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Friday, November 25, 1988
Agrahayana 4, 1910 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

**Twelfth Session
(Eighth Lok Sabha)**



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CONTENTS

[Eighth Series, Vol. XLIV, Twelfth Session, 1988/1910 (Saka)]
No.11, Friday, November 25, 1988/Agrahayana 4, 1910 (Saka)

rites to Shri G. V. Mavalankar on the occasion of his Birth Centenary

COLUMNS

I Answers to Questions:

*Starred Questions Nos.	204, 205, 207, 208, and 212	1-26
-------------------------	--------------------------------	------

Written Answers to Questions:

Starred Questions Nos.	206, 209 to 211, and 213 to 224	27-39
------------------------	------------------------------------	-------

Unstarred Questions Nos.	1989 to 2000, 2002 to 2049, 2051 to 2135, 2137 to 2144 and 2146 to 2207	39-254
--------------------------	---	--------

papers Laid on the Table	261-270 274-277
--------------------------	--------------------

Message from Rajya Sabha	277
--------------------------	-----

Delhi Prohibition of Eve-teasing Bill- As passed by Rajya Sabha - Laid	277
---	-----

Business of the House	278-280 280-284
-----------------------	--------------------

Discussion under Rule 193-	284-294
----------------------------	---------

Rise in prices of Essential Commodities-

Shri S. B. Chavan	285
-------------------	-----

National Highways Authority of India Bill-	295-321
--	---------

~~Motion~~ to consider-

Shri Basudeb Acharya	295
----------------------	-----

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.

Shrimati Basavarajeswari	29
Shri N. Tombi Singh	30
Shri Syed Shahabuddin	306
Shri Chintamani Jena	312
Dr. G. S. Rajhans	315
Shri P. Kolandaivelu	318

Bills Introduced

(1)	Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of articles 102 and 191) by Shri V. S. Krishna Iyer	321
(2)	Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of articles 80) by Shri V. S. Krishna Iyer	321
(3)	Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of section 5B) by Shri V. Tulsi Ram	322
(4)	Crop Insurance Corporation Bill by Prof. Madhu Dandavate	322
(5)	Oilseeds and Edible Oils Production Bill by Prof. Madhu Dandavate	323
(6)	Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of Eighth Schedule) by Shri V. S. Krishna Iyer	323
(7)	Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Bill by Shri V. S. Krishna Iyer	324
(8)	Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill (Substitution of new section for section 500, etc.) by Shri Thampan Thomas	324
(9)	Textile Industry (Taking over of Management) Bill by Shri Haroobhai Mehta	325
	Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of article 311) by Shri Suresh Kurup	326
	Motion to consider - <i>Notified</i>	

(iii)

	COLUMN
Unorganised Labour Welfare Fund Bill - by Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil	331-376
Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil	331
Shri Vijoy Kumar Yadav	342
Shrimati Prabhawati Gupta	346
Dr. G. S. Rajhans	351
Prof. Saifuddin Soz	355
Kumari Mamata Banerjee	361
Shri Virdhi Chander Jain	366
Shri Ram Pyare Panika	372

LOK SABHA DEBATES

1

LOK SABHA

*Friday, November 25, 1988/Agrahayana 4,
1910 (Saka)*

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

TRIBUTES TO SHRI G.V. MAVALANKAR, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS BIRTH CENTENARY

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As Hon'ble Members are aware, the birth centenary of the first Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri G.V. Mavalankar, falls on 27th November, 1988. Aptly described as the 'Father of our Parliament' by the late Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, Shri Mavalankar was fondly called 'Dada Sahib' by his friends and admirers. A great patriot, Dada Sahib Mavalankar gave up his legal practice and joined the freedom struggle in the footsteps of the Mahatma. He had to undergo several terms of imprisonment during the course of the independence movement.

On assumption of the office by the Congress Government in 1937, Shri Mavalankar was elected as the Speaker of the Bombay Legislative Assembly. Later in 1946, he moved to the central arena and was the natural choice for the Presidentship of the Central Legislative Assembly. He continued in that post till August, 1947. In November, 1947, he was unanimously elected Speaker of the Constituent Assembly (Legislative). In January, 1950, he became the Speaker of the Provisional Parliament. After the General Elections of 1952, he was again conferred the unique honour of Speakership of the First Lok Sabha. He

2

guided the deliberations of the House till his death in February, 1956. The dignity, uprightness and impartiality with which he functioned in the House earned him not only the esteem and love of all sections of the House but also enriched and enhanced the prestige and dignity of the office of the Speaker.

Dada Sahib Mavalankar played a key role in the building up of parliamentary democracy in India. The country was indeed very fortunate to have a person of his calibre and background to occupy the Chair in the crucial transitional years of the new born democracy leading to the establishment of a fullfledged parliamentary system. Mavalankar's deep study and profound knowledge of parliamentary practices and procedures, backed by his firm grasp of legal principles, helped him to lay down sound traditions and practices. He had in abundance the qualities that make a successful Speaker.

He stood for the authority of the House and the rights of its members. The struggling backbenchers received from him as much courtesy and consideration as the stalwarts on the front benches. Shri Mavalankar is remembered as a great Speaker whose influence continues and shall continue in the Legislatures all over the country for years to come.

As the first Speaker of Independent India's Parliament, he laid down healthy conventions in the formative stages of Parliament and it was largely due to the conventions which he set up that Parliament was able to proceed peacefully and got a shape and direction.

Known as one of the most outstanding Speakers of modern times, his name and fame spread all over the world specially in

England and the Commonwealth countries. He led several parliamentary delegations to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conferences and Commonwealth Speakers' Conferences.

As a mark of high esteem in which he was held, he was elected at the Jamaica meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association as its Chairman. He also presided for a number of years over the Annual Conferences of Presiding Officers of Legislative bodies in India where he played a very crucial role in evolving uniform practices and procedures for the Legislatures all over India and building up healthy parliamentary democracy in the country.

On this occasion, I would recall the glowing tributes paid to Dada Sahib Mavalankar by Prime Minister Nehru. Unveiling the portrait of Shri Mavalankar in the Central Hall of Parliament on 7th September, 1956, Panditji had said:-

"Some people are born to some particular high office; some grow into it and some are being pushed into it. About Dada Sahib Mavalankar it might well be said that he was born into the Speakership of the Lok Sabha. He fitted in it like a glove and he maintained throughout these several years the high dignity and wisdom, not only in his decisions, but in his general demeanour."

For long periods to come Dada Sahib Mavalankar's name would be associated with the Lok Sabha and Parliament for the stamp and impress of his personality and for the great contribution that he made in upholding the dignity of the House and zealously guarding the rights of its members.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, in the House we have persons like Prof. Ranga, a veteran Constituent Assembly member. It would have been in the fitness of things if some members were allowed to associate themselves with the tributes that you have given to Mr. Mavalankar. This is the best place where we can do on the occasion of the Birth Centenary of Shri G.V. Mavalankar.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We are going to have a symposium. At that time members are going to speak.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): Sir, you have spoken on behalf of everybody.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We are going to open an exhibition today and tomorrow we will be having a function in the Central Hall.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Revised Export Target During Current Year

*204. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the overall export target set for the financial year 1988-89;
- (b) the achievement made so far;
- (c) whether Government have a proposal to revise the target of exports;
- (d) if so, the new target fixed; and
- (e) the steps taken to boost export in all sectors in order to achieve higher target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) to (e). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

The overall export target for the financial year 1988-89 has been fixed at Rs. 18795 crores.

According to the provisional trade statistics available from DGCI&S, Calcutta, India's

exports during April-September, 1988 amounted to Rs. 8986.92 crores as compared to Rs. 7411.26 crores during April-September, 1987, thereby registering a growth of 21.3 per cent.

There is no proposal to revise the export target for the year 1988-89. However, it will be the Ministry's endeavour to increase exports as much as possible.

Initiatives have been taken in our Policy to promote exports. These are designed to generate surpluses for exports, to induce the production of goods contemporary in technology and competitive in prices. Other decisions have been taken to increase the competitiveness of our exports. Procedures have been simplified in order to facilitate the export effort.

SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHA-RAJA WADIYAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me congratulate the Minister and the Government on their achievement of an overall growth of 21.3 per cent in exports for the period April-September, 1988 as compared with the same period last year.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the initiatives that have been taken to promote exports and how they are designed to generate surpluses for exports. Could the Minister explain what are the other decisions, as stated in the statement laid on the table of the House, taken to increase competitiveness of our exports by simplification of procedures?

Further, I would like to know what is the overall growth rate of exports expected by these measures. What steps are being taken to improve the exports of iron-ore and manganese which have declined and what steps are being taken to identify areas where exports have, in general, declined?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Member for his appreciation of the growth of 21 per cent of our export, the figure we received till 30th September.

Now the question is that in regard to promotion of exports, there are a number of

measures which we have taken apart from simplifying certain procedures of our existing policy. We did take initiative to liberalise certain norms in the EPZ units where this year we are expecting the growth of more than 40 per cent and also in the 100 per cent export-oriented units. Apart from this, we are having a close monitoring of all the subjects and commodities in the Ministry regularly.

