minister. Till date nothing is heard about it. If the allegation made by Shri Harshad Mehta is found to be false, then some action should have been taken against him. So, I want an answer for this from the Finance Minister. All these things clearly

show that there is something fishy somewhere. In this regard I recollect one saying in Sanskrit and that is:

“Yatha raja, Tatha Praja”

It is because even the rulers are also of the same category. Otherwise, this kind of mischief would not have taken place.

How are you going to appoint officers in the Appellate Court? It is said that Appellate Authority should consist of only one person. That person should be eligible to become a High Court Judge. Do you know what is the qualification of a High Court Judge? If a person who had put in a certain number of years of practice in the Civil Courts or some other court he becomes eligible to be a High Court judge. If such is the case, then I would say it is not sufficient. It is because there are a number of lawyers in the ruling party. At the moment, the ruling party is the Congress(I), tomorrow, there may be some other party which may be ruling the country. So, I would say that the method of appointment should be something else. The appointment should not be done by the Government. We are having so many Committees in this House which are represented by the elected Members. In the same manner appellate authority should also be appointed by the Parliament. This is my submission. If we do that, we will have sufficient Security not only for the banks but also for the people. My next point is about staff.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Be brief. There is no time.

SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI: If we have a given set of rules, there is nothing to worry. In this case the JPC found fault with one Cabinet Minister, Shri Shankaranand who resigned ultimately. The JPC found fault with another Minister, Shri Thakur. When the inquiry commenced or something took place in the House, another Minister, Shri Chidambaram resigned. But nothing was heard about it afterwards. Since he had resigned, the JPC also ignored to find out his part in the securities scam. Nothing is mentioned in the JPC about Shri Chidambaram. There is no explanation why he resigned, was it necessary to resign or he resigned just because he wanted to resign. There is no explanation why he has been made the Minister again. These are the things that should be taken into consideration. If the rulers are good, the people will also be good. If the rulers are not good, these kinds of things will take place. What I want to impress upon is that, this Amendment is good but that is not sufficient. The implementation should be strict. Otherwise, it is of no use. With these words I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Chairman Sir, I would not take much time. I have risen to discuss the bill to amend the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992. It is a general feeling, I am sure the hon. Minister must have understood that the Ordinance which has been brought should not have been brought. You should have introduced a Bill instead. Everybody has criticised the Ordinance. This ordinance was brought on 25th of January, 1995. The powers provided in this have already been provided through an Ordinance. But you

should have also mentioned as to whatever has been achieved through the exercise of these powers during the last one and a half months. This Bill concerns several small investors small business they who invest their money in shares, in other words, this Bill concerns the whole country. You should have brought a comprehensive Bill in consultation with the leaders of all parties which would have lent it more strength. Since the ruling party has invariably brought Bills in their own interests, you have also done the same. We know that the Minister of Finance is a good Economist. But consulting others does not deminish the wisdom in any way, it in fact increases. The Minister of Finance is aware of the number of persons who have committed suicide in the securities scam. Several persons have sold off their property in Calcutta and today they have become penniless. Who did it all? SEBI had been set up at that time but it had not been given powers, was it not known at that time as to what kind of person was Harshad Mehta? Today powers are being provided but now proper work should be done as it concerns small investors. They should be taken into confidence that their money would not be wasted. These days there are several companies which are only registered on paper which disappear with people's money. The poor investors are left in the lurch. I urge upon the Government to ensure that these companies do not become insolvent and how to put a check on such fraud companies. The investment made by small investors helps develop the country so, attention should be given to these people.

I submit that these powers should be properly exercised. It should not be political. It had taken a lot of struggle to get the JPC report implemented. They should think about the nation actually they think about their party. Since the day, the democratic system was initiated in the country, the party has been defended. Nobody thought in the interest of the nation. This tendency should not persist. This amounts to treachery.

With these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM (Inner Manipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Bill and at the same time also the Resolution. The reason why I support the Resolution is this. Although I did not join the hon. Members who signed a notice for moving it in the House, I would like to support it while objecting to the promulgation of such an Ordinance as an easy means. However, the Finance Minister has just now expressed his anxiety also and assured us that in future he will try to avoid it as far as practical. Otherwise, it will spoil the very spirit of democracy and will also lead to dictatorship. So, let us not make a habit of the Government to bring forward such Ordinances.

I understand, it could have been avoided if the Government was vigilant enough to detect the new developments in the capital market as has been mentioned in the Statement.

As regards the Bill, I support it after hearing the hon. Finance Minister on the justification of bringing forward the

amendment. I am very much impressed by it and I appreciate it.

The proposal to give more powers to SEBI for giving penalty to the offenders is a welcome step. At the same time, the proposal is for giving some more facilities to SEBI so that it can inspire the small investors also. It will be in the interest of the nation.

In the statement made by the hon. Minister, which has been circulated, he could have elaborated as to what were the new developments, irregularities, etc. in the capital market which have taken place recently. If it is explained very clearly it will further enlighten the House.

So, Sir, we opine that the Government should try to place a report on the activities of SEBI as regards its functioning and achievements to the House from time to time. It will enlighten the House and it will be a healthy procedure in the interest of the nation. With these words, I support the Bill.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the motion of disapproval brought forward by Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar. I also extend my partial support to the Bill brought by the Government to safeguard the interests of the investors and to regulate the capital market.

Sir, through you, I would like to make two points. At the outset, I would like to know why there is no monitoring in the Bombay Stock Exchange despite the presence of the representative of the Ministry of Finance there? Even after you brought forward this ordinance on Jan. 25, 1995 and enforced it, it was reported in the newspapers two days ago that the Bombay Stock Exchange remained closed for two days and the whole business came to a standstill. A particular shoes company made three successive verbal transactions without depositing any amount of money and then suddenly declared that it had gone bankrupt. Who is responsible for this? The representative of the Finance Ministry sitting there is meant to monitor the situation. He should be gathering information about the day to day financial position. He should also have informed the Ministry of Finance. Even after giving powers to 'SEBI' through an ordinance, the same were not utilised. The small investors of the country are tempted to invest a sum of ten, twenty or fifty thousand rupees in the share market with the sole aim of earning profit and such companies about which 'SEBI' itself is not vigilant, resort to such kinds of scandals in particular. This deeply hurts the feelings of the investors.

13.00 hrs.

And their life long savings go down the drain. Sir, just now the hon. Finance Minister said, "Learning by doing" i.e. one can learn only by attempting a particular thing. I agree that one learns by one's experience but you have been experimenting and the people of the country have been suffering its fallout. Just two-three days back the hon. Finance Minister was asked to furnish the names of such big Income-tax-payers of the country against whom income tax worth crores of rupees is outstanding. These include

Harshad Mehta and Bupen Dalal who are considered to be the dons of stock market and who were exposed after the Securities scam involving a scandal of Rs. 5000 crores. Previously, there was the monopoly of the banks that the amount deposited therein will earn good profits but they lost their credibility and now it is the turn of 'SEBI' to lose its credibility. Through you, I would like to ask the Government that even after bringing forward this ordinance, the malady became more severe. Who is responsible for this? We should concede that they far surpass us in manoeuvring. They take four steps ahead if the Govt. takes two. Income tax of crores of rupees is outstanding against the brokers like Bhupen Dalal and Harshad Mehta and when such brokers dare to establish their credibility, will the credibility of the people increase or decrease? Therefore, I would like to say that the Ministry of Finance and the 'SEBI' should be vigilant about it.

Sir, SEBI was set up in 1991. At that time, it was presumed that it had no legal power. A stalwart of the financial world like Shri V. Krishna Rao was its Chairman and its Directors were the great specialists of the financial sector. These people repeatedly urged the Ministry of Finance to bestow SEBI with some powers and then followed the scam, came the JPC report and all this took many months. Subsequently, in 1992 some legal powers were vested in SEBI partially only. [English] A burnt child dreads the fire [Translation] Had the Government learnt some lesson, its functioning should have been reformed after vesting some legal powers in it in 1992. But it seems that the Government does not have the requisite control on the Stock Exchange system, the Hawala trade and on checking the practices of speculations. I had already said that if powerful hands are armed with powerful weaponry, it can be better utilised but if it is given in weak hands and even the people in the Government who carry a stigma on their careers and who had to submit resignations consequent upon the securities scam and other scandals cannot take any action against people who shatter the peoples' credibility and resort to diabolic financial adventures of the public money.

Sir, I would like to know whether the Rs. 16 crore scandal of M.S. Shoes company after the promulgation of ordinance was a deliberate attempt, or it happened unwittingly or due to turning a blind eye to it? You just now stated that unhealthy practices should be checked, then [English] why were unhealthy practices not prevented? Who is responsible for it?

[Translation]

Sir, there are brokers in the market who on the basis of verbal commitments cause artificial hike in prices and keep on buying shares apparently cheating the stock market. So responsibility should be fixed for all. It requires a proper system of monitoring.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a person living in a rural area or a small saver knows by means of newspapers only as to what is the rate of the share of a particular company and thus motivated by the tendency of making profits he buys those shares or the new issues of a new company. Therefore they should be protected by disseminating exact

information about the stock exchanges, otherwise ordinary people are bound to fall prey to the fraudulent practices and lose their hard earned money. In the aftermath of securities scam many persons in many cities became economically wrecked and immolated themselves by pouring kerosene on their body. They should not be made a regular victim of such frauds. Capital market is managed by stock exchange, therefore, it should be told as to what efforts are being made to provide information about the exchange rates prevailing in the stock exchanges, to regulate these rates, to provide for monetary penalties in the specific cases of violation of determined rates, to determine a ceiling on such penalty and basis thereof, to prescribe the amount of penalty and modalities of levying penalty, to regulate the transaction of brokers or investors, the custodians or the security. SEBI is an autonomous body. Take measures to enhance its autonomy and strengthen it so that such scams do not take place in future. Time and again you assure the house in this regard but again such incidents occur. When happenings take a course contrary to the announcements made by the government, the people become suspicious. Please tell us about the steps being taken to encourage people to deposit their money with the banks or to invest it by way of buying shares in the stock exchanges, to avoid the possibility of cheating by fake companies and to strengthen the monitoring mechanism in this regard.

There are crores and crores of small investors in this country. We should take care of their interests. We want to encourage savings in order to see proper development of our country and implementation of our plans. You should always keep in mind that tendency of savings and investing the amount accrued through such savings has to be invested in the areas of profitable activities. An ordinary man is not conversant with laws. He has no knowledge about which company is stable and strong and able to give profitable returns on time. Therefore, he should be given proper information about it.

Through you, I would like to say that now-a-days many companies have come up in the market in the name of providing LPG connections which are amassing lakhs of rupees from the public. The chit fund company or Laxmichand Bhagat ji Company about which I wrote to the hon. Finance Minister in my letter accumulated crores of rupees from the people in Ajmer and then the company's board was not visible the other day. Therefore, the hon. Minister should assure the House about their authenticity, credibility, the security of the peoples' hard earned money and to check the recurrence of such things.

With these words I thank you.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, I have listened with great interest and respect to all the hon. Members who have taken part in the debate. During my earlier introductory statement, I had said that 'I share the concern of the House; that the recourse to Ordinances

should be minimised'. But in this particular case, because of the turbulence prevailing in the financial markets, not only in India but all over the world, we felt that it was necessary to take urgent action, give additional powers to SEBI and that was the reason why this Ordinance had to be brought into Bill. Sir, as I see it, India needs a strong, vibrant expanding capital market in the years to come to realise our development ambitions.

It is at the same time essential that if our capital markets are to serve the cause of social development, all the principal players in these markets should be guided by the code of conduct, having due regard to the ethical standards with as much transparency as is possible, with regard to fairness. It is only in this atmosphere that India's capital markets can serve our objective. These markets should exist not to benefit only a few but should become purposeful instruments for realising our country's vast development ambitions. That is the reason why, soon after our Government came into office in 1992 — it was in January 1992 — that we gave statutory powers to the SEBI.

These statutory powers have been with the SEBI for about three years now and as I said earlier, we could not envisage all the causes which would have to be dealt with. There are also problems as to what powers should be transferred from the Government to the SEBI in one go because the SEBI previously had no experience of this. Also, the relationship between the SEBI and the Company law had to be seen. This has taken time and we feel today that what we have done is a positive step forward in making the SBI — a more effective instrument for protecting the interests in our capital market.

In the course of the debate several points have been raised and as far as I can, I shall try to deal with those points.

Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar expressed the view that several people have some schemes such as ownership of trees, etc., where investors are getting ownership in 20 to 25 years and these investors should have the confidence that they are not being deluded. That is why, in the Ordinance there is a provision that henceforth all collective investment schemes will have to be registered with the SEBI. So, that is a step forward. I am not saying that our financial system can be totally immune from irregularities. It is not humanly possible to give that sort of an assurance. We have, for example, a highly most regulated financial system in Singapore. And yet we saw how the Brings Bank, one of the oldest banks evaporated overnight inflicting big losses on the Bank and it had to be liquidated. Even in a country like France, one of the most important banks, Credit Lune, I think, simply went into major losses. These things happen because the capital markets all over the world today are characterised by great uncertainties. It will be our effort to see that these uncertainties do not affect the growth of these markets, that any wrong doers will be effectively punished, that the fear of law will act to

restrain all potential wrong doers. That is the purpose of these regulations. We need financial markets which are well functioning. But we also simultaneously need strong regulatory mechanisms to ensure that these financial markets serve the wider interests of our country. That has been our dominating concern in giving additional powers to the SEBI.

Shri Ram Naik raised several issues. For example, he wanted to know what had been done in the last one and a half months after the Ordinance was passed, in pursuance of the new powers. I would like to inform the hon. Members that legislative changes were made through the Ordinance because there were uncertainties in the capital market in January. If we had not corrected them, these uncertainties would have, I think, led to further erosion of the confidence and that is why we felt that was the right thing to do, in the month of January this year, to issue the Ordinance.

Now, what has happened? SEBI, for the first time has now powers over companies which it did not have before. The case of M.S. Shoes has been mentioned and that is one example where we believe that there have been wrong doings. It is now possible — it was not possible before — to take penal action against the company.

I can assure the hon. Members that we will go into all aspects of this case; whatever imperfections and irregularities have occurred, we will go into all of them; whosoever is responsible — whether it is the Bombay Stock Exchange or these people — I have no desire to protect any wrong-doer. But I would not like at this stage to prejudice the issue. This is a matter which is being looked into by the SEBI; and, therefore, let that enquiry be completed. But the House is rest assured that I do take serious note of things that have come to our notice. In this particular case, we will draw appropriate lessons, I think, from this particular case.

Shri Ram Naik also asked questions about the role of outside Directors. We need outside Directors and we said, hereafter we need not insist that an outside Director need not be a Director on any other company. We have experimented it in the Government for a long time. I have been associated in one way or the other with financial administration for nearly 25 to 30 years. We had created many corporations. Our hope was that in due course of time these corporations would develop business skills, so that when we deal with businessmen of our own country and with foreign businessmen, we would have expertise. But, unfortunately, our official institutions many times function in isolation. The world of business and the world of bureaucracy do not meet and if we have people who come only from bureaucracy, the danger is that many times we will have a set of regulatory mechanisms which are not in consonance with the harsh realities of business. Therefore, we need people who are men and women of integrity and, at the same time, have an adequate experience of what goes on in real life. That is why we are seeking these enabling powers and by using these powers we will take care that only men of proven integrity are placed as members of SEBI under the provisions of this

Bill. If this Bill is converted into an Act, in that case, once a person is appointed, if he is a Director, he will have to disclose that interest publicly. If any such company's case is being considered by SEBI, I think, he will certainly not take part in that sort of decision making process.

Shri Ram Naik has also asked about what has been our experience with regard to the working of SEBI. As I mentioned in the beginning, SEBI has been in existence with the statutory powers only for a period of three years. This has been a period of great turbulence. The Joint Parliamentary Committee have gone into certain aspects of it. They expressed certain views on *badla*. So, following the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, *badla* was banned but that did not produce the expected result. The world we live is a world of great uncertainty, the world of great complexity. Certain other problems have arisen. So, we cannot freeze the situation. It is a evolving situation and nobody can envisage that he fully anticipates the events that will come in years to come. We need regulatory mechanism which is alert, which can respond to fast changing conditions with speed and efficiency. My own feeling is that SEBI is moving in the right direction. I am not going to claim that everything is perfect with SEBI. We are learning by doing and that SEBI still has only a small number of staff. It has to develop more expertise but it is making every effort. I think it should be given all support to be able to effectively discharge the mandate that this Parliament has assigned to SEBI. I think, in due course of time, we can look into its working. But I feel that for quite some time let SEBI develop before we institute a type of Parliamentary enquiry, which Shri Ram Naik wanted.

Shri Rasa Singh Rawat Ji raised the issues of the working of the Bombay Stock Exchange. I would like to point out that we do not have the Government representatives now on the Bombay Stock Exchange. We have transferred these powers to SEBI, and SEBI certainly is looking into the working of the Stock Exchange. SEBI has now powers to enforce the amendment of by-laws of the Stock Exchanges in a period as short as two months. It has started the process of looking into the working of all Stock Exchanges. So, I have every hope that in the years to come, the alert SEBI will provide effective regulation of our stock markets.

It is certainly true that in the past, our stock markets had not been run in a transparent manner. These exchanges have essentially been run by brokers. They have been broker-dominated. That is why since SEBI got these statutory powers, it has powers to restructure the Boards of Stock Exchanges to insist that greater weightage should be given to independent Directors; that various committees are appointed to look into the disciplinary matters, that these should have adequate representation of outside impartial interests. As I said, this is an evolving process and the House has my assurance that when it comes to enforcing these regulations, we will ensure that SEBI is well-equipped professionally to discharge its responsibility.

With these words, I request the hon. Member who

moved the Resolution, not to insist on his Resolution, and I further request that the House may kindly pass this Bill unanimously because it responds to a felt national need. We all need, as I said, a capital market which is healthy, which is strong, which functions in a transparent manner and which provides credible assurance to honest investors.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Only one clarification, Sir. The Finance Minister did not respond to the point which I raised about the penalties. I said, sometimes physical punishment is also necessary. That point has not been responded.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: I apologise to the hon. Member because I think I did not respond to that. In the earlier Act, SEBI had the extreme power to suspend or cancel the registration. We felt these are extreme measures. For example, let us take the case of a Mutual Fund. If a Mutual Fund does something wrong and SEBI say that they will cancel his licence, then all those who are subscribers to that Mutual Fund, would suffer in the process. Therefore, we felt that since these extreme measures of penalties of cancellation or suspension of licences have multifaceted aspects, they should be resorted to as an extreme measure. In the intermediate stages, monetary penalties should be resorted to and that they would send signal. SEBI all the time has this power to use this extreme power to suspend or to cancel registration but we felt that there should be graded penalties. If there are small violations, monetary penalties would be adequate but if there are extreme penalties, those powers are already there.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Sir, there are two sections of the Securities Contracts Act and the Companies Act. There are discrepancies in Section 111 of the Securities Contracts Act and the provisions under Sections 80 and 81 of the Companies Act and the provisions of this Securities Act. I would like that the hon. Minister should clarify those discrepancies. Though we have given rights to SEBI yet under the Securities Contrats Act any Bank or concerned institution has the right to allow or disallow shares application. Though the Government has given rights yet, what is the meaning of such rights of discrepancies are there.

[English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: I do not claim that I have fully understood Pandeya Ji's question but if I have understood him correctly, he is referring to the power of the companies to refuse registration.

I think, there are problems in this country. I think, the company law in that area, needs amendment. I also feel that a part of the problem that arises in the area of physical transfer of securities is because of our archaic system of settlement. That is why, in my Budget speech I said that the time has come to move to a new type of system of having a central depository and moving to scripless trading. I do take note of the point made by Pandeyaji. There is a problem. I think that should be looked into.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the objective of this Bill is very nice. I, therefore, do not want to speak much on this Bill. Keeping in view the good working procedure of the hon. Minister and the sentiments of this august House, I would like to seek the leave of this House to withdraw my Statutory Resolution.

Sir, I beg the leave of the House to withdraw my Statutory Resolution.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, the hon. Member has the leave of the House to withdraw his Statutory Resolution.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

The Motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 and further to amend the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That Clauses 2 to 26 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 26 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: I get to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.28 hrs.

Committee on Private Members' Bill and Resolutions Thirty Eighth Report

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-eighth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolution presented to the House on the 22nd March, 1995."

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-eighth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 22nd March, 1995."

The motion was adopted.

15.30 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: STEPS TO PREVENT ATROCITIES ON SC/ST-Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Satya Deo Singh, you may continue the speech.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balrampur): First of all I would like to regret that during the presentation of such an important Resolution in the House, which is concerned with the poor and the women, no Minister from the Ministry of Home Affairs is present here. However, technically there are few Ministers here.

SHRI UMRao SINGH (Jalandhar): There are four Ministers.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: The presence of four Minister will not serve any good. Sir, the issue is related to you. Why are you opposing it? Sir, when I had put forth this important Resolution before the august House on the 16th December, the objective was the same. Particularly in Uttar Pradesh a state ruled by S.P. and B.S.P. the poor, downtrodden and women are being persecuted in a well-planned manner now-a-days. Political reasons are behind their prosecution while this Government claims itself to be the Government of the dalits. I hail from Uttar Pradesh, therefore, I feel thoroughly ashamed. The Harijan women are not only being persecuted and raped but the cases of being meted out inhuman treatment are also increasing. Sir, Gory incidents are occurring but the Union Government is not fulfilling its responsibility. The Government in the State is not being run in accordance with the Constitution and it has no inkling of change in its treatment in coming time. Sir why such things are happening in Uttar Pradesh in such a manner? It is the biggest house of democracy. We, all, take oath of the Constitution here and swear that we will perform our task in such a manner that India regains its past glory and we can claim in the world with honour that the citizens of our country are not being discriminated on the basis of religion, sex, provinces, urban and rural areas and all have equal rights in a democracy.