Also in regard to specific matters, the hon. Member has stated, as to whether we expect the growth at the same level or what is the actual expectation of the growth rate of the export this year. As the target was fixed, the export growth would be 19.6 per cent in comparison to last year. If we reach the actual target, certainly it will be our endeavour to see that we cross the target. Uptill now, in comparison to last year's performance, our target has crossed a little higher. And that's why the growth came to 21.3 per cent.

In regard to specific matter concerning iron-ore and manganese, it is a fact that in the whole world now there is a decline so far as iron-ore export is concerned because different methods are now being applied in the steel production especially in Japan and Korea which are the main buyers and also due to constant competition from Australia and Brazil. Even then, we have undertaken several trips to Romania, Korea and Japan at the ministerial level to persuade the steel plants and to negotiate with the Government at the Government level as to whether we can improve the offtake of the iron-ore furthermore. We do hope that in Korea and also in Japan, we will get a positive response.

SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHA-RAJA WADIYAR: My second supplementary to the hon. Minister is whether there is a proposal to make it mandatory for various foreign collaborators who have set up joint ventures as partners with India to export a part of their product, however small, back to their own countries or to countries where these collaborators have effective marketing arrangements. If not, will the Government consider doing so?

What action has been taken especially in improving the exports to USA as it happens to be our largest partner having over 2,219 collaborations in this country?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: In so far as the collaborators are concerned, especially in the joint venture projects, there are certain areas where the buy-back arrangements were earlier fixed. There, export is not a problem. But there are certain areas where certain local and domestic constraints come and we may not find an easy access. But certainly we are taking steps to further promote these areas.

In regard to the mandatory matters, there is no mandatory arrangement excepting on the import of those raw materials which are supposed to be exported.

In so far as United States is concerned, I can only inform the hon. Member happily that our trade prospect in the United States is very good.

We are expecting that in comparison to the last year, this year also our exports for the United States will be higher than in the last year.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I regret that I am not in a position to felicitate the hon. Minister. I think that the rate of growth cited by him conceals more than it reveals. The figure is given in terms of rupees. Now we know that during the last year, the exchange value of rupee, in relation to all the major trading currencies in the world, has been falling.

So, instead of taking steps to strengthen the rupee, the Minister wants to take credit for and incorporate that fallen value of the rupee in working out the rate of increase. I would, therefore, like to know this Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, from the Minister: at least in respect of four major currencies of our trading partners or let us say five, i.e. Dollar, Rouble, Pound, Sterling, German Marks and Japanese Yen, will he let us know the actual rate of increase of our Dollar, Rouble, Sterling, Mark and Yen exports?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: Sir, I would like to inform the Hon. Member and he will appreciate it also that since the inception of our trade policy the export target is always fixed in terms of rupee in our country and not in terms of foreign currency. We have to defend the targets in terms of the currency in which we fix them, i.e. rupee.

Secondly, in the international basket, among many other hard currencies, the rupee is primarily linked with the dollar the rate of growth of the export up till now in terms of rupee is 21.3 per cent and in terms of dollar it is 11.9 per cent. With regard to other currencies I have not got the conversion figures at the moment. Since for the export calculation rupee is mostly linked with the dollar, I have given you the growth rate in terms of the dollar and, i.e. 11.9 per cent.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: That means the total export?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: According to the export figures available to us, from April up to September, the growth rate in terms of dollar is 11.9 per cent and it is 21.3 per cent in terms of rupee.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I heard the statement given by the Hon. Minister regarding decline in export of Steel and Manganese. He has also stated the reasons for it. I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that the mine owners who produce steel and manganese are put to a lot of hardships because the MMTC is not in a position to take the entire produce due to the reasons stated by the Hon. Minister. So, will the Minister negotiate with some other countries apart from Japan and Korea so that the entire production of the mine owners will be taken by the MMTC? Ours being the best ore, I hope the Hon. Minister will certainly look into the matter and try to see that the mine owners are not put into inconvenience.

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: I quite appreciate the concern of the Hon. Member. I have personally taken up this matter. I had

been to Romania and I discussed about this at the ministerial level. Though we have good trade relations with them, they have certain problems in their own economy. They are also considering certain points.

So far as the Iron ore is concerned, there are various grades of Iron ore. The poorer grade is facing a lot of difficulty because there is no buyer for it. I have also discussed this matter with the Chairman, PASCO and the Government of Korea at length. We have also discussed this matter with the Japan at the Government level and we are hopeful that things will improve.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: Sir, the Hon. Minister was just now complimented by the Hon. Member for increasing the export. But as per my knowledge and as per the statement of the Government, the imports have gone up this year, and, therefore, the trade gap has increased. This year the Government has allowed so many industrialists and multi-national companies to import in order to fulfil the export assurance. More than hundred such big bosses are there who have not fulfilled this assurance in spite of their importing. So, my categorical question is whether it is true that the imports are more than the exports and, therefore, the trade gap has increased. I would also like to know who are these big bosses and multi-national companies who have not fulfilled the liabilities of the export in spite of their importing from other countries? Can you give the names of these companies?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: First of all, I would like to inform the hon. Member that it is a fact that in regard to a comparative study of the import and export figures upto 30th September, the trade gap is a little higher than the last year. It is also a fact that in certain areas, imports have gone up. But here are reasons. Apart from the overall impact of last year's drought on the economy, the hon. member will appreciate that we have to bring in certain amount of edible oil which has been accounted for in this year's account, we have to bring in certain amount of high raw materials and we have to bring in foodgrains. These added to the cost of import. But this was unavoidable.

However, I would like to inform the hon. member that a new committee of the inter-ministerial group has been set up to watch every week, the import aspect and to control it to the extent possible. Government is taking all possible steps not to encourage any imports which are not required at the moment.

In so far as the big industries and others are concerned, it is true that unless the industry gets capital goods which are required to build the infrastructure for engineering and other exports, it cannot compete in the international market because of the changes in technologies. Here, our policy is certainly very open since the beginning and we encourage such kind of imports which lead to export earnings and import substitution in the long run.

But in so far as the hon. member's specific reference to big houses and others who are importing and whose export performance is not satisfactory is concerned, we have taken up this matter on a few occasions in the past and we are very closely watching their performance.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: What are their names? There are more than one hundred!

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: I cannot mention any specific names. May be there are one hundred or may be there are less than one hundred. We are very actively watching as to how far they are improving their export turnover and we are constantly pursuing them to find new markets. Hopefully, we feel that their performance report will be better than the last year.

Amendment of Acts to improve the position of Hindu Women

*205. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Hindu Law including Hindu Succession Act, Hindu Adoption Act and Hindu Marriage Act to further improve the position of Hindu women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been made about the difficulties of women in operation of the aforesaid Acts and if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) whether the Supreme Court has suggested any inadequacy to be removed in the aforesaid Acts to improve the position of women in keeping with the objective of the law and the Constitution; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Going through the answer of the hon. Minister, I feel helpless. The problem is this. The Government have the Report of the UN Commission on Status of Women with them and this report is of the year 1967. The Government also have the Report of the Committee on Status of Women, constituted by the Government of India and that is of the year 1974. This Committee had recommended a series of legislative measures to apply the principle of equality between men and women, particularly in the fields of marriage, inheritance, maintenance, nationality and criminal law. These recommendations are under the consideration of Government of India. I would like to know whether the recommendations made by the Committee constituted by Government of India itself under the chairmanship of Smt. Phul Renu Guha have been accepted. Will they be implemented immediately in view of the fact that there is your own directive of All India Congress Committee to all governments in this regard?

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I would assure the hon. member that the Government is fully committed to the emancipation of women and improving the status of women in the country. There is absolutely no question of denying this. I have myself taken certain measures in the criminal law, in the family court and other such matters. We have amended several laws with regard to the problems of women. I do not want to go into the details as to how the Criminal Procedure Code was amended and how other laws we amended. The present question is specifically directed to Hindu Succession Act, Hindu Adoption Act and Hindu Marriage Act. So far as the status of women is concerned, I think much has been done after the Fifties. Continuously, Government's efforts are continuing. And we should do more and more. If my hon. friend has got any specific suggestions in his mind, I would like him to tell me and we would welcome them. I fully stand by his commitment to emancipation of women.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: The hon. Minister knows how, in the matter of succession, women are not treated equally with men. So far as coparcenary property is concerned, women have no right over it; and he knows it.

Even in respect of self-acquired property, it can be converted into co-parcenary property. He knows this. I also know that he knows it. So, naturally that injustice has to be immediately removed.

Then I come to the custody of the minor child. In case the marriage is dissolved, so far as courts in India are concerned, they have always considered that the interest of the child is the most important consideration. The specific provision in the enactment is over-riden with the consideration of the interest of the child.