But Mr. Speaker, Sir, we do not follow the principle of equality, honestly. Our words can be good, our sentiments can be acrimonious to express in the House but when the question of its implementation comes up, the things are altogether different.

What is the reason for all? The reason is that the so called elected. Government there, which could not get majority in the 1993 election, in which there was an alliance between two people and on account of this unholy alliance nothing is being done in Uttar Pradesh. The Congress party has played the role of a priest in this illegal marriage. Therefore, Sir, this Government too cannot run away from its responsibility. Sir, we have formulated some policies to run the democracy. Nobody has put pressure on us. Our founding fathers had worked hard to frame our Constitution. Soon as the new Government of Uttar Pradesh started its session on 16th December to have a control on the Legislature and to implement its jungle law on the press, the important part of the Constitution was attacked. The hon. Members of the Legislative Assembly were beaten up. They gave a message that anyone, who

would oppose them or their misdeeds and who would be an obstacle in their way, even if he is in the House, is not safe. Sir, they have stood by their assurance and are doing so with full responsibility.

The second important pillar is bureaucracy. It has its own importance in democracy. The importance of bureaucracy is that the decisions taken in the democratic set up should be implemented lawfully, as per the wishes of the people, independently, and without any fear. The IAS and IPS have been given protection under the Constitution so that they can work independently. But it has also been attacked. The bureaucracy of Uttar Pradesh has been made worse than slaves on the basis of caste. None of the officers of Uttar Pradesh has the backbone. They are so much helpless and have stooped so low that I can cite various examples of this kind. The second most important pillar which was responsible to run the democracy smoothly has been destroyed in a planned way in Uttar Pradesh.

Press is the third pillar of democracy. Journalism should be impartial and independent. It has no limits. If we try to mould it in our favour than, the press will not be able to work honestly. It is the duty of the press that it should praise the good works of the politicians being done in and outside the House and the deeds which are against the policy should be criticised. Today it is not being allowed to do so. Halla Bol programme is being launched in Uttar Pradesh. Its first victim were two newspapers, which did not try to put certain on their misdeeds. Later on they left one newspaper, the Dainik Jagran, as if Ayatullah Khumaini had withdrawn his fatwah but the Amar Ujala was not left. The newspaper packs, hawkers and journalists of this newspapers are being attacked. The S.P. and B.S.P. there do not have the mandate to transgress with the Constitutional rights of the people and torture them. Nowhere you will find such example that under the protection of the Government such a cowardness is being shown in Uttar Pradesh.

The most important pillar of democracy is the judiciary, it has also not been left. Whatever law is made here, can be reviewed once in the Supreme Court and the High Court and it was the intention of our Constitution but it is being attacked today. A Government sponsored bandh was observed on 13th December. No party opposes the Mandal Commission. All the parties support it. Bhartiya Janta Party also supports it. It was Opposed at first in 1985 by that party only. Then why a Government sponsored bandh was observed on 13th December, such a step was taken to threaten the judiciary, the fourth pillar of democracy Allahabad High Court was attacked. It was done under Government protection in the leadership of a CO. The main target of it was to bring dictatorship in Uttar Pradesh. Perhaps the Government there has forgotten the period during 1975 to 1977 when an effort was made to impose dictatorship on this country. At that time also the people of this country did not tolerate that I do not understand that

the political stature of the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has grown up so much that he can compare himself with the former Prime Minister of the country and can work as much as she did, but he is heading towards this direction only. I am diverting from my subject and I am very sorry to say that the hon. President is not being thanked here and the Government function is being done. Do we want to convey it to the hon. President that we have been so much ungrateful that we are unable to thank him.

This President's Address is not his own but it is of the Government itself. It is a citation, which the hon. President has read out among us. You are denying to appreciate it. The same sort of a misdeed was done in the Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh. I would like to inform you, what sort of atrocities were done to muster support. In Shahganj, district Jaunpur in Uttar Pradesh there is a G.R.P. post. Two persons quarrelled with each other in a passenger train. One of them was the nephew of the Member of Legislative Assembly from Samajwadi Party. When the G.R.P. people arrested them on the charge of quarrelling then the Member of the Legislative Assembly reached the police station with his retinue. You will be surprised that the terrorists might have been killed in Punjab by police but in the history of our country, the incident of attack took place for the first time under the protection of the Government. The M.L.A. reaches there with his goondas and a constable is killed then and there and the other one dies in the Benaras Medical College. The hon. Chief Minister reaches the House with him while the Governor is Addressing the House and gives him a seat near himself and after conducting a CID enquiry he is free. In this way a murderer enters the House with the Chief Minister. It is not merely a question of giving protection to a murderer but it is a good example of deteriorated psychosis. They want to convey a message to the whole State that the result of protesting against them will be like this and they can go to any extent. A number of people were killed during Panchayat elections in Andhra Pradesh. The elections are likely to be conducted in Uttar Pradesh. The present Government is going to issue an order that the commandos provided to all the M.P.'s and M.L.A.'s should be withdrawn. Weapons are being seized but the goondas will work under the police protection with the B.S.P.-SP. This is the law and order position there.

Sir, I had thought after raising the issue in the House last time that the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Members of Congress party and Shri Sultanpuriji would at least make such arrangements that in future the atrocities on the Harijans would not be committed but on 15th December in Baver thana in district Banda, which is the adjoining district of our hon. Chief Minister.

15.40 hrs.

[SHRIMATI SANTOSH CHOWDHARY *in the Chair*]

Kamla Tojan was coming after selling the cane buckets. She was caught. She was raped 5th time. She was a widow and her husband had died 8 years back due to T.B. and she was having three small children. When she reached the police station to lodge the complaint, it was

not lodged and the S.H.O. asked her that she often came to lodge the report, what difference it makes if someone has teased? When she reaches Banda headquarters, her report is lodged. On the same night, the rapists put the gun in her mouth and shot her dead. The goondas there have created such a terror that they catch anyone, rape her and both, the police administration and the Chief Minister are busy in protecting them.

Sir, you might have read the news in the Dainik Jagran three days back. It is very shameful that a sister is made naked before the real brother and they themselves become naked. The lady is beaten up and asked to dance and she is raped before her brother, can you imagine this incident? Can there be more dishonour than this? The same is done since she is down trodden, poor and she can not raise her voice. Had that brother some power, he could not have tolerated all this. 13 crore people were killed in Mahabharat also. Therefore, I urge upon the Government that if it does not have a check then Mahabharat will not be here in the House but on the roads and dishonour will not be tolerated and what more should I tell you?

Just now the hon. Member Dr. Parshuram Gangwar was narrating the incident of 28th February in which a 8-10 years old girl was picked up from the doorsteps of a sugar mill at Majhola in his constituency and she was gangraped.

[English]

SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA (Keonjhar): Madam, Chairman, what is the time allotted for each Member?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. You will certainly get time.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balrampur): I would like to make a submission that it is a sensitive issue and time for the House should be extended. It is not an ordinary issue. It is a question of human behaviour, self respect and security of poor. Such incidents are stigmatizing the image of the country. All the Members will get chance to express their views if time of the House is extended.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is time.

[English]

I will certainly extend the time.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: Dr. Parshuram had told that two women, 20 years old Munni Devi and Ramkumari belonging to dalit class were raped at Barkhera Kata village which falls under Devaria police station in Pilibhit district. They were not raped by any miscreants but a sub-inspector and two policemen of that police station perpetrated rape and the victims got no justice because the Government and the whole administration is trying to save those guilty officials. Earlier also this issue was raised here. On 2nd October, on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, in 200 buses, people of Uttranchal started for Delhi after seeking permission from the Government to raise the demand for separate Uttarakhand state. The Government had allowed them to organise a rally and issued permits to 200 buses. People from eight districts of Uttranchal took part in it. They were stopped at Rampur Tiraha crossing. At that time this constitutional issue was raised and we demanded for dissolving the Government of Uttar Pradesh. A team of the National Commission for women also went thereto inquire into the matter. A delegation of MPs also went there, a half hearted report was given on the incident at that time. You must have read the interim report given by CBI in High Court. They will give their final report upto 31st March. It has admitted that rape was perpetrated against seven women, 17 were the victims of their atrocities and false allegations under Arms Act were levelled against other persons, who were going to take part in the rally. I am not saying it on my own but this is the version of the highest Enquiry Agency of the Government of India which is trusted by all. The lawyer of C.B.I., Shri Choube asked for more time, as they were working in a difficult situation. It is really a blow on the democratic system that agency like CBI has to make request in High Court for not publishing the report given by it, as that will pose a danger to the lives of their witnesses. In democratic system criminals can get protection from the Government but how administration under an elected Government can prepare scheme to murder the witnesses who helped in unearthing a crime. The administration of that area can do this work? This is enough to prove that there is no law and order in Uttar Pradesh. The Administration is not working in accordance with the Constitution.

You often readily apply section 356 in such cases, especially when BJP Government is involved. But what is happening today? You are calculating to get some seats in Uttar Pradesh. Today 5 members from your party had been elected but if the same situation will prevail further you will not get even 4 members elected who stand by you in your adversity. You can keep on supporting that Government and public will question you for it. We will also tell about our work but you have to be answerable for misdeeds of this Government, whom you are supporting...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, who is being harassed the most under the rule of this Government which claims to be messiah of weaker section. Which claims to represent poor. Women and dalits are being oppressed the most and if you permit me I would like to read out the names of some officials.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are a senior member and know that there is no need to utter the names of any officials.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: Madam, this is not only a point to be debated but an introspection is needed in this regard as to whether we are going to take any steps or only debate on this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This matter will be inquired threadfare but do not utter any name.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: I do not name those officials, but can tell their designation. IG Allahabad has been suspended.

[English]

IG, Baraily is under intensive investigation for the charges levelled against him by his own inspector in the thana."

[Translation]

DIG, Allahabad died of tension and an other DIG committed suicide. The third DIG was arrested by Lucknow police under the section 107 and 117. He is serving DIG, his photograph was published in all the newspapers while he was taken to Hajratganj Police Station in a police patrolling vehicle. Former D.M., Allahabad who is an IAS was suspended. people who attacked Allahabad High Court have been saved. Another SSP, Aligarh was suspended for a rape incident in a brick kiln in which people from ruling party were involved. This all is happening under the Government of dalits and it is the condition of IAS, IPS officials you can very well imagine the condition of other junior officials. No one dares to stop the increasing crimes in the state. Today that member from Bihar is also not present who speaks very loudly. He may be busy in Bihar because through elections Public is evaluating there performance in the last five years. I feel that number of murders in Bihar is more than the number of people killed in Punjab. This all is running our image. It is a country of Sati Savitri, Sati Madalasa and Queen of Jhansi Lakshmbai. Women are worshipped in our country but today police is perpetrating rape against them in police stations, the protector of administration are perpetrating rape for political reasons and in a planned way. If it is the way of democratic system then I feel that such type of democratic system will not go for a long time.

We always mention Mandal Commission but I would like to know whether SC/ST quota has been filled up. The Government decides the quota but they are not given employment you have been unsuccessful in providing important posts to them, where they can see their welfare. This is the reason for increasing atrocities against poor. Today all the districts in Uttar Pradesh have 'Harijan cells'

at a level of DIG, and IG. This cell is also set up in the office of DG who is the highest official in police. Statistics are being collected but statistics are useless because these cannot feed and provide relief to the poor and downtrodden. In the same way our Law and order system also have so many lacunae when any case of rape is taken to court, the victim is inquired by the lawyer in a humiliating manner. CRPC and IPC have also been set up. But collecting statistics cannot curb the atrocities against harijans.

Hon. Welfare Minister is also present. I feel that Shri Sitaramji has not been able to do much in this regard but I hope that you will do it.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): You are always thinking of 'Ram' only.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: You have got both 'Sita' and 'Ram' in your Ministry. Why are you afraid of Sita Ram?

[Translation]

In reply to the question No. 382 of 8th December, 1994. Welfare Minister gave a detailed reply and tried to tell the world that he is much worried about the incidents of atrocities against harijans. I would like to read out this reply given by him.

[English]

I quote the reply to a question of a Member by the most honourable and most distinguished Welfare Minister of India. He says:

"Steps taken to curb atrocities on SCs and STs include the following:

- (i) The States are released every year Central assistance at 50:50 basis and to the Union Territory Administrations hundred per cent for implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1995, and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 under a Centrally Sponsored Programme.

During 1994-95, against a provision of Rs. 600 lakhs, an amount of Rs. 142 lakhs has been released till date.

Sir, the Mulayam Singh Government is taking recourse to same thing. The price for getting one's limbs broken is fixed at Rs. 10,000. The compensation rate for a victim of rape is Rs. 50,000. You earmarked Rs. six crore and allocated Rs. 1.25 crore. Nobody demanded this sum from you or the frequency and intensity of rape cases is not such as would necessitate disbursement of full amount. This question has to be looked from another angle. It is to be seen as to how can this persecution be alleviated. In order to salvage the people from this persecution, we shall have to make realistic amendments in our law. We shall have to make a twin attack on this social evil. You claim that you have been making amendments but you have made laws on papers alone with regard to the atrocities on

women and 'Dalits' which are misused. They are being trapped in a web of political craft and they are not getting the benefits they should really get.

The National Commission for Women should not be turned into a decorative bouquet but be given some powers. People should visit the spots of incidents and the victims should be given protection. The force you had to deploy in Uttar Pradesh was more than the cumulative strength of C.R.P.F. forces deputed to Bihar for election purposes. There is the Dowry Prevention Act, 1961—somebody's daughter, somebody's sister is burnt alive, but may be the people who commit such gruesome offences are least concerned about their daughters-in-law.

[English]

Dowry Prevention Act, 1961 should be suitably amended so that it gets some teeth.

[Translation]

The Government has many times amended the Cr.P.C. and the Indian Penal Code. The Evidence Act is all right but it should contain separate provisions for such offences. You should look into that also. The significant factor is the intention of the Government. There exists the Sati Prevention Act and yet sati is practised and the widows are shown the pyre-Sati might have once been the need of the hour. The women whose men had gone to the war resorted to this practice to save themselves from any physical assaults. Those days are gone now. Today, in this age of democracy, when we are heading towards 21st century, in a country like India, which is considered and seen as a country of civilized people, having the highly proclaimed Ganga-Yamuna culture, which we refer as a land of Gods and goddesses, of which we make tall claims of ideals, principles, character and culture and brotherhood, which has given many messages to the world; if in that country the women are subjected to 20th century like persecutions and this House, reflective of 90 crore population, shreds its responsibility by saying that this is a matter related to the State Government, then why did you make laws and set up commissions for Harijans separately? If this is not your responsibility, then there is no fun in conducting this debate. We should rise above party affiliations. This is not a question of the Government and the opposition but one of our prestige, of India's honour, of our character and a question of the message it gives to the world. We are not living in stone age, we are heading towards 21st century, we are talking of making cryogenic engines but even today, women are forced to dance naked and no FIR is lodged in the police station. In front of her father, her brother, a woman is raped, not in the darkness of night but in broad day light as if a scene of 'Sholey' were being shot. If this trend continues, then, I understand that the day of doom is not far away for this country.

16.00 hrs.

You are abetting anarchy and at the same time constitutionalising it, but at least you should make some

sincere efforts for these Dalits, these women in whose name you have been getting votes for the last 45 years.

With these words, I thank you for giving me time.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Madam, Chairperson, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to share my feelings, my views and my agony with the mover of this Resolution, hon. Satya Deo Singhji. In fact, I thank Shri Satya Deo Singh for having brought forward this Resolution for consideration of this august House. There is nothing to oppose on a subject of this nature. It is a matter of disgrace and shame that atrocities are being perpetrated, on the weaker sections, viz., Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and others and in some cases on minority communities also and they are increasing. It is not a good commentary on our way of life in the country. Anybody's head will simply hang in shame for in an independent country like ours, with a rich cultural heritage, with a very civilised background, *Dalits* do not feel secured in some areas. Today's track record shows this. We just cannot think of such a situation. Their plight has been narrated by the hon. mover, Shri Satya Deo Singh. We cannot think of such things happening in a civilised country. It gives an indication that these are all symptoms of a barbarous way of life. To speak the least, it can happen only in a barbarous society. To take effective steps, to curb these things, and to prevent their recurrence is very important.

Madam, as you know, we are a Republic. We have our Constitution which is unique in the world and it is a very long document with everything provided in clear terms in it. Article 21 of our Constitution guarantees protection of life and personal liberty of every person in the country. It enshrines the right to live with human dignity, a precious right to which every human being is entitled to.

This has also been upheld by the Supreme Court. In a fourteen page verdict on 10th February, the Apex Court has ruled that those who have for centuries been denied their rights need the protection more.

Sir, our society is not a balanced one. It is very uneven. There are so many imbalances due to groupism based on caste, community, religion and so on. Hatred is intentionally preached and encouraged deliberately by vested interests. There are certain religious groups which practise discrimination. One or two years ago, one of the Sankaracharyas propagated that women should not read *Vedas*. So, in a country of our dimensions and complexities, with full of contradictory things going on, everything and anything is possible. That is the root-cause of the imbalance in our society. And it is but natural that in such a society, the weaker sections and the downtrodden need more protection.

As our is a federal structure, Governments both at the Centre and States are responsible for providing such protection. But the maintenance of law and order being a State subject, this protection part is more enjoined on the States. The Centre should, of course, create the situation and assure the States all the necessary help. But at the

ground level, protection and law and order measures have got to be implemented and guaranteed effectively by the State Administration only.

Madam, we are proud of our judiciary. At the same time, we must also admit that there is an erosion of values which is going on constantly in different spheres and the judiciary is also not free from it. Still, our judiciary conducts itself very well and it deserves the highest respect. In this respect, I would like to draw a particular reference. After committing atrocities against the Scheduled Castes and other weaker sections, the culprits immediately approach the courts for anticipatory bail. It appears that this sort of anticipatory bail has been granted in Madhya Pradesh. But, the Government of Madhya Pradesh appealed to the Supreme Court requesting that such anticipatory bail should not be granted in this sort of cases. Our Apex Court has ruled that in such cases anticipatory bail for offences relating to untouchability etc., should never be granted. In my view, this is a landmark judgment. I see a ray of light and I am convinced that not everything is wrong in this country. There is always a silver lining behind the dark clouds. And this is one such example. The Supreme Court ways very categorically that anticipatory bail cannot be granted for such offences.

Evils such as untouchability and atrocities against the downtrodden can be curbed completely only when there is a mass movement in the society. It is natural that there is always a tendency among the privileged people to ensure that they enjoy the privileges for ever and sometimes even at the cost of others.

Therefore, a sense of sacrifice and oneness has to be inculcated among the people.

Madam, we have to go into the main reasons for the atrocities. There are several factors. One of the reasons is—caste prejudice and untouchability. Even in some of our *Shastras* and the Epics, contradictory views have been expressed about castes. Our *Shastras* and the Epics are not unequivocal or uniform on everything.

Indebtedness is another reason. Poverty and economic conditions play an important role. The incidence of atrocities is less amongst the *Dalits*, Scheduled Castes, *Harijans* who are educated and rich.

Madam, our is a materialistic society. Those who have money—he might be a *Harijan* or a Mohamadean or might be anybody else—have some advantages over others, over the poor people of their own community. Education puts them on a higher platform in the society. If a *Harijan* gets good education and he qualifies in the Civil Services and becomes a Collector, he could even engage the best of *Brahmin* as his cook. Is it not happening in our country? Education and such positions make all the difference. Therefore, poverty is one of the important factors.

Madam, alienation of land is another major cause. I have my experiences during the days of the Emergency. I was then holding the Revenue portfolio in Orissa. We vigorously implemented land ceiling laws. About one lakh acres of land was found ceiling surplus? Distribution of

wasteland is another thing. It is very simple. Not a blade of grass grows in those lands. Distribution of such lands is done only for the sake of record purposes. But then, there is a ceiling on the surplus land. It is known that for an inch of land, even brothers do not mind fighting fierce battles between themselves which sometime even claim lives.

Madam, the famous historical battle of Mahabharata began because the Pandavas were denied five villages by the Kauravas. The Kauravas said, 'not an inch of land without war'. So, this alienation of land, this lust for land among the landed people, the aristocrats etc. creates problem.

Madam, I agree that we in this House have to fight against any kind of backwardness and will have to strive for a balanced society in this country come what may. But I am pained to make one observation that more than the higher castes people, it is the people belonging to the OBCs who are exploiting the Harijans in this heartland of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Is it not happening?

To get some political advantage, people try to club Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs together. What is our day-to-day experience? Can they live in harmony with each other? So, this alienation is another problem.

The other problem faced by these Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is the access to drinking water. There is a superstition that if a well is touched by the Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe people then that well loses its sanctity and the water of that well becomes impure. These so-called higher class people do not even allow the shadow of these Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to fall on the well. If the same people convert their religion—as many of their ancestors had done—then they are accepted by the society. We are all grateful to the Father of the Nation.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: You are in league with them.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Please do not interrupt. What can we do? Our pity is, when we trust you, you betray us. You betrayed the Supreme Court also. We all know to what extent you had gone so far as the Babri Masjid issue was concerned.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: The point is that you fail to understand the real problem. You only try to make a political issue out of it.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: You may please try to raise your level. I am talking of a different level.

I was saying that it is a question of realising our duty towards the weaker section of the society and coming out boldly to protect them and to see that their lot is improved. In that context, I was saying that it was Gandhiji who coined the word *harijan*, which means that they are also the sons and daughters of God. In order to bring a fellow feeling for them and to see that hatred is completely abolished, he coined this word. His concern for the downtrodden and *harijans* would be evident from one instance which I would like to mention.