I would also invite the hon. Minister's attention to the recommendations of the Committee on the Status of Women. They have said that the interest of children shall be the paramount consideration in proceedings regarding custody of children, in the event of divorce, annulment of marriage

and judicial separation. That is the case. Judicially also, this is the interpretation. Your Statutes are different... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please ask the question, Mr. Mohanty.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: I am specifically raising the matter. My last question would be this: Are you going to proceed immediately to amend the Statute or not? That would be my question. But let me place the facts, because... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What can I do now; I have to go to the other question.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: That is all right, but this is very important... (*Interruptions*). Sir, you were married very recently. You will never betray the cause of women. That is what I say. The Judiciary in India has played a progressive role on the issue of mother's right over the custody and guardianship of the minor child, when the marriage is dissolved. The Judiciary has, however, constantly held that the statutory requirement cannot take precedence over the interests of the child. So, these are the two very important matters. But there are a number of things. My submission would be this: will the hon. Minister assure us that he will immediately issue directives to amend the Statute and give equal right to women, to daughters in the matter of succession, and also in respect of rights of custody of the children when marriage is dissolved, to the mother? And that has to be in accordance with the judicial procedure. That is what I want to know from the Minister.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I would like to tell the hon. Member, for his benefit, that property of women is covered in 2 or 3 places. One is the property acquired as *Stree dhan*. So far as *Stree dhan* is concerned, he must be knowing that it is an absolute right of a lady to have an absolute control of the property which is given. (*Interruptions*) I am coming to it. You had given such a long lecture. Please try to have the patience to listen to me.

The second aspect is the property acquired by the co-parcener and matters un-

der the Statute. We have Section 6 of the Hindu Succession Act where a daughter is now entitled in the co-parcenary property after the death of the father. The son, and similarly the mother are entitled, and the wife is also entitled. All these entitlements under the Mitakshara laws are there. With regard to the other property.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Listen to the Minister.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: It is a wrong statement.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Then you have the right to ask the Minister, i.e. if he misleads the House, you can give notice...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I am not that educated as he is. After the death of the father, she gets the right, as the son gets or the widow gets; but I personally feel this way: why should the right be deferred after the death, is a question which can be raised. It should be very much within the life-time of the father or the husband. This is the question which needs to be discussed.

So far as other properties are concerned, wherever there is a right, whether it is given by devolution or maintenance or any prescription, that right is an absolute right which the woman enjoys. So far as the custody of the child is concerned, I personally feel that it should always be the concern of the court which deals with Guardianship and Ward Act how the child will be protected. But there are guidelines in the statute where the minor's interest or the child's interest is always looked into by the court. There is always a consideration for that. But if it is a female child, the court is always willing to give it to the mother; and if it is less than a few years, I mean, about six or five, then they always give the child to the mother. But the question is that, my hon. friend will agree, the financial status of the woman in the country is not that well off. So, the court always looks into those aspects; the financial status of the women; whether the woman is not committing adul-

tery or living with some other person. All these aspects are taken care of; and the court will look into it and determine both the factors; then an order is passed about the custody of the child; and that, I think, will not be denied by my friend.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: I would like to know whether government has received any representations from the States regarding the amendment of the Hindu Succession Act. Is it a fact that the Andhra Pradesh Legislature passed an Amending Bill and sent it for the assent of the President, which is gathering dust for the last four years. I would like to know whether the government has decided finally to advise the President to give the assent.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: So as far the Andhra Pradesh Act is concerned, I am aware that one such law was passed. Whether it is gathering dust or whether it is well maintained, I will try to find out.

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA: Notwithstanding due justice and the sentiments expressed by the Law Minister, the fact remains that the Hindu Law is still very much suffering from pro-male bias. Therefore, the Phulrenu Guha Committee has made certain suggestions. At least, if the existing law can be better implemented, utilised by women, namely, setting up of family courts and also giving the cause where the wife is deciding the jurisdiction of marriage suit, it will solve the problem. In fact, in States family courts have not been established. Can the government assure the time limit by which family courts will be set up in all the States in India and the jurisdiction aspect will be properly dealt with in the Hindu Marriage Law?

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: So far as family courts are concerned, I can assure you that we are monitoring this issue with the States on day-today-basis, how many family courts have been established; and if the States are not doing that work, we are taking that very seriously. We have been writing to them and we have been speaking to them personally. But I would like to point out to the hon. House that the family court as an institution which is envisaged is not being es-

tablished in the sense it was desired. Family court is not another court, it is another system of the court in the country; it is an institution which is meant to nurture the interest of the woman; it has to have a counselling system; it has to have an advisory system and a conciliatory system. Simply by putting up another court for trying family laws is not a family court. I have emphasised to all the States, wherever the family courts have been established, to improve those systems. I don't think in a hurry we should establish a court which will not serve the purpose for which it is established. The States are also taking interest in it; and sooner or later, if this institution is established, I think all the problems regarding women and their equality and status will come into our grip and we will be able to solve them. But I cannot give an assurance to the House on behalf of the States. I can only give an assurance on my sincerity to the cause and to the statute.

Rail Link with Pakistan

*207. **SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the rail link obtaining between India and Pakistan at present;

(b) the number of trains across the border in a day;

(c) whether there is any proposal to introduce second railway link between the two countries;

(d) if so, whether an Indian delegation visited Islamabad for talks on the said proposal a few years back;

(e) if so, when and the progress made so far in this regard; and

(f) the details of the rail line suggested?

[Translation]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (**SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD**): (a) to (f). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) Presently only rail link for interchange of rail traffic between India and Pakistan is via Attari-Wagah.

(b) Normally one passenger train per day is run each way. According to materialization of traffic goods trains are also run as and when required.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f). An Indian delegation visited Islamabad from 29th to 31st July, 1986 and a draft agreement on the resumption of rail communication between India and Pakistan via Munabao-Khokrapar route was drawn out. While we have indicated our willingness, an appropriate response from Pakistan is awaited.

SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Railway Minister through you the total amount involved in the proposed second railway link between India and Pakistan as also the Pakistan's contribution in it.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Sir, the hon. Member is a learned Member. No expenditure is involved in it as it does not require laying of second railway line. You are aware that an Indian Delegation visited Pakistan from 29th to 31st July, 1986 and a draft agreement was also prepared after deliberations in Pakistan, but it has not yet been signed. Thereafter, an important national daily of Pakistan 'Dawn' published a news item that the Indian railway employees were uprooting the railway line falling in Indian territory. The Indian Embassy in Islamabad contradicted the news item and clarified that there was no such move. There is no need to lay new railway line between Munaba and Khokrapar as it has already been laid and thus no expenditure is involved in it. This question is not related with it.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the railway line between Munaba and Khokrapar has been there since pre-independence days. If rail

communication with Pakistan is established through this line, then the passengers of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh will be extremely benefited. In this regard, I would like to know whether the problem about it is from our side or Pakistan's side?

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Sir, I have already made it clear that there is no question of laying of a new railway line. Munaba station is situated in India and Khokrapar station falls in Pakistan territory. The distance between the two stations is 6.5 kilometres. I have mentioned this in clear terms that from our side we are ready. The then Minister of State for Defence of Pakistan, Shri Rana Muyid Mahmood, made it clear on 16th March, 1988 that it was essential to open this railway line. The Indian Government is ready for this but there has been no response from Pakistan's side. We are ready to send our delegation to Pakistan if we receive appropriate response from them and the Government will open this railway line.

[English]

Export Earnings from Spices

*208. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been decline in the export earnings of cardamom, pepper, ginger and cashew upto March, 1988; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI): (a) As compared to exports during 1986-87, export of cardamom, ginger and cashew had declined and export of pepper had increased during 1987-88.

(b) The reasons for decline in exports are inter-alia fall in production, stiff competition from competing countries and high domestic prices of these products.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: The hon. Minister has admitted that as compared to

1986-87, the export of cardamom, ginger and cashew had declined. Earlier, while replying to another question, the hon. Minister was saying that the exports had increased to the tune of 21 per cent. When we analyse, we find that gems which were brought here from outside are polished and sent back. And, it is claimed that exports have increased. Cardamom, cashew ginger and other products are the cash crops of India, for centuries. Even during the olden days, even Before Christ, they were being purchased by the Greeks and other traders. I am sorry to say that no attempt has been made to see that these export items are improved and encouraged. And now it is seen that the exports are decreasing. Mainly the Gulf countries used to purchase them to the tune of Rs. 300 crores. Exports to those countries alone were to that extent. This year they have gone down, and already those countries have taken Guatemala as their supplier. But no attempt is made to see that cardamom which is a peculiar spice which is available in Kerala, a tropical area is exported. Especially, in my friend Shri Kurup's constituency 80 per cent of the world's cardamom is produced. Unfortunately, we have never made any attempt to see that it is sold and export is promoted. I am sorry to say that our economy was very much affected. I would like to know, what positive steps the Government have taken in improving the trade of cardamom, ginger and pepper.

I would like the Minister to clarify one point. I am told that trade wings of our various Embassies have discarded this matter and fail to enter into an agreement with the respective countries who require it in time, and therefore export could not be done. Is this criticism correct?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: I would like to reply first to the last part of his question. Excepting in the rupee trade area, where we have our exports, in no other country is there an agreement. These are private parties and they approach the private market; they negotiate and settle. So, to say that the Trade Officers and trade offices in Embassies abroad refuse, and discourage and did not enter into an agreement is not correct.

Sir, it is a fact that the pepper, ginger and cardamom are facing a crisis recently. The hon. member is quite aware of it; he knows all the facts; he knows the data; and he knows the figures. If you permit me, it will take more time, I can go into every aspect of it. There is nothing to hide. Government of India made all possible attempts.

Now I come back to cardamom. What can we do in cardamom? If Guatemala cardamom productivity is five times, six times more than ours in terms of simple sheer price competition, we cannot match with them in gulf countries. How to compensate it? To improve productivity by more research in cardamom, we have taken steps. The hon. member is quite aware that we have a research station in Kerala and things are improving. The results will come a little after.

In regard to the last year's matter, there was a severe drought. The hon. member from Kerala is quite aware that the production of cardamom has gone down in the last year and the domestic price has shot up in such a manner that they prefer to feed the domestic market and not to go to international market for getting a low price because Guatemala cardamom offer is lower. How to help them now? The Government took steps. We increased the CCS from ten per cent to fifteen per cent. We have given air freight subsidy to the tune of seven rupees per kg to Gulf countries. These are the measures we have taken. In the Gulf countries, if they prefer cheaper variety of Guatemala cardamom, then why should they buy the cardamom of India at a higher price? To bring down to a normal order and to protect our growers, we have taken these steps and measures. If you say that the Government has not taken steps. I am quite aware that some wrong campaigns are being built up against the Government policies on spices so far as Kerala is concerned, which is absolutely wrong. I would like to clarify that the Government took all possible steps. With all respect, I convey to the Kerala Government and the MPs from Kerala that some of these measures were not taken in the past so far as cardamom is concerned.

In so far as pepper is concerned, the hon. Member is aware that India was leading in the pepper community in the world trade till the last year. What can we do? After we received about sixty rupees per kg. in a particular given year, the whole world was producing pepper. Brazil, Indonesia and Malaysia they have gone like anything in pepper cultivation. That the productivity ratio of Brazil, Indonesia and Malaysia is much higher than the productivity ratio of India now. Should I give the figure?

We have to improve the productivity. Secondly at the given hour, the international pepper community is not a cartel; I would like to inform the hon. Member that the crisis was very bad because of the fall in international price. Even exporters in international pepper community did recommend 'please do bring down the price to less than one dollar; we are prepared to do it less than one dollar'. Then, what we did? To protect our exporters to go to the market, the Government took a bold step. We have withdrawn the export duty five thousand rupees per tonne in pepper.

Not only that, we have given ten per cent CCS on the consumer pack under brand names. Therefore, we have taken the measures. Now we have to approach the market and we have to compete in the international market. Centuries ago, many people did not know what the spices are. But now many people of the world know about the spices. So, we have to compete with them in skill, in price and in productivity and accordingly we are doing that. So, it is not a fact that we are not taking steps. We have taken many more steps than before.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Sir, my second supplementary arises from the Minister's answer itself. He has said that only private parties are negotiating for export, barring in certain areas. Government is collecting cess on the production. Pepper cess is there and that amount they are collecting. On all items of spices they are collecting that cess and pooling the amount. I know that it has now become few thousand crores of rupees. They are keeping this amount which is meant for developing trade

and cultivation of these cash crops. I am sorry to inform the Minister, through you, Sir, that pepper in Kerala is facing the biggest crisis. There will be no pepper production at all in the next five years. A disease has come which is called Rootwilt, by which the pepper garden completely gets destroyed. It is because of the erosion of soil. Due to erosion, the top soil is not available. When the rains come, erosion takes place. This is a big problem and is going to affect the pepper cultivation very seriously. You feel that the pepper export will be very high this year but it is going to get dwindled, it is going to be much less. In view of all this, my specific question is this: with the money which they have collected and with the Spices Board which they have constituted, what are they doing both for the purpose of export and for the purpose of improving the cultivation.

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI: Sir, I am happy to inform the hon. Member that the Spices Board is one of the promoters and they are always fighting and championing the cause of the Kerala spice growers. Let there be no misunderstanding. To meet their budget, to look after their expenses, the Spices Board needs certain amount. 3.5 per cent cess on pepper and 3 per cent cardamom is not fetching thousands of crores of rupees.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: I am sorry, it is many crores.

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI: It is not even many crores. About rupees seven crores may come by way of cess on various items. So, that looks after the minimum budget of the Spices Board. The hon. Member will appreciate that the Spices Board is doing some development works for improvement in the production of pepper and soil erosion. These are not the matters concerning the Ministry of Commerce, these should be addressed to the Agriculture Ministry. So far as I understand, State Governments also have a very important role to play insofar as improvement of agriculture and soil erosion programmes are concerned.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Sir, the question is not only about cardamom and pepper, it is about cashew also, which my hon. friend

has forgotten. With regard to cardamom, I fully agree with the Minister that the Spices Board is doing good work and we have increased the productivity. I am sure, within two or three years the result will be there. But one thing more can be done by the Government. As there is an international pepper community, why don't you try for a cardamom community also so that cardamom producing countries can join together and arrive at a minimum price? If that is done, we can certainly improve our cardamom export and the growers can be helped. I would like to know whether the Minister will consider this suggestion. Secondly, Sir... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, that is enough.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Sir, my question is about cashew as I told you.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Why are you asking about cardamom then?

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Sir, is the hon. Minister aware that the cashew industry is in a crisis due to the wrong policy of the State Government of Kerala? Cashew procurement has failed and crores of rupees are to be paid to the growers. This year we are going to face a serious crisis and there will be no cashew export because of the wrong policy of the State Government of Kerala. Is the Government going to be a silent observer to this or they are going to do something about that? These are parts (a) and (b) of my question. He forget about cashew. Because it is Kerala Government's failure, as he did not ask about cashew.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: His question is whether you will take over Kerala Government.

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI: Sir, in regard to the hon. Member's suggestion for having an international community or association for cardamom, it is a good suggestion, we will certainly consider.

In so far as the cashew is concerned, I would like to inform the hon. Member that before the monopoly procurement scheme

was taken up by the Kerala Government, our Ministry wrote to the Government twice to consult us on various issues concerning export. Unfortunately, we are not consulted, we are not even acknowledged. While these steps are taken by the Government, the factory is closed down. I do not say the objective of the government was wrong the objective was high, there is a very good point in the policy, but without taking into account the infrastructural arrangement, the ultimate impact on the economy; if they had consulted us we could have given them proper counsel at the appropriate stage so that the suffering in Kerala would not have been at the stage as it is now. And therefore, Sir, in the peak hour when the works were not done, we lost the market to the tune of Rs. 70 to Rs. 75 crores, and I am sorry, if the Kerala Government in the appropriate time had provided their counsel, we could have checked the situation.

SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL: Sir, I congratulate the hon. Minister for abolishing the export duty so that the farmers are getting now a little fair price. I want to know from the hon. Minister one thing. This Cardamom Board is controlled by traders and exporters and they are following a policy of killing the duck to get golden eggs. The exporters are adulterating pepper and ginger and exporting them by agmarking, and the goods are coming back to our country. The result is that our international trade has suffered and our reputation is going down. You are to find out some method by which you send articles of good quality outside our country so that we get good name and good reputation in the foreign markets. So, my request is to give more representation to farmers on the Spices Board and be more strict with the quality control.

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI: Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that in all these respects, we have already taken steps, we have reviewed the programme and no less than the Prime Minister himself expressed deep concern about the prices paid to the growers in Kerala and told us repeatedly to check up and examine every matter to improve the condition. We have taken special

measures and after this Session, Sir, we are again visiting Kerala in the gross roots to see what are the conditions prevailing between growers and traders and in what manner we can improve the situation, and I can only inform the hon. Member that whatever lacunae and loopholes are there in the spices trade, the Ministry is taking an overall view of this and shortly, my senior colleague, Shri Dinesh Singh - he is not here today - is having an overall meeting with the senior people in the Ministry and taking some measures which will be announced very shortly... (*Interruptions*).

[*Translation*]

Conversion and Doubling of Railway Lines in Rajasthan

*212. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey for conversion of railway line from Luni/Jodhpur to Barmer/Jaisalmer into broad gauge and for doubling the track from Marwar to Luni/Jodhpur has been completed and submitted to the Planning Commission;

(b) whether the survey report with regard to doubling the track from Agra to Jaipur and from Jaipur to Marwar has been sent to the Planning Commission; and

(c) if so, the details of the progress made in the construction of above rail lines?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Surveys for conversion have been carried out and reports submitted to Planning Commission. No survey has been done for doubling.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: The reply given by the hon. Minister is only partly satisfactory. Reports were submitted to the Planning Commission as per the recom-

mendation made after the survey for conversion of Luni/Jodhpur to Barmer/Jaisalmer rail line was carried out.

I want to know whether any reply has been received from the Planning Commission regarding the survey report submitted to it. If so, when was it received and when did you send your proposal to them? The hon. Minister may kindly give all this information.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has raised the question whether broad gauge railway line will be constructed by conversion of railway line from Luni, Jodhpur, Barmer and Jaisalmer as suggested by the Ministry of Defence. I have given the reply that recently on 31.10.88 a meeting of the railway officials was held with the Planning Commission. We had sent the survey report to the Planning Commission but we have not received any reply from the Commission to that effect. When a meeting was held with the Planning Commission, it gave a suggestion in its first phase to carry out a second survey on priority basis. This survey is for Sawai Madhopur, Jaipur, Phulera, Meret Road, Jodhpur, Bhedet Road, Lalgah and Bikaner. This proposal will be considered. Since no suggestion has been received from the Commission regarding Luni, Barmer, Jodhpur and Jaisalmer, I can not say anything in this regard.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Meeting was held for the suggestion sent by you to the Commission. Can the survey report regarding Luni, Jaisalmer and Barmer be laid on the Table of the House?