Madam, you know that Puri is famous for Lord Jagannatha temple. This place is famous world over for this temple. Once Mahatmaji went to Puri and he was accompanied by his wife. I think he went there in connection with some *Padyatra*. Kasturbaji, being a

religious lady could not resist the temptation of paying a visit to the temple. She expressed her desire but Mahatmaji told that it would not be proper on their part to visit the temple so long as *harijans* also are not allowed to go there. In spite of this, when Gandhiji was engaged in some conference, she along with some *Sewa Dal* workers walked into the temple without prior approval of Gandhiji.

How could it remain unnoticed? How could it come to the notice of Bapuji? Thereafter, they started talking to each other for years together. This was Bapuji's concern for *harijans* and *girjans*. But, he is also accused today by some new Leaders.

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal): In Uttar Pradesh you are supporting the Government of those whom you are criticising here.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): It was discussed in our working committee and we had withdrawn our support.

MAJ. GEN (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: That way you can be fool some people for some time but do not try it on me with this window-dressing.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: It is relevant. What they are saying is because of our concern for democracy. So, we should not be misunderstood. What is happening today in Bihar? Even today, in Bihar, our Prime Minister is not at all interested to impose President's Rule.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Barielly): Nobody is preventing you from constructing the mosque there. You said that the mosque was damaged and now you go and construct it. Munda ji wants to say something and you are not giving him an opportunity to speak. Do not worry, the President's rule will be imposed on 28th.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: If there is a compelling situation nobody can help. Even in U.P. the Congress is not interested in creating any uncertainty but at the same time, the Congress will never approve of this sort of unhappiness there. There are atrocities going on against the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. A women leader had made defamatory statements against the Father of the Nation there. It is their madness. Definitely, the people will be giving a befitting reply to those people.

As you know, the present Government at the Centre came to Office in 1991. Immediately after that several steps had been taken by the Government. Now you see in the operative para of this Resolution it has been stated that:

"This Resolution urges upon the Government of India

to take necessary steps to remedy the situation."

A number of steps had been taken by the Government of India in this regard.

A Chief Minister's Conference was held on 4th and 5th October, 1991 on prevention of atrocities on SCs and STs. A number of recommendations were made, a separate cell and a control room were created and funds were also provided; officers with proven integrity and sympathetic to SCs and STs were posted in atrocity-prone areas and several other measures were taken. I need not repeat all these things. If the guidelines provided by the Government of India and the decisions taken by way of consensus in the Chief Minister's Conference are faithfully implemented in letter and spirit, they atrocities if not eradicated fully, will come down considerably. But why this is not happening and who are responsible should be gone into and the hon. Minister should clarify this in this reply. We should also see whether drastic action should be taken because atrocities on SCs and STs is on the rise. According to Shri Ram Dhan, Chairman, National Commission for SC/ST, atrocities on SCs and STs has reached an alarming situation. So, what steps should be taken to prevent this should be gone into. I have a few suggestions. People sometimes suggest implementation of Article 356. But I feel it is a very very drastic measure. I think we should have a national debate over this issue because when atrocities are perpetrated on any section of the society whether inside the country or outside, we are not comfortable.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Excuse me Panigrahi. If the House permits, we can extend the time by one hour.

...(Interreption)

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): It is a very important issue.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: Does the Minister have any objection for extending the time?

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: No, I am only supporting it.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: If the local administration is not alive to the situation when atrocities are committed, stringent action should be taken against the district administration. Mostly, atrocities are committed with political support. In such cases there is no political will on the part of the ruling party to take action against the perpetrators. What should be done in such a situation is an important matter that we should take into consideration. Now-a-days criminals are contesting elections, they become MLAs and MPs and sometimes they become Ministers too.

What restrictions could be put on them, this is another suggestion for consideration. Could they be prevented from contesting elections.

I may be excused while saying that there are some SC/ST people who enjoy certain privileges and who indulge in such atrocities against SC/STs. So, if they do such thing, could these privileges be withdrawn that should be considered. I believe, I am very clear about it. The people who enjoy certain privileges because of the caste

factor and indulge in atrocities should not be given the benefits that they get by coming under SC/ST or OBC category, etc. This is my concrete suggestion for consideration.

I would like to say something about restriction of arms and ammunitions, etc. The Chief Election Commissioner, in the recent elections, failed in his endeavour to see that the arms, etc. are surrendered on the verge of elections. It was a good attempt but by these arms had to be returned because of an order from the Court.

SRHI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): That was for licensed arms. But the point of issue was that the quantity of unlicensed arms floating around was enormously larger than the number of licenced arms. So what is the point?

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Anyway people possess arms, sometimes holding regular licence and in many cases without any licence. So we have to see that people should not possess such arms and ammunition.

So, it is a question of poverty, where poverty is more intensified, more deep-rooted and the SC/ST people are helpless, they are being subjected to more atrocities. Therefore, we have to sincerely fight out this poverty. Anti-poverty programmes should be taken up in a more effective manner.

I would like to touch upon one more very important point, that is education. We have to see that each member of a family in our country gets the benefit of education. It cannot give results in a day or two but in the long run we will see that if people are properly educated and their life is improved upon, these atrocities will gradually diminish.

It has got to be a political will and a mass movement to create such an atmosphere. If such an atmosphere is created with the endeavour of all concern, all like minded people, we will be able to overpower this menace. Unless we do this we will not be able to help them. The situation today is such that if some gangsters try to commit atrocities on fellow lady passengers, others remain mute observers. So an atmosphere has got to be created so that these atrocities are not committed in the days to come.

With this I support the Resolution and at the same time I would suggest that the Government of India should ensure that the guidelines that are there in this regard are strictly implemented.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Madam Chairperson, I congratulate the hon. Member who brought forward this resolution. I have been seeing such resolutions for the past eleven years in this House and we drop these after making them an issue of debate. I would like to tell the Government that it can be curbed if the Government really wants to suppress and curb it. But the Government is lacking the will power. It is more frequently discernable in the States and such atrocities are committed even where the backward people are running the Government. The formation of Government by the backward people has not put an end to these atrocities.

These have been committed for long. The question is how to curb these?

The present Government at the Centre has been ruling the country by banking upon the votes of the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and the Muslims for the last 40 years. When this potential vote bank understood that justice is not being done to them, they started deserting them and their chairs also started shaking. Then, they resorted to defections and horse trading. How long can they survive like this? What can be more shameful for our democracy than the matter of atrocities on Harijans and scheduled castes raised in this House? In order to curb these, the foremost duty of the Central or the State Government is to provide funds for the education of these poor people. We should start educating their children and the Government should bear the whole expenditure. The problem is not going to get solved by long drawn discussions. Some of our learned friends can speak on the matter for hours together but this will provide no solution. This malady can automatically be cured once we spend on educating these classes. We have seen that the educated scheduled caste youth might be unemployed but they are not ready to come in before exploitation and injustice. The tyrants have to think twice before inflicting atrocities on them which are of two type i.e. atrocities perpetrated by the powerful privileged class and when they are themselves unable to suppress them, they take the assistance of the police to do so. Every year, such voices are raised here in the House. What can be more shameful for us. At places, the women are forced to dance naked and at others stripped off. What if the daughters and mothers of the privileged class people meet the same fate? We raise a matter here and think that we have performed our duty.

But actually, we do not accomplish this work, rather we tarnish the image of our country all the more. We have seen that the harijan women are disrobed, assaulted and fired at in polling booths in Bihar. This has been witnessed in my own constituency. Now the question is as to who are the perpetrators of such atrocities? The powerful and influential persons-irrespective of their castes; perpetrate such atrocities. Who are issued the licence of guns? The poor helpless persons have not been issued such licences. Those issued licences under the present procedure trigger off the guns unhesitatingly during elections. It is the poor and not the powerful who have been deprived of their right to exercise their franchise. If these helpless persons are deprived of their political rights, what will happen to them? The Government must clarify this to us. They will simply discuss it and will do nothing in reality because they do not want that the poor may enjoy their rights. Due to this imbalance in the society a large number of educated youths are jobless. They have been cut off from the mainstream and they are resorting to extremism. But there are extremists in moneyed family also. By extremism I mean the person who in a fit of anger is prepared to do anything. Such persons are found in every family. But if the poor, the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Backward classes raise their voices they are labelled naxalites and they are tortured.

There is a village Lakhisa in Ghausi. There are dozens of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes who are graduates and postgraduates. They say that they are educated but jobless. However they further say that they would not tolerate atrocities. But the moneyed and influential people do not tolerate all this and they call police and term, these educated persons as naxalites. Are they naxalites? The Government is not at all paying attention towards them. If we are really their well-wishers, we should bring this major part of the society at par with the others equal in the society. The persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes who are educated and have joined certain ordinary jobs are not harassed by anybody, but those illiterate, labourer who somehow manage to eke out their livelihood, are being persecuted. I do not talk about the great leaders like Shri Mandal who have grown millionaire, but the women in tribal areas carry their 4 or 6 month old baby on their back while doing their job. Is it indicative of the progress of India?. It is a matter of shame. But nobody is ashamed of such things. We think that our responsibility is over by holding discussion here. But if we really want to uplift them we should educate them. The Government need not provide anything extra-ordinary to this class of people. The Government should simply incur expenditure for their education and open schools in every village. After 20 years this alone will curb atrocities on the poor. With these words I conclude.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI:
Today we are discussing here atrocities committed on women in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. At present there is no Government worth the name in Bihar and we hope that the future Government will not indulge in such misdeeds. So far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned, our hon. colleague Shri Satya Deo Singh has already given the details of developments in Uttar Pradesh. We are here complaining against the Government of Uttar Pradesh, whose trends, outlook and administration are not normal. The style of running the administration of the U.P. Government in totally diabolic, monstrous and barbaric. Today we are complaining against it to the Union Government which has extended support to the former.

Just some time earlier, our hon. Minister of Home Affairs stated that the Centre has withdrawn its support from the UP Government. Perhaps the hon. Minister of Home Affairs is busy and he is not listening to me. I would like to ask the Government whether the withdrawal of support from the UP Government implies that the Centre does not agree to the style of working of the UP Government and it wants to topple that Government. But I think that the Government has just observed a formality by telling so, and it has tried to deceive and misguide the people. This way you are working in a idiomatic way 'heads I win, tails you lose.' One faction of your party and its leader Shri Narain Dutt Tiwari, a seasoned leader, seeks the withdrawal of support from the State Government and wants to topple it, whereas the another faction of your party tells that it will withdraw its support from the Government but it will not topple it. I want to know as to what is the meaning of withdrawal of support. A minority

Government in Uttar Pradesh is continuing with the support of your party itself.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was telling as to what was the use of complaining to those who share the equal responsibility with the U.P. State Government for misdeeds at Lucknow. All the deeds of that Government have been enumerated here. If the mentality behind running the administration is hooliganism, if its style reminds us of Nadirshahi, nothing can be expected from it. And what can be discussed here about them. I think that perhaps it is for the first time in the history of India or in the World History that a State Government sends its people in the Allahabad High Court for goondasim, otherwise on administrative grounds it is the responsibility of Government to protect the High Court but instead of doing so the State Government sends its people in a planned manner in the High court and they do riots and threaten the people there. How can a Government which functions in such a way be expected to give clean administration.