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: As I have already mentioned, no meeting has been held regarding the survey conducted for Luni, Barmer, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer line. The meeting held with the Planning Commission recently is regarding the survey to be conducted for Sawai Madhopur, Jaipur, Phulera, Meret Road, Jodhpur and Lalgah. Its survey will be conducted in the proposed budget for 1989-90. No reply has been received from the Commission regarding Luni, Barmer, Jodhpur and Jaisalmer.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you know that Rajasthan is the most backward area in the field of railways, specially Jhunjhunu and Sikar. There is no train from there for Delhi during day time in spite of the fact that it is situated at a very short distance from Delhi. Is the hon. Minister going to provide any such facility for Shekhawati or whether any proposal is under consideration to start a day train from Shekhawati to Delhi?

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: The hon. Minister desires to know whether we are going to formulate any scheme in this connection. We are prepared to make a scheme provided we get the resources from the Planning Commission. It will certainly be considered when we get additional funds from Planning Commission.

SHRI MADAN PANDEY: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am happy that the hon. Minister has mentioned about conducting surveys at various places. Many positive steps have been taken after such surveys but complete work is not being done there, like the conversion of Bhatni-Varanasi railway line.

Similarly, at other places also, in spite of requests made by the Ministry of Defence, the work has not started after conducting the survey by the Ministry of Railways. Will the hon. Minister consider this matter?

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I agree with the views expressed by the hon. Minister regarding Bhatni-Varanasi line. An amount of Rs. 9 crores was granted for this purpose and the Government is considering it. If the Planning Commission grants the funds, then the Government can expedite the work of gauge conversion

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Housing Scheme of Unit Trust of India

*206. **DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the newly approved housing scheme of the Unit Trust of India is proposed to be extended to Orissa; and

(b) if so, the time by which such a scheme would be launched there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (**SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO**): (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Unit Trust of India (UTI) proposes to cover all parts of the country under their proposed Housing Scheme. The UTI has not yet decided on the date of launching of the Scheme. UTI proposes to launch the scheme only after all the details are finalised in consultation with the Government.

Financing of Elections by the State

*209. **SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:** Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered financing of elections by the State and reduce the election expenses considerably;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the results likely to be achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND**): (a) to (c). Amongst other proposals for electoral reforms, there is a proposal for state funding of election expenses incurred by a candidate. The proposals in this regard are under consideration.

Rise in Consumer Price Index

*210. **SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN:**
SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Consumer Price Index for working class has been constantly rising;

(b) whether the prices of essential commodities of daily use such as pulses, sugar and edible oils, have risen sharply during the second quarter of the current year;

(c) if so, the specific short-term measures taken or proposed to be taken to check the rise in prices especially of the essential commodities of daily use by common man; and

(d) the long term measures that have been taken to check the inflationary trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). The movement of the CPI is subject to fluctuations due to operation of seasonal factors associated with the marketing of agricultural commodities.

The CPI in respect of individual commodities or commodity groups is not computed at the all India level. The commoditywise indices are, however, available in terms of the Wholesale Price Index (WPI). While, the WPI of many essential commodities including edible oils has declined during the second quarter (April-June), the index for pulses and the sugar group has gone up. The specific short-term measures to check the price rise include maintaining releases of foodgrains and other essential items for PDS at adequate levels, augmenting of domestic supplies of foodgrains, edible oils and pulses through imports, enforcing strict fiscal and monetary discipline, close monitoring of price movements and vigorous action against hoarders and profiteers. The long-term measures include encouraging increase in domestic production through increase in irrigation, supply of needed inputs, including credit, strong infrastructure support, and incentives to farmers and other producers.

Excise and Customs Duty on Capital Goods

*211. SHRI S. M. GURADDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are undertaking a review of the levy of Excise and Customs Duty on Capital goods; and

(b) if so, by when its outcome would be known?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) No review of the general rate of excise and customs duties on capital goods is being undertaken by the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Economy Measures for Government Telephones

*213. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTHAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some economy measures have been taken by Government to reduce the number of telephones used by the ministries and departments;

(b) whether Government have also taken steps to reduce the calls of officers from their official residential telephones to a specific number; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

The following instructions were issued in October, 1987:-

- (i) STD facilities should be withdrawn from the residential telephones of all officers below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India or equivalent. The only exception to this may be Private Secretary, Addl. PS to the Ministers

and Private Secretaries to the Secretaries to the government of India.

- (ii) The residential telephones provided to officers below Group 'A' rank and to Group 'A' officers beyond the existing permissible limits of 25% should be discontinued.

- (iii) No telephone should function in future at the residence of a Government officer beyond what is explicitly permitted under the relevant instructions of the Ministry of Finance.

- 2 Further, in view of the recent increase in telephone rentals and call charges, Ministries / Departments were asked in March, 1988 to effect a reduction of 20% in the number of telephones paid for by them by installing PB exchanges and thereby reducing direct lines.

Export of Footwear to Japan and Australia

*214. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan and Australia have relaxed curbs on import of footwear; and

(b) if so, whether Indian leather industry has taken steps to increase export of footwear to Japan and Australia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) In Japan import of footwear is allowed under quota subject to import duty. The quota levels have been increased from year to year. In Australia duty free imports of hand-made footwear as well as expansion in quotas are envisaged with effect from 1.3.1989.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Income-Tax Relief to Film Stars

*215. SHRI MANIK REDDY:

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of film stars have been given Income-Tax relief recently;

(b) if so, their names;

(c) the quantum of amount for which relief has been given; and

(d) the reasons for giving such a relief?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) to (d). Taxpayers (including film stars) can get "income-tax relief" under several relevant provisions of the Income-tax Act which provide for appeals, revision or reference etc. This "relief" could be provided by the appellate authority, or the revisionary authority or, as the case may be, by the High Court or Supreme Court. In another sense, 'relief' could also be provided by the concerned income-tax authorities in accordance with law by way of reduction or waiver of interest or penalty or both. Relief could, in yet another sense, be provided under the 'Amnesty Scheme' which was applicable in relation to claims made during November, 1985 to 31st March, 1987. As the intended connotation of the expression "income-tax relief" is not clear, it is not possible to obtain and furnish the specific information contemplated by the Hon'ble Members.

Diversion of Bhagirathi at Farakka

*216. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bhagirathi at the down stream at Farakka has started diverting its course;

(b) if so, whether the diversion may endanger the barrage at Farakka in the absence of any remedial steps; and

(c) the steps taken/contemplated by Union Government to safeguard the interest of Farakka barrage and to contain erosion of soil?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

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

Container Corporation

***217. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:
SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Container Corporation has been established;

(b) if so, whether it will give a boost for promoting exports; and

(c) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Container Corporation expected to increase the handling facilities of export/import containers significantly.

Bank Loans to NCCF

***218. DR. A.K. PATEL:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Consumers Cooperative Federation (NCCF) has borrowed money as loans from the commercial banks in excess of the value of goods (dry dates) mortgaged by the Federation with the banks;

(b) if so, the reasons for which the concerned banks had advanced money to the NCCF in excess of the price of the goods;

(c) whether the dry dates stocks worth Rs. 1.5 crores mortgaged by the NCCF with the banks are unfit for consumption as per PFA Act; and

(d) the manner in which the concerned banks propose to realise the amount from the NCCF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN

THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). Reserve Bank of India has reported that certain credit facilities have been granted by banks to the National Consumers Cooperative Federation (NCCF) from time to time for various purposes including for the import of dry dates. However, in accordance with the statutes governing the public sector banks and as per the customs and usages prevalent among the bankers the information relating to an individual constituent of a bank cannot be divulged.

Bank Loans to 1984 Riot Victims

219. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any instructions to commercial/nationalised banks with regard to loans extended to victims of riots of 1984;

(b) if so, the details of the directions given;

(c) the total quantum estimated as due from the riot victims to nationalised banks;

(d) whether Government propose to make good any portion of the funds; and

(e) the number of individuals/firms reported to be affected by the riots of 1984 in the capital and who are borrowers from nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India had issued guidelines on 6th November, 1984 to various scheduled commercial banks for extending need based credit on softer terms and conditions to the persons affected by November, 1984 disturbances. The Reserve Bank of India's guidelines *inter-alia* provide for rescheduling of existing loans, grant of fresh loans at concessional rates of interest, waiver of margin requirements in respect of advances upto Rs. 1 lakh, speedy clearance of loan proposals etc.

(c) to (e). In the Union Territory of Delhi by the end of June, 1988 loans to the extent of Rs. 35.16 crores were sanctioned to 6904 borrowers affected by November, 1984 disturbances. These loans are to be recovered from the borrowers as per stipulated terms and conditions.