Of course, atrocities are being committed on women there but they are not leaving aside any section of the society where the atrocities and maladministration do not prevail. The Deputy Attorney General of our country says about this Government in the Allahabad High that the C.B.I. report of the atrocities on women in Muzaffarnagar should not be shown to Mulayam Singh Government otherwise those who have given witness against the Government in that matter will be murdered. When the Deputy Attorney-General of our country speaks so about the Government, what can then be expected from that Government. I would like to repeat, what has been said about this Government. What can one expect from the Government, which does not have majority in the Legislature Assembly and which says that they have majority on the basis of their dictatorial and autocratic attitude. The Congress Government here supports the Government in Lucknow, which is involved in misdeeds. I feel a shamed of discussing here about the atrocities committed on the women in Uttar Pradesh. Some of the speakers did discuss about it last time I will not repeat them. The Government, which says itself to be the patron of the poor and the backwards, want to do politics on their vote bank and with the poor people. During the period of only 15-16 months of this Government two thousand incidents of rape have been reported 90 percent or cent percent women out of those, belong to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Backward classes. The victims of rape are mostly the poor. The Government says that it wants the welfare of the poor and the backwards. It is trying to increase its vote bank through it. Examples were cited that the M.L.As of their Government raped the dalit women and this was not done once but several times and the Central Government instead of doing its duty, is extending its support to the State Government for petty gain. I would like to add one more aspect to it. Most of the cases of rape that are being committed or have been committed till date occur on account of land disputes or personal disputes as it happened in Aligarh. But the Mulayam Singh Government has made a black history in

Uttar Pradesh. In Muzaffarnagar the women were raped by the police in a planned way simply because they were coming to Delhi to raise their voices against the Government. The hypocrite Government of Uttar Pradesh says that they have sent the proposal of Uttarakhnad to the Central Government. The women were coming to Delhi to take part in a rally in support of their demand. When they raised their voices, the Government machinery committed atrocities on them. This is a new system introduced by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. When I said it at first that women were raped in Muzaffarnagar, many people said that there is no proof of it. Today, it has been proved in the CBI enquiry and you might have read that a statement has been given in the High Court that 7 women were raped in the bus and 17 were molested. The condition of molested women is more worse than those who were raped. A woman of 23 years of age was left naked on the High-way. The Government of Uttar Pradesh is working like this and God knows, what the Central Government thinks. It has stopped so low for few votes.

The hon. Deputy Minister of Home Affairs is present here. My submission is that History will bring you in that dock where you will find nothing except to be stigmatised. Please, do not harm the nation for your petty gains. At least take action against those who are doing atrocities on women.

(Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM LAL RAHI): He is not saying anything wrong but you are on the wrong.....(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: I could not understand what you are saying. But if you say that I am speaking something wrong, then I would like to say that it is your prerogative and you do that....(Interruptions) Just now the issue of withdrawal of support from Uttar Pradesh Government was being discussed. You are befooling the people by enacting this drama. You have stooped down even below the level of 'Noutanki'. The mentality of Uttar Pradesh Government, its administrative ideology and thinking is such that nothing positive can be expected from it. You may be knowing what has been revealed by CBI inquiry about Khateema incident... CBI is a Government agency. An S.P. orders from Nainital to fire on people going to take part in a rally while the another police personnel says that demonstration is going on peacefully. This all is happening in broad daylight. Today atrocities are being committed on women, common man and ex-servicemen who take part in any demonstration. There is no law and order and 'jungle raj' is prevailing in Uttar Pradesh. For animals too have some system and rules and regulation in 'jungle raj' but nothing of that sort is in Uttar Pradesh.

I feel that there is no need of describing the manner in which curfew was imposed and misused in Uttarakhnad. It reveals the Government's malintention of taking revenge. Today, the funds allocation of funds for developmental works in Uttarakhnad is being stopped. People of

Uttarakhand are being punished. The office of the Directorate of Tourism has been removed whereas tourism is the main source of income in hilly regions. For years there had been an office of the Department of Tourism at Dehradun which has been damaged to punish the people. The Government is settling account with the people and women and people of those classes of society who do not toe in these lines and do not give open support to the Government policy are being punished and miscreants are free to adopt any means such as rape bullet shots or battoning encroachments in their houses forcefully. Today Uttar Pradesh Government is involved in all such activities and Union Government is supporting it.

In the end, I would like to say one more thing about Uttar Pradesh. Hon. Minister of state in the Ministry of Home Affairs, would you spare one minute for me. Uttar Pradesh Government's rule has so much deteriorated in Uttarakhand so that yesterday, a small rally of ex-servicemen was organised in Delhi which was led by a former Vice-Chief of the Army staff, one Deputy Chief of Army staff, two lieutenant-generals and some other higher officials came to take part in the rally. You are not paying any attention towards the injustice and atrocities being committed in Uttaranchal of Uttar Pradesh. We know that you have your own problems but it is also a big problem. You would have to face the consequences of all this if you keep quiet and not pay any heed towards the problems of the public. We the people of Uttarakhand are suffering and I request you to ponder upon this matter. Some suggestions have been given here. I support the suggestions given by Panigrahi. Sir through you, I would like to tell this Government that there cannot be any improvement in the situation till the present Government is in power. I would like to say that under the rule of this Government atrocities on women, cases of rape and atrocities against people belonging to Uttarakhand will keep on increasing. I would like to say that you should dissolve the present Government and impose President's rule in the state if you want to respect women in Uttar Pradesh, improve the society and functioning of administrative system in the state. Otherwise whatever you are talking here, that will have no effect on U.P.

Sir, through you, I suggest that Uttar Pradesh Government should be dissolved. While supporting the suggestions given by other Members, I support this Resolution.

[English]

SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA (Keonjhar): Respected Madam Chairman. This is the first time that I have stood up to say a few words on this Resolution which has been brought before this House.

17.00 hours

(Shri Sharad Dighe in the Chair)

My friend, Shri Panigrahi said about education in this House. May I know from the Government as to what is meant by education? It is *Adhyatmik* or something else.

[Translation]

We always talk about atrocities on women but women are every where and in every section of society.

[English]

They are — Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Minorities and General sections. Therefore, it is a serious thing that you are discussing here about the atrocity. What is the meaning of atrocity? How, it is to be put down? We are not looking at it. We are not taking care of that. Now, I may say here that in India we are having different governments. On the one side, Congress Government is there in the Centre. On the other, in States like Gujarat, the B.J.P. is in Government. what are they doing? ... (Interruptions).. What are you doing there? In Orissa Congress Government is there. In Orissa, in my parliamentary constituency, there is no atrocity. It may be somewhere else.

[Translation]

BJP commit atrocities and this is the reason for its defeat in Orissa. They committed atrocities on my son and my son was defeated in elections. You have no alternative there. They had not allowed our agent to enter the polling booth and had beaten tribals.

[English]

Why has it been done? You are a party of gentlemen. You are politicians. You should play politics in that way, why is it that this sort of atrocity is being committed.

[Translation]

Now I would like to express my views in Hindi. Population of the country is increasing day by day. Muslim community do not accept family planning and thus our population is increasing. No one tell them about small family norms. Mahato caste has been included in the list of OBC following the recommendations made by Mandal Commission and it has decided to boycott BJP. Muslims also boycott BJP. Muslims do not like to support BJP in elections since the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute arose. Linkraj Munda took part in elections and not he but Congress was defeated in the State.

[English]

This is a democratic country. Now we are all Indians. We should have to live here peacefully.

[Translation]

Mahatma Gandhi had said that one should mix with all the people, work hard and earn his livelihood by himself, live gracefully and die gracefully.

[English]

This was the motto of Mahatma Gandhi, But we have forgotten him. Our Prime Minister is a very good gentleman; he is an honest man. You cannot challenge him. I must support him.

[Translation]

Mahatma Gandhi had asked to remove untouchability.

[English]

There should be a planning. Planning should be very systematic. But the planning is wrong.

[Translation]

What is the total population of India and percentage of harijans and tribals in it. These people are very poor and willingly go with a person for just Rs. 5—10. 50 per cent harijans and tribals are poor. No one cares for them. Just now Panigrahi spoke on education. I would like to say that there are ashram schools and Sevashram Schools for tribals and harijans and Congress Government spends for them. I would like to say that Gujarat is ruled by BJP Government and I will be happy if you are able to do something there.

[English]

This is the Parliament. This is an august House. Now we have a strength of 545 Members. What are we doing here? We have to consider this aspect impartially and non-politically. Only then this problem of atrocities can be solved. But if we deal with this problem in a political way, we will not be able to solve this problem. It will continue further.

[Translation]

Sir, there is no elected Member in Planning Commission. Prime Minister, himself is Chairman and 22 Chief Ministers are Members of it. We were instrumental in getting 5 MLAs elected from my constituency but my son was defeated. I had been Minister for four years.

[English]

I was MLA in 1952. My guru was Shri A. P. Singhdeo. You do not know him. I do not challenge anybody. You have to examine this aspect. I did enquire about it. I have already lodged a case against you, the BJP. I know what is what.

[Translation]

Sir, I will not speak much but I would like to say that excessive atrocities are being committed in my area and in the end I would like to say that we will not let the BJP rule there.

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I realise the tragedy and the paths of the human situation that is implicit in the Resolution and the agony of the distinguished colleague who has move the Resolution, I fully share it. But while listening to him I have to share with you a thought. Are we only political animals? I know that Parliament is a political forum. But must we reduce every situation to a purely political dimension; must we turn our concern to the rape of our sisters and the killing of our brothers and to the atrocities perpetrated against our own fellow-beings into a political move, into a game of chess?

Sir, sometimes we should rise above politics. This debate should have been at a much higher plan than merely a tirade against a couple of State Government. I am very critical of the performance of the State governments in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in many ways. But surely those Governments did not exist yesterday or they will disappear tomorrow. Will the agony of the hon. mover be any less? Will the atrocities that are happening all around us be any loss in number? No. surely this

Resolution should have been couched with a more universal horizon. Why must we talk about only atrocities against a particular community and their women and only, or specially in certain States? We must condemn it wholly and universally without any exception. We must condemn any atrocity against any community, against all women, any woman of India anywhere in the country. Then only we shall be true to the heritage of India. We must shed our tears on every human tragedy. We should not be selective in our pathos and in our sensitivities. We should not, only remember the women of Muzaffarnagar only and forget the women of Surat. We should not do it. That is the point.

Therefore, Sir, I would say that the atrocities against any section of society, against any woman of any group, wherever it exists in the country, at the local level it is weak, is indefensible, wherever it is not in a position to defend its honour, to defend its life and defend its rights, it must be protected by the administration, by the Government, by the party. That would be the test of Indianness; that would be the test of being true to the human tradition. Politics must rise to defend the weak against the oppression of the strong and in the complex society that we are a part of, every section of the community whether it is defined by religion, whether it is defined by caste, whether it is defined by language, whether it is defined by region is weak and somewhere and atrocities are committed against at that point where it happens to be so. At least our national politics, our national administration and our civilized administration must defend them against these inhuman marauders whom we harbour in our society.