Introduction of A New Train Between Bangalore and Gauhati

*220. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new train has been intro-

duced between Bangalore and Gauhati on North Frontier Railway;

(b) if so, what is the duration of the journey; and

(c) the details of halts of this train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 61 hours 15 minutes from Bangalore to Guwahati and 60 hours 15 minutes from Guwahati to Bangalore.

(c) A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

<i>Name of the Railway</i>	<i>Name of the halt</i>
Northeast Frontier Railway	1. Kamakhya 2. Rangiya 3. New Bongaigaon 4. New Alipurduar 5. New Cooch Behar 6. New Jalpaiguri 7. Kishanganj
Eastern Railway	1. Malda Town 2. Rampurhat 3. Bolpur (Santiniketan) 4. Howrah
South Eastern Railway	1. Kharagpur 2. Balasore 3. Cuttack 4. Bhubaneswar 5. Berhampur 6. Palasa 7. Srikakulam Road 8. Vizianagram 9. Visakhapatnam
South Central Railway	1. Rajahmundry 2. Vijayawada 3. Ongole*
Southern Railway	1. Madras 2. Katpadi 3. Jolarpettai 4. Bangarapet 5. Bangalore East** 6. Bangalore Cantt.

* Stoppage of only 976 Guwahati-Bangalore train.

** Stoppage of only 975 Bangalore-Guwahati train.

Railway Wagons

***221. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are missing and unconnected foodgrain wagons;

(b) if so, the number of wagons missing and the approximate value of the foodgrains loaded therein;

(c) the stage at which the matter stands at present;

(d) the reasons for their being misplaced; and

(e) the steps being taken to prevent such incidents in future and the instructions issued to the concerned departments against such mishandling of wagons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). The "missing" foodgrain wagons were reconciled with the "unconnected" wagons delivered to Food Corporation of India from 1967-68 to 1983-84. The net claim of Food Corporation of India works out to 6773 bags of foodgrains equivalent to 28 wagons valued at Rs. 11 lakhs approximately. Such reconcilliation is a continuous process.

(d) Diversion by Railways and Food Corporation of India on account of operational necessity.

(e) Incidence of diversion during transit is being minimised.

Gold for Savings

***222. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unit Trust of India (UTI) in finalising a scheme for mobilising savings in return of gold to Unit holders after some passage of time;

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) whether the scheme has been accepted by Government; and

(d) if so, when the scheme will come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). The Unit Trust of India (UTI) has submitted a proposal to the Government for approval of a scheme called "Master Gold Unit Scheme" (MGUS). The Scheme aims at mobilisation of savings from resident Indian individuals. Government have not yet taken a final decision in regard to the proposed MGUS.

Tirupati Devasthanam Loan to Mauritius

***223. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Thirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) has agreed to provide interest free loan to Mauritius;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the proposal has been approved by the Reserve Bank of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Thirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) has sought permission of the Government of India for providing an interest free loan of Rs. 15 lakhs to Mauritius based Shri Venketeshwara Devasthanam Trust. The proposal is under consideration.

Swan Channelisation Project of Himachal Pradesh

***224. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand was made to the Prime Minister during his visit to Una in Himachal Pradesh on 14 October, 1988 regarding the early sanction and construction of Swan Channelisation Project to harness

the river Swan and its 76 tributaries so as to find a permanent solution to floods and soil erosion and also to ensure reclamation of thousands of hectares of land in this region;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken on this demand to expedite the sanction and take up the construction of the project in consultation with the State Government and the Central Water Commission; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the likely dates by which any action would be initiated, sanction given and the project taken up for construction?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). A demand was received for early sanction of Swan Channelisation Project. Earlier in May 1984, an outline proposal for integrated area development project including channelisation of Swan Nadi was received. In July 1984, the State Government was requested to submit a detailed project report as per the guidelines, but it has not been received so far. They have been reminded.

Simplification of Export Procedures

1989. DR. B.L. SHAILESH:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether existing procedures involved in transport and clearance of Import and Export cargo are cumbersome, time consuming and expensive;

(b) whether with the growth of containerisation, the cost of documentation would further increase; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by Government for simplification of procedures and documentation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) to (c). From time to time it has been represented that the present systems

and procedure involved in transport and clearance of import and export Cargo in India are cumbersome, expensive and time consuming.

Simplification of Procedures and documentation have been receiving constant attention of the Govt. On the recommendation of a Standing Committee, set up to examine the delay in the movement of containers between Delhi ICD and Bombay Ports, Simplification of procedure was attempted which reduced the number of steps for movement of containers from 22 to 8 and the average detention time of ICD bound container at the port from 33 to 13 days.

A suggestion has also been received for constituting a Trade Facilitation Council, with a view to simplifying procedures and documentation in external trade taking into account international standards, which has been noted.

Cutting Down of Targets of Railway Projects

1990. SHRI S.G. GHOLAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has to cut down their targets of electrification, renewal of tracks etc. as the Planning Commission has cut down their demand to a large extent; and

(b) if so, the amount demanded by Railways and to what extent it has been accepted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Import Licences for Penicillin

1991. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR:
SHRI DHARAMPAL SINGH
MALIK:
SHRI KESHORAO PARDHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the import licences for Penicillin issued during the last one year;

(b) the cases where no import licences have been issued even six months after being recommended; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) During the last one year, i.e. from 1st November, 1987 to 31st October, 1988, 65 licences have been issued for import of Penicillin.

(b) There is no such case.

(c) Does not arise.

Implementation of Cadre Management Plan

1992. SHRI LALA RAM KEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cadre management plan in the Income Tax Department as obtaining for Group 'A' posts is not being implemented for Group 'B' and Group 'C' posts; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government are aware of the position of stagnation in Group 'C' posts in the Department; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (c). The government is equally concerned about the prospects of Group 'A' Officers, Group 'B' Officers and officials in Group 'C'. The only difference is that whereas the Group 'A' cadre is centrally managed by the Central Board of Direct Taxes, employees in other categories do not have an all-India cadre.

The issue regarding stagnation in various grades was examined at length by the Fourth Central Pay Commission which did not recommend a guaranteed promotion even after 15 years of service. Accordingly, the Pay Commission recommended elongated scales of pay and a scheme of stagnation increments after the maximum of the scale was reached, subject to the limit of 3 increments. These recommendations have been accepted by the Government. The Income Tax Department has not reached the stage where the stagnation increment becomes applicable. Thus, it cannot be said that in the Group 'C' posts there is any noticeable stagnation.

Notwithstanding this position, during the last 3 years, the number of posts created in Group 'C' was much larger as compared to both Group 'A' and Group 'B', as will be seen from the table below:

	1986	1987	1988
Group 'A'	297	127	80
Group 'B'	168	268	2
Group 'C'	934	1513	1177

The Central Board of Direct Taxes have set up a Committee for cadre review for improving the promotion prospects of employees holding Group 'B', 'C' and 'D' posts in the Income Tax Department. The Committee is headed by the Director-General (Admn). The report of the Committee will be carefully examined by the Central Board of Direct Taxes.

LIC Loans for Urban Water Supply Schemes and Drainage Projects

1993. SHRI K.N. PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) makes available additional amounts of loan for Urban Water Supply

Schemes and Drainage Projects **outside** the Plan ceiling only to those States which have water supply or sewage boards;

(b) whether Government propose to direct the LIC to grant such loans to other States, like Madhya Pradesh where such schemes are being executed by the Government Engineering Departments as deposit works on behalf of the Municipal Bodies, which maintain the works after their execution has been completed; and

(c) whether Government propose to direct the LIC to charge the same interest on these additional loans as is being charged on the loans sanctioned within the Plan ceiling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The State Governments which have set up their Water Supply Boards are eligible for additional loans for their Urban Water Supply Schemes from the permanent water supply schemes fund set up by LIC in consortium with GIC and UTI. No such additional loans outside the Plan ceiling are, however, available for the drainage projects of the State Governments concerned.

(c) Being the trustee of policyholders money the LIC are unable to charge on such additional loans a rate of interest lower than that applicable to commercial loans since the funds diverted to the Fund are primarily meant for investment in commercial loans at a rate of interest of 14% per annum.

Requirement of Steel to Meet Export Target of Engineering Goods

1994. SHRI R.M. BHOYE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the export of engineering goods during the current financial year; and

(b) the requirement of steel to achieve the target of export in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) The Government has tentatively fixed a target of Rs.1650.00 crores for export of engineering goods during the financial year 1988-89, in consultation with the Engineering Export promotion Council. This is exclusive of Electronics and Computer Soft Ware.

(b) The Engineering Export Promotion Council has estimated the steel requirement as 170,800 MTs to achieve the above export target.

Loans to Unemployed Graduates in Madhya Pradesh

1995. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for loans from unemployed graduates received by the branches of various nationalised banks in Madhya Pradesh under the 20-Point Programme during the last two years;

(b) the amount of loans actually disbursed by the branches of each bank during the above period; and

(c) the total amount of loans sanctioned, the number of applications rejected and the number of applications under consideration, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has reported that under the Self-Employment Scheme for Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY), assistance is provided to educated unemployed youths who satisfy the prescribed eligibility criteria for undertaking Self-Employment ventures. While data regarding applications rejected/pending are not available with Reserve Bank of India, information of target, number of applications and amount sanctioned under SEEUY Scheme in Madhya Pradesh during the last 2 years is as under:

Year	Target	No. of applications sanctioned	Amount of loan (Rs. in crores)
1986-87	17,600	16,679	35.41
1987-88	8,800	8,732	19.16

Revised Procedure for Tax Collection

1996. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new revised procedure has recently been decided to be followed by the Reserve Bank for tax collection;

(b) if so, the role to be played by Reserve Bank of India in collection of taxes of Central and State Governments; and

(c) the details regarding this new procedure being adopted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that in so far as collection of tax dues by the banks from the public is concerned, there is no change in the existing procedure. However, for accounting and reporting of collections pertaining to direct taxes, the RBI has, in consultation with the Central Board of Direct Taxes (C.B.D.T.), introduced a revised procedure with effect from 1.10.1988. Under the new procedure, the collecting branches of the concerned banks report the transactions alongwith supporting documents to the nodal branch of the bank set up at the centre of Zonal Accounts Office of Central Board of Direct Taxes. The nodal branch, after consolidating all the transactions reported to it including its own collections, reports on day to day basis to the Link Cell of the bank set up at Nagpur for direct settlement with the RBI, Central Accounts Section. The supporting documents viz. scrolls, challans, etc. are sent by the nodal branch to the designated officers. The revised procedure, apart from eliminating cer-

tain tiers in the earlier procedure, would also ensure expeditious credit to Government accounts. The entire responsibility from the collection stage to the point of credit to the Government account and subsequent reconciliation of accounts is now assumed by the concerned bank.

(b) Under the revised procedure of accounts, branches of Reserve Bank of India and State Bank of India do not function as "focal point banks". The branches of RBI would continue to receive collections and the bank would continue to maintain the principal accounts of the Government and ensure prompt accounting of transactions reported by the collecting banks.

[Translation]

Reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in New Bank of India

1997. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether reservation policy for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is being followed by the New Bank of India since the date of its nationalisation;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the date from which it has started following this policy?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). New Bank of India has reported that in the case of direct recruitment the reservation policy for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is being implemented by it since the date of

nationalisation of the bank i.e. 15.4.80. In the case of promotions the reservations for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are being made by the bank with effect from 1.1.83 because, according to the bank, on its nationalisation, the service rules/regulations including settlements forming part thereof which were prevailing on that date were validated under the banking Companies (acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980. Accordingly the policy regarding promotions from clerical cadre to the officers cadre of the bank, which had been formulated as a result of collective bargaining with the majority union prior to the bank's nationalisation, could be amended only after negotiations with the said union. Such a settlement was arrived at by the bank management on 9th October, 1982 and hence the reservations were implemented in promotions with effect from 1.1.1983. The bank has further reported that it has since initiated the process of calculating the backlog in such promotions also from the date of its nationalisation viz. 15.4.1980

[English]

Introduction of Additional Super Fast Train between Delhi and Ahmedabad

1998. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to start another super fast train between Delhi and Ahmedabad to reduce the rush on this route; and

(b) if so, the time by which it will be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Looking to the traffic demands, the frequency of Ashram Express has been increased from 4 days a week to daily w.e.f. 1.11.1988. Presently, there is no proposal for a new service.

Uniformity in Bank Charges

1999. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bank charges for various services rendered by the nationalised banks have been standardized;

(b) whether some banks like Syndicate Bank charge higher rent for lockers vis-a-vis other nationalised banks; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). All the public sector banks have adopted in 1985-86 a uniform schedule of service charges in respect of certain common services. Provision of locker facility is not a normal banking operation and hence the rent charged for provision of such facility does not form part of the common schedule of service charges adopted by banks. The rates of locker rent, therefore, vary from bank to bank depending upon the size of the locker, capital cost incurred on installation, expenditure on maintenance, space occupied, etc.

Computerisation of Nationalised Banks' Branches in Andhra Pradesh

2000. SHRI SRIHARI RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to computerise the nationalised banks' branches in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount earmarked for that purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). According to the programme of computerisation in banks, Advanced Ledger Posting Machines (ALPMs) are to be installed at the branches. Reserve Bank of India has reported that ac-

according to available information, as on 30.9.1988, 16 public sector banks had installed 190 Advanced Ledger Posting Machines (ALPMs) at their branches in the State of Andhra Pradesh. These machines are installed by the banks keeping in view their operational requirements and are purchased out of their budget allocations.

Promotion of Sports Activities by Tea Board

2002. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken/being taken by Government to promote sports activities among the tea garden workers and their children;

(b) the role of Tea Board in this respect during the last three years; and

(c) the amount spent by Tea Board on sports activities in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). Tea Board provides financial assistance for encouraging sports activities amongst tea plantation workers in India with effect from 1985-86. The role of the Tea Board in this matter is limited to the grant of financial assistance to selected organisations and agencies engaged in the task of promoting sports activities in tea producing regions.

(c) The following financial assistance has been given by Tea Board to various sports organisation agencies for encouraging sports activities during the last three years:-

Year	Amount
1985-86	Rs. 75,100/-
1986-87	Rs. 42,100/-
1987-88	Rs. 38,000/-

Nationalised Banks' branches in Andhra Pradesh

2003. SHRI S. PALAKONDRAYUDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of nationalised banks' branches working in Andhra Pradesh as on date, district-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to open more bank branches in Andhra Pradesh during 1988-89; and

(c) if so, the number of branches proposed to be opened and the locations selected to set up those branches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as at the end of December, 1987, 3000 branches of Public Sector Banks were functioning in Andhra Pradesh as per districtwise details given below:-

Name of District	No. of branches
Adilabad	55
Anantapur	98
Chittoor	123
Cuddapah	70
East Godavari	252
Guntur	213
Hyderabad	349
Karimnagar	109
Khammam	61
Krishna	246
Kurnool	104

Name of District	No. of branches
Mahboobnagar	109
Medak	82
Nalgonda	70
Nellore	106
Nizamabad	114
Prakasam	138
Ranga Reddy	106
Srikakulam	63
Visakhapatnam	143
Vizianagaram	60
Warangal	116
West Godavari	213
Total	3000

(b) and (c). On the basis of list of identified centres received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, RBI had allotted 369 eligible centres to banks for opening branches at rural and semi-urban areas under the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90. In addition, RBI had allotted 53 urban, metropolitan and port town centres to banks for opening branches under the current Policy. Out of all these 422 centres, as per information available with RBI, banks have opened branches at 201 centres in Andhra Pradesh so far. Initially, RBI advised the banks to open the branches at the allotted centres in a phased manner during the remaining period of the current Branch Licensing Policy. However, in the context of Service Area Approach to rural lending, RBI has advised the banks to open branches at all the allotted centres in rural and semi-urban areas expeditiously to facilitate allocation of villages to such branches under the scheme.

The number of branches to be opened in each District on the basis of the licences issued is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible.

Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Officers in Banks

2004. SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of officers and the number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe officers in 20 nationalised banks, State Bank of India and its subsidiaries, in various scales (scale-wise for all the seven scales) and bank-wise, as on 30th June, 1988;

(b) the total number of promotions made by these banks to various scales (bank-wise and scale-wise) and the number of SC&ST officers promoted in last three years, year-wise;

(c) the scales in which the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes officers is very low;

(d) whether Government have received representations regarding extension of reservation for SCs & STs in promotions based on selection also; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (e). Information is being collected and to the extent possible and permissible under rules will be laid on the Table of the House.

Upgradation of Cities

2005. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received from various State Governments for the upgradation of cities,

(b) if so, whether any committee has been appointed to look into the matter;

(c) the criteria followed for the upgradation of cities in the country; and

(d) what decision has been taken for the upgradation of some cities in the State of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) As per the extant criteria, cities/towns are classified for purposes of House Rent Allowance and Compensatory (City) Allowance to the Central Govt. employees on the basis of their population as reflected in the decennial census figures. The current classification of cities for the purpose of payment of HRA/CCA to Central Govt. employees is based on the population figures of 1981 census. The criteria followed in this regard are as follows:-

Class	Population
A	More than 16 lakhs
B-1	Above 8 lakhs but not exceeding 16 lakhs.
B-2	Above 4 lakhs but not exceeding 8 lakhs.
*C	Above 50,000 but not exceeding 4 lakhs.

* No Compensatory (City) Allowance is admissible in 'C' class cities.

In classification of cities on the basis of their decennial census population, the population of municipal area of the city is taken into account for HRA purposes. For CCA the population of Urban Agglomeration (UA) of the city, wherever such U.A. exists, otherwise municipal area of the city, is taken into account. Further HRA as admissible in a city on the basis of its classification with reference to its population in the municipal area, has also been made admissible in its Urban Agglomeration w.e.f. 26.10.1977

(d) No representations have been received in the recent past for upgradation of cities in Orissa. Hence the question of taking any decision does not arise.

Export of Cement

2006. SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the prospects of export of cement to neighbouring countries;

(b) the estimated quantity and value of cement proposed to be exported during 1988-89 and 1989-90; and

(c) the extent and nature of incentives and facilities devised for promoting export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). The present cement production in the country is sufficient to meet the existing domestic demand and to spare some quantities for export. There is demand for cement in the neighbouring countries. However, no specific export target has been fixed for 1988-89 and 1989-90.