Sir, we must try to awaken that feeling; in ourselves that every dead body that we see is that of our brother, that every woman who has been raped is our sister; that every house which has been burnt is our house. Strengthened by that dimension and feeling, we shall really be able to rise to the occasion and use all the power at our command, including the power of the speech that we exercise in this House for the defence of the weak in our society.

The degradation of women has deep roots in our society. We may talk of Sita. But we know that in our society today, although we give women an equal status under our Constitution, woman is at the receiving end. We see gender bias against woman from the moment she is conceived in the womb of her mother by a massive phenomenon called foeticide in our country. There is female infanticide on a massive scale in our society because we do not want girls. We kill them, we strangle them, we drown them in hot water. We under nourished them, we do not treat them equal to our sons. We do not give them their rights even in our own house. And after marriage, as the hon. Member himself pointed out, they are subjected to dowry burning.

Then what is worse? They become the currency of politics. They are used to settle accounts; one community against the other. They are used to inspire a sense of terror in the other side to humiliate entire communities. Thus, they become, as I said, the currency of tenor politics. This is a much much more massive situation than what we are talking about here and there happening

in UP yesterday or in Bihar the day before yesterday. This is the phenomenon that we have got to aim at. Unless we do that, we shall not really be able to deal fairly and justly with the situation.

This has arisen in our society today because our entire political system to my mind appears to be disintegrating. Our social ethos has been fragmented and corrupted. There is criminalisation at every level—in politics, in the Government, in the administration. This is supported by massive corruption. Therefore the guilty goes scot-free and therefore the laws become ineffective. Laws are not even worth the paper that they are written on.

In all States, in all Governments, whichever be the party in power have we not seen the incidence of this phenomenon of terrorisation of communities through atrocities and through the deliberate degradation of their woman folk. No party is free from it. No party can claim a clean record. Everybody is naked in this bath; as the saying goes इस इन्नाम में सभी नंगे हैं। It is only a matter of degree.

Therefore I would suggest that merely harking back to the old laws will not do. We know, we have the Civil Rights Act. But, Mr. Chairman, you must have looked at the annual reports. What a dismal reading they make, as if these cases of violation of civil rights of human being, of the Scheduled Caste, take place, only in scores! They are a part of our life. We see them happening everyday, everywhere, at every *nukkad*, every corner, every shop, every public place; but the official report says ten cases, here, twenty there or five here and five there. Are we playing a game? Are we trying to deceive ourselves about the extent of this phenomenon in our society? Something has to be done. Merely keeping these laws as decorations in our statute book will not do. Something more needs to be done.

Similarly, we passed the Act against atrocities. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, who is here, how many cases have really been taken to their logical ends. Logical end is not only prosecution, but the punishment of the culprits. How many have been punished during the last three or four years that this law has been in operation? Please give us the figures State-wise. Then we shall know which Government is to be given a pat on the back and which Government is to be rebuked. No Government has taken it seriously. These are merely used as some sort of a slave to our own conscience. We think we have passed the law sitting here, by raising our hands or by shouting 'Ayes' and that is done; the society is transformed. But the society is not transformed in this manner.

The society will be transformed only if a new social conscience is awakened. That is where my friend is absolutely right. Long-term measures are required. This is where the Republic has failed. In 40 years, we have not created the *homo indicus* that we had hoped for in the pre-independence period—a man of compassion, a man of wide horizon and human dimension, a man who takes the entire humanity within his embrace, a man who does not distinguish among religions, castes or groups, a Universal Man. That was the dream of Tagore; that was the dream of Gandhi; that was the dream of our freedom movement.

That man is nowhere to be seen, nowhere to be seen, yet, 45 years after independence. That is where the Republic has failed. It can only undo that failure and remedy the situation by applying itself deliberately and thoroughly and methodically to this process of generating this consciousness through education and if I may say so, social engineering.

Yes, the laws are there. The laws must be applied, but firmly and taken to their logical conclusion so that at least deterrent punishment has some impact on the minds of the society. But deterrent punishment again is not the final answer. Perhaps, the laws need more teeth. That teeth should be provided. The suggestions made in the various reports of the Chief Ministers should be looked into. It is much more important that we change the social outlook. It is important that we instil into the minds of our people gender equality, communal equality, a sense of humanity, a sense of—as I said 'Hindustaniat', a sense of being Indian. We look at the newspaper and then we say, "Oh! these people who have been killed are not 'us'." There our sympathy ends. But if we see that it is our people, then we bring it up to the Lok Sabha and raise a furore about it. That should not be done. We should not be so selective."

Now, I would like to point out that we must also look at it in a national dimension. The tribal belt, as very correctly pointed out by Mr. Munda, is seething with discontent. This is a situation that has arisen out of exploitation that they have suffered for centuries. That exploitation does include physical exploitation, but also includes sexual exploitation. Let me be frank. This constant exploitation has generated a feeling of revolt. If you do not pay attention to, it, this will be a disintegrative factor in the society. This applies also to so many communities which are feeling frustrated, which are not receiving justice, which are being pushed to the wall. Let us not enrage them. Let us not push them into a reaction arising out of anger, a reaction arising out of a spirit of revenge because in a spirit of revenge, one forgets the larger identity, the common heritage in which he is a participant. He is limited to his own shell and he reacts in that manner. Therefore, in order to deal with these threats to our social situation, we must also include these dimensions that constitute a threat to our national integration, constitute a threat to our survival as a State and as a civilized society, in the long term. Through the educational process, we should create a new sense of identity, a new ethos in which there shall be less of these religious and casteist prejudices. Also, we should take more effective measures for elevating the economic status of these people through concrete means, not just by token gestures.

I would suggest that instead of creating a new authority, let us broaden the scope of the Human Rights Commission to look into all such cases, which are being ignored by the State Governments and the local administration. If a situation comes to light that the State Government or the local administration does not pay heed to any situation of atrocity against women or against men of any community, then that should be a legitimate responsibility of the Human Rights Commission to look into.

With these words and with these reservations, I conclude. I do not doubt the intentions of the learned Mover of the Resolution. But, I am only pointing out this. I wish that the Resolution was couched in a more universal frame; and therefore, it would have focussed better on the national situation and there would have perhaps been less of politics about it. Otherwise, I am afraid that the entire debate here tends to go into the misconduct of Shri Laloo and Shri Mulayam; and that is not what we are here for.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijaywada): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to say a few words on this important Private Member's Resolution moved by my friends, Shri Satya Deo Singh.

I fully support the spirit of the Resolution, expressing grave concern over the incidents of atrocities on people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and harassment of women. But, I wonder, why my good friends has mentioned only the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in this Resolution. I fail to understand the logic behind this.

I have with me, the reply given in the Parliament where the State-wise number of cases of atrocities committed on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes is given, whereby this House is informed that in Rajasthan, several hundreds of cases have been registered in respect of atrocities on the Scheduled Tribes. In Madhya Pradesh again, in the year 1992, 4571 cases were registered; in 1993, 4387 cases were registered. As regards the atrocities on the Scheduled Tribes people, in 1992, 576 cases were registered and in 1993, 1586 cases were registered.

I fully agree with my dear colleague, Shri Shahabuddin; it is not fair when he gave an impression that these atrocities are taking place only in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. We should express our concern over all these incidents, wherever they take place. Sometimes, we feel disgusted and our heart feels so much pained when we read some news item regarding this. Unfortunately, we come across very alarming news in northern States. For example, in Rajasthan, when a women social worker went for canvassing among the women, not to resort to *sati*, which is prohibited, she underwent harassment and the extent to which she was subjected to, is really heartbreaking.

Sometimes, we come across some news items where the youth belonging to one caste falls in love with a girl belonging to another caste; and when they want to marry, unfortunately, in the presence of the parents who have given birth to them and who have brought them up all these years, the villagers brutally kill the boy if he belongs to the Scheduled Caste or to a community to which the girl does not belong to. These things happen in these days.

Very near the capital city, some thing happened and we feel ashamed. I very well recollect this thing which happened a few years back when we were the Members of the Eighth Lok Sabha.

We cannot forget the news when in Madhya Pradesh—I do not remember the name of the village there were about 100 police constables and a person was not spared. He was killed just because he was in the premises of that temple. It is a fact that so many long battles have been waged against non-entry or prohibiting Harijans' entry into the temples right from Mahatma Gandhi, Mahatma Phule and Baba Saheb Ambedkar. So many other people have fought. It is unbelievable. In these days also, there are some people who do not allow Harijans to enter into the temples. Sometimes, we hear a 38-year-old or a 40-year old person rapping a three-year old child. Has that fellow any sense?

When we hear all these things, we feel so sorry. But unfortunately, particularly when such incidents take place, my suggestion is that whatever be the reasons either because of some land problems or some instantaneous incident may take place if a District Magistrate or a Sub-Divisional Officer goes there immediately and takes stock of the situation and convenes a meeting of the elderly people in that area, I think, the situation will not aggravate further. Particularly in areas, which have a track record of such atrocities in a large measure, if committees of some responsible citizens, who love peace and who love harmony among different sections of the people, are involved, I think, the damage can be minimised.

In Nagpur, the second capital of Maharashtra, when the Assembly was in session, a large number of people belonging to a particular tribal community came to represent a genuine problem about which they felt concerned. Unfortunately, leave alone the Chief Minister—I do not know, he may be very busy in signing some contract with foreign multinational companies—but even the Minister in charge of Tribal Welfare did not think it fit to go and meet those people or talk to them and ask, "What is it that they want?" If we can do any thing, it is all right. If we cannot do anything, we can say, "We will consider it. No heavens will fall." Unfortunately, the Government's indifferent attitude led to the death of more than 120 people which remains as the blackest spot.

I feel that the people who commit atrocities on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections, including women or minorities, should be disqualified from contesting the elected posts not only to an Assembly and the Parliament but also to the local bodies. These people will usually be behind the scene. They will try to provoke it.

Unfortunately, I recollect one incident. Even responsible Governments and parties sometimes behave only for political reasons. I request my friends to excuse me if I mention an incident. In the Idgah at Hubli, one political party tried to hoist our National Flag. Unfortunately, for some reasons, the Government that was there did not ask the people who were having control over that Idgah, "Why should that party go and hoist? Why should not these people hoist the National Flag?"

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur): Whether people from our party said it? Why are you saying a wrong thing? [Interruptions]

[English]

SHRI SOBHANADRESWARA RAO VADDE: Let me conclude; please hear me. The National Flag is the National Flag for all of us, all 90 crore people. It may be that one political party wants to take political advantage out of it. But either the Government in power or that organisation must have come forward and said, 'What is it? Why should you come and hoist the national flag? After all, we are Indians. We will hoist it by ourselves.' That stand should have been taken. However, that stand was not taken by the earlier Government but the present Deve Gowda Government has taken that stand. I congratulate the present Government and the people concerned. I mention this because such a small incident had led to such a big battle for nearly two years. I really wonder why such things should happen. I only suggest that we should try to avoid such things and should not try to take political advantage out of those things. I really agree with my friend. Slowly, the trend is that almost all political parties are giving more opportunities to people with criminal track record. Several people are becoming MLAs, MPs and some of them Ministers. Unfortunately, this is vitiating public life. Unfortunately, people feel that bad characters who commit murders, dacoities and who create lot of disharmony in the society are being encouraged. This is a thing which is really causing concern. Such things should be discouraged by all political parties.

One incident occurred in Bihar five years back I mean, the Bhagalpur incident. The entire country was really astonished about it. I remember that a Committee was appointed to examine the Bhagalpur incident but it has not yet submitted its Report. That only shows the care and real concern that is being shown for the welfare of SCs and STs. Whatever it is, I congratulate my colleague, Mr. Satya Deo Singh for moving this Resolution and giving an opportunity for this House to discuss a very very important issue that is causing lot of alarm to the people of this country. So, I support the spirit of this Resolution. The Government should take all possible steps to bring down—it may not really stop altogether—the number of such incidents that are taking place throughout the country. Somehow, in Southern States like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, social reformation and awakening has started much earlier when compared to the Northern States. But, unfortunately, due to some special reasons, there is lot of friction, in some of the Northern States, between the upper caste and the SCs and STs. This is so particularly in Bihar which is mainly because of the land problem. I do not know how and why it is there. Unfortunately, several State Governments which have succeeded have failed to solve this problem giving rise to and scope for private armies which are killing a large number of SCs and STs and landless people.

I once again thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this Resolution.

SHRI ASTBHUJA PRASAD SHUKLA (KHALILABAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank Shri Satya Deo Singhji who has given us a chance to speak on such a topic which concerns India's culture India's dignity and India's honour. As per the information received from the Crime Rajasthan Bureau the incidences of crimes against women have doubled in the last decade. The situation has come to such a pass that one woman or the other is raped in every 47 minutes, a woman is abducted in every 44 minutes on an average, and every third woman is being tortured by her husband or some other relative. Besides, in every 17 minutes a woman dies in dowry cases. Last year, 82,819 women had been the victims of one crime or the other. All these statistics cause alarm for us.

Shri Syed Shahabuddin was just saying that it is a matter which should be seen in the National perspective. Of course, it ineluctably in the national perspective. It is a matter of great concern for us and this problem should be solved. Now the question arises as to on whom lies the responsibility to check such incidents. Which organisation will take stringent steps. To check such incidents the Government and the administration can take action to check such incidents but when they themselves get involved in such activities then who will check such incidents, On whom the people of India pin their hopes for protection. When we discuss these incidents, Uttar Pradesh tops the list. We do not discuss the Uttar Pradesh Government because SP-BSP Government is in power there but we cannot help discussing Uttar Pradesh because more than 3000 rape cases and more than 1800 cases of abduction have occurred there in only one year. If I discuss all the incidents separately then it will become obvious that the Government has had a direct hand in all these incidents. The woman are raped there to celebrate a victory of a legislator of the ruling party in the elections.

A woman was stripped and paraded naked in the Daula village of Allahabad on the last 13th of December just because she had refused to go to somebody's house to work. 9 women were gang-raped there on 28th of December.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if we go on counting the each incident we will find Legislator of SP-BSP behind these incidents and wherever some official has made efforts to take some action against the criminal/rapist, he has himself been punished. A 12 year-old girl was raped in our district and the rapist was driven to Lucknow next day by a Legislator of the SP party. What can a police official do in such a situation? Exactly five days after another girl aged 14 was raped and the rapist was driven to Lucknow by a Congress Legislator.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the nephew of the same SP Legislator was killed in broad day-light at 12.00 noon. Some Cabinet Minister and big leader from here had visited our area and had even given a speech. The local

people are aware of it. The local police inspector took immediate action and the police captain also acted bravely but as a consequence of their efficiency the Police Inspector was suspended and the police captain was transferred to the Vigilance department. Their only fault was that they had tried to apprehend the criminals. Shri Satya Deo Singh ji just mentioned names of some officials. Their fault was only this much that they had tried to take action against the real culprits. If such incidents go on taking place then to whom would people go to seek justice? In view of all this, the Uttar Pradesh Government has no right to continue in power even for a minute. They have done what should not have been done. They committed contempt of the Court, they attacked the press, they are harrasing the bureaucracy. The whole administration has crumbled down. I would like to tell you that each District Magistrate has been asked to send rupees two and a half crores. What is happening? They have stooped to this extent? Now the District Magistrates have been asked to send rupees two and a half crore.

I would like to say that I had only heard that politicians patronise the hoodlums but now in view of the incidents taking place in Bihar, this belief is gaining ground. I am witnessing it for the first time that the Central Govt. is protecting a criminal government. I would like to tell the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Home Minister that a person who protects a criminal is a bigger criminal than the criminal himself. The crime and the Central Government is protecting the BSP & SP Government in Uttar Pradesh I do not understand as to by protecting the criminal Government, what colour the Central Government is going to give to the politics.

You formed your Government in Goa and thought that you had emerged as the biggest party. You formed your Government in Manipur by declaring that you had won majority in the elections. Can you not do it in Uttar Pradesh? Does the Constitution give two differently in two similar cases? And if the Bhartiya Janata Party had emerged as the biggest party then could they have not formed the Government? All the parties had unanimously formed a Government of SP and BSP. But now when all the parties have withdrawn their support from the Government then how is it that the said Government is still in power? ...*(Interruptions)*... If you had had your way in Goa and Manipur as in Maharashtra then you would have formed Government in Maharashtra also. This credit goes to the public of Maharashtra. That they gave us an overwhelming majority and a chance to form the Government, you could not do anything and had no say there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that if instead of checking criminal activities the Government and the administration get involved in such activities then who will take action against them? You all are aware of Muzaffar Nagar incident. Being in the vicinity of Delhi the people of all the parties were coming to Delhi to talk about their grievances. They were coming to Delhi to stage a demonstration. To rape them or set their buses

on fire so that they could not take their grievances to Delhi is not proper. This policy and this intention of the Government is not right.

Sir, if we keep discussing these topics and the Government continues its involvement in such activities, then how can it go on? If Legislators rape women in order to celebrate their victories or the rapists/killers are driven around in the Legislator's car, then how can things go on? Shri Satya Deo Singh ji said that after killing a G.R.P. personnel, the Legislators met the hon. Minister in his chamber. After all, against whom do you want to take action? What work do you want to get done?

Sir, I would like to say that if the crime is committed by an individual or the Government and if the crime is cognizable then the guilty must be punished. If an individual commits a crime then he can be punished by the Government. In such a case no big damage will be done to the society but if the Government itself starts committing crimes then the sovereignty and the security of our country will be jeopardized. I would like to say that the Central Government should stop protecting BSP & SP Governments of Uttar Pradesh. Do you want this discussion to remain a mere discussion? I feel that whether it is an individual or a Government no matter how big or influential, anybody who is involved in such a heinous crime should not be protected.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want that the Government should bare its intention. Do they want that some person or a Government official should rape or torture women. It should be made clear. I feel that no Government would tolerate anything like that.

Sir, a 22 year-old Yadav youth gets killed in my constituency and the former Minister of Education flies down to the killer's house by helicopter and enjoys a supper with him and the police official including the D.I.G. are busy garlanding the wanted criminal. I want to say that you could set an example by taking a stringent action against those Governments who are involved in such heinous crimes. Since you have supported them, so the reports submitted by the Home Minister and other concerned people highlight the chaotic and anarchic situation in Uttar Pradesh and you speak about it at public meetings, but, why do you hesitate at taking action. If you do not dispense with your dual policy then you will be ousted by the BJP who will take the most stringent steps against those who torture women.

With these words I conclude.

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (Nandarbar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have listened to speeches of eminent leaders on the Resolution moved by Shri Satya Deo. I would also like to speak on it. I would congratulate them on coming out with a good suggestion. I just heard several incidents of atrocities on the people belonging to scheduled castes, tribes of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. I would like to say that they are also citizens of this country. We all are aware of whatever treatment is being meted out to them. Though our constitution

provides them protection yet we all know as to how much help is being given to them by the local Governments, Central Government and the administration.

Sir, the House should know that I also belong to a scheduled tribe. So, I have been a witness to all kinds of torture and excesses being perpetrated on all those who are born in backward classes. The tall talks held here are not going to alleviate the atrocities being perpetrated on them in any way. Please pardon me, I would like to appeal to all the forward classes of the entire country that if they start behaving with the people belonging to backward classes on an equal footing, only then such atrocities can be alleviated. It is important that the people belonging to scheduled castes, tribes become enlightened. Atrocities are not perpetrated to such a large extent against the educated people of these classes, for instance in states like Meghalaya etc. North-Eastern part of India where there is a large number of people belonging to scheduled tribes yet such incidents do not take place there. A large number of cases of injustice, atrocities and raping of women are taking place in the Northern states of our country. Though the law and order system is strong yet when somebody goes to the officers in Government and highly placed police officials to seek justice he is thrown out of the Police Station and they too harass them. This is what we have heard.

I would like to say that people of all the religions and the entire society should treat the people of the backward classes as their fellow countrymen and behave with them accordingly. I feel that if we follow such ethos, only then this injustice, atrocity can be put to an end.

Who are the ruffians? These are the people who have money and who are zamindaars. Those who engage labourers in their fields or any other business and torture them. We have heard about that.

Today, the casteist forces incite people of one caste against people of another caste and in the name of casteism injustice is done, atrocities are perpetrated and women are raped. We have heard such cases also. I have been hearing about such incidents in this House for years together. The number of incidents of injustice, atrocities or rape against the people of scheduled castes or scheduled tribes is less in Southern States and Maharashtra but such painful incidents often take place in the northern India.

The highly placed officers also do not hesitate in doing injustice to the officers, employees belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes. We have also been witness to several cases in which such people have been transferred

to far-flung areas or an enquiry has been initiated against them. Several highly-placed officials, employees belonging to scheduled castes and tribes sometimes get dismissed or suspended just because they belong to backward classes. I have already mentioned that Adivasis are the aborigines of this country but they are not given proper placement in the society. No matter how educated they are, they are always looked upon as people belonging to backward classes. I feel that a mere enactment of laws is not going to solve this problem.

18.00 hrs.

The people belonging to backward classes are also human beings. They should also be treated as part of our society. Unless they are viewed thus, the injustice and atrocities perpetrated on them are not going to come down. It has been seen that political parties also take advantage of that. They woo them at the time of elections to strengthen their vote-banks and neglect them thereafter. Later, they are too busy to take action in the cases of atrocities perpetrated on them. This way the atrocities go on increasing.

The people belonging to scheduled castes and tribes should have feeling of security. It is very unfortunate that despite provisions made in the Constitution to this effect their lives are not safe. The Central Government, State Governments, forward classes and intellectuals should think about them. The social atrocities being perpetrated on them should decline from the social point of view also.

I thank Shri Satya Deo Singh for moving such a resolution and conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This debate will continue next time.

18.01 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE Forty-eighth Report

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (KARAD): Sir, I beg to present the Forty-eighth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to re-assemble on Monday, the 27th March, 1995 at 11.00 a.m.

18.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday March 27, 1995/Chaitra 6, 1917 (Saka)

© 1995 By LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Seventh Edition)