(c) No incentives and facilities have been devised for promoting exports. However, eligible export incentives as per current policy would be available for cement exports also.

Exports to US, UK and USSR

2007. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the items exported to the U.S.A., the U.S.S.R. and the U.K. during the last two years alongwith the value and quantum thereof;

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(c) the efforts made by Government to step up exports to these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) A Statement is given below.

(b) The amounts of foreign exchange earned from exports to USA, UK and USSR are as follows:-

	1986	1987
U.S.A (In million US \$)	2283.2	2582.6
U.K. (In million£)	440.68	536.70
U.S.S.R. (In crore Rs.)	2180	2250*

(*Trade with USSR is in Rupee terms).

(c) For enhancing exports to the thrust markets, a series of measures have been initiated relating to specific products, marketing technique, publicity campaigns, product development and adaptation, technology

tie-ups and sourcing possibilities to these markets. In addition, exchange of delegations, participation in specialised fairs, buyer-sellers meets are also arranged for promoting exports.

STATEMENT

Commodity-wise India's Exports to the United States During 1986 and 1987

(Value: Million US \$)

S.No.	Name of Commodities	1986	1987
1	2	3	4
1.	Crude petroleum	1.9	13.5
2.	Petroleum Products	259.1	262.1
3.	Textile made-ups	32.4	33.2
4.	Silk fabrics	13.0	12.8
5.	Cotton fabrics	33.8	80.8
6.	Readymade garments	344.6	452.0

1	2	3	4
7.	Luggage & handbags	13.6	16.8
8.	Jute fabrics	28.1	28.3
9.	Carpets & rugs	70.8	72.3
10.	Froglegs	5.2	0.5
11.	Marine products	51.2	60.4
12.	Cashew nuts	133.4	157.0
13.	Coffee	67.2	29.5
14.	Tea	12.7	8.4
15.	Pepper Spices	90.2	51.1
16.	Crude minerals incl. mica	5.3	3.6
17.	Bones, ivory horns	3.0	0.3
18.	Gum, resins & lacs	22.4	20.7
19.	Plants, seeds & flowers	26.3	26.7
20.	Other vegetables materials	10.5	7.9
21.	Caster oil	-	-
22.	Chemicals & related products	29.2	43.3
23.	Leather & its products	51.4	60.3
24.	Footwear	17.1	30.8
25.	Diamonds	642.9	698.9
26.	Precious & semi-precious stones and pearls	22.7	24.1
27.	Jewellery & related Products	31.4	36.7
28.	Manufacturers of semi-mnfs, base metals nspf	27.6	34.9
29.	Iron & steel bars, rods etc.	3.4	3.7
30.	Iron & steel pipes and fittings	4.9	7.2

1	2	3	4
31.	Industrial fasteners	2.9	3.2
32.	Hand tools & Machine tools	5.6	6.9
33.	Metals working machine tools	1.4	1.3
34.	Household & sanitary-ware	19.3	23.5
35.	Cat iron articles	20.6	25.7
36.	Pumps, compressors & fans	7.7	8.4

India's Exports to UK

Value - ₹ Thousand
Quantity - MT (in bracket)

Item	1986	1987
Marine Products	19,337 (5772)	18,291 (5624)
Tea	55,367 (36435)	40,372 (26760)
Cashewnuts	4,748 (1149)	9,350 (2226)
Walnuts	3,046 (1854)	3,208 (2066)
Rice	9,420 (17556)	9,446 (17377)
Malt extracts	2,141 (2455)	2,364 (2863)
Mangoes	989 (704)	910 (701)
Mango chutney	615 (1261)	693 (1477)
Spices	4,793 (4756)	3,285 (4298)
Oilcakes	14,382 (186599)	19,754 (281515)

Item	1986	1987
Tobacco	18,450 (10018)	15,568 (10235)
Bones and Horns	1,665 (5924)	1,097 (6078)
Shellac	2,433 (936)	1,677 (1027)
Medicinal Herbs	1,414 (846)	1,179 (861)
Vegetable saps & extracts	3,402 (2137)	4,210 (3223)
Fixed vegetable oil	4,917 (3484)	1,435 (735)
Chemicals & Allied Products	9,180	11,991
Finished Leather	19,161 (3408)	27,566 (4110)
Travel goods, Handbags, etc.	5,960	5,916
Saddlery and Harness	247	404
Shoe uppers	7,501 (750)	9,880 (794)
Footwear	4,749	6,798
Leather garments	6,351 (374)	15,508 (649)
Wood Carvings	575 (158)	768 (230)
Textiles	37,220	83,528
Jute Products	6,756 (10174)	12,320 (18674)
Carpets	8,765 (3258)	8,249 (2700)
Non-metallic mineral manufacturers	12,664	16,168
Engineering goods	51,653	63,053

Item	1986	1987
Brass statuettes	2,756	4,725
Garments (other than leather garments)	64,644	97,107
Gold Jewellery	8,614	10,292
Total including others	440,681	536,704

India's Exports to the USSR

(In Rupees crores)

	1986	1987
Agricultural items	730	753
Minerals & Ores	60	52
Chemicals	251	205
Leather	205	247
Textiles	493	378
Engineering goods	380	345
Others	61	270
Total	2180	2250

NB (B) Quantity is not available.

Export of Gold by MMTC

2008. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for the export of gold during 1988-89;

(b) the achievement made so far; and

(c) the efforts made by Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited

(MMTC) to achieve the target of gold export set for 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI): (a) to (c). The Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council has set a target of Rs. 200 crores for gold jewellery exports during 1988-89. As per the provisional estimates during the period April-October, 1988 jewellery exports were approximately Rs. 83.61 crores as against Rs. 50.18 crores during corresponding period of

last year. Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (MMTC) has made continuous efforts to assist in jewellery exports by sponsoring a 100% Export Oriented Complex at Jhadewalan, Delhi.

POH Work at Siliguri

2009. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Diesel Periodical Overhauling Workshop has been shifted from Siliguri to Ajmer;

(b) if so, whether as a result thereof there is serious operational crisis at Siliguri; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO CHINDIA): (a) There was no workshop in Siliguri for periodical overhaul (POH) of Diesel Locos and therefore, the question of its shifting to Ajmer does not arise. A Diesel Loco Shed set up at Siliguri exists even now.

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

Policy for Import of Penicillin-V

2010. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK:
SHRI KESHORAO PARDHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a special policy for import of Penicillin-V First crystal was formulated by a Committee of Secretaries during 1987-88;

(b) whether the norms and guidelines laid down by this Committee were made public;

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

(d) the details of changes effected in the Policy since 1986-87?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Since 1986-87 the item 'Penicillin-V' continues to be permissible for import against supplementary licences and the formula for determining import entitlement for Penicillin-V has been the same as that applicable to Penicillin-G. Import of Penicillin-V is, however, allowed only where a unit is not in a position to utilise Penicillin-G, the alternate raw material. In view of non-availability of indigenous Penicillin-V, its import has been allowed with the stipulation that the corresponding indigenous material will be lifted as and when it becomes available.

Assistance Offered by World Bank on Flooded Rivers in India and Neighbouring Countries

2011. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank is agreeable to finance the projects that will go to tame the rivers that flood India, Nepal and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, what precisely is the offer;

(c) whether we have initiated any action to accept the offer; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) India has not sought assistance from the World Bank to finance such projects.

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

Holding of Assembly Elections in Tamil Nadu

2012. DR. DATTA SAMANT:
SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the law and order situation and other circumstances in Tamil Nadu are suitable for holding of Assembly elections in near future; and

(b) if so, the time by which Government propose to hold election in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b). The State of Tamil Nadu is under president's rule upto 29.1.1989. While no report indicating serious situation regarding law and order in the State has been received in the recent past, no definite indication can be given at this stage regarding the programme for holding the general election in the State for constituting the Legislative Assembly.

Jobs to Educated Unemployed Youth

2013. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme to provide jobs to educated unemployed youth is under consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). There is already a scheme entitled scheme for providing Self-Employment of Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY), introduced during the year 1983-84 with the objective of encouraging educated unemployed youth to undertake self-employment ventures in industry, service and business through provision of package of assistance. The scheme will be operative during entire Seventh Five Year Plan period. The scheme covers all educated unemployed youth who are matriculates and above and are within the age group of 18 to 35 years. Women and technically trained persons are given due weightage. From 1986-87, a minimum of 30% of the total sanctions has been reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. ITI passed youths have also been made eligible under the scheme to set up industry/service

ventures. With effect for, 1986-87, a ceiling of Rs. 10,000/- per annum on income per family has been fixed as criterion for eligibility under the scheme. A minimum of 50% ventures should be through industry routes and not more than 30% of the ventures should relate to small business. The scheme is being implemented in the country through the District Industries Centres with an annual target of 2.5 lakhs beneficiaries, except for the year 1987-88 when the target was fixed at 1.25 lakh beneficiaries. Banks provide a composite loan not exceeding Rs. 35,000/- for industrial ventures, Rs. 25,000/- for service ventures and Rs. 15,000/- for small business ventures to each entrepreneur. A capital subsidy to the extent of 25% of the loan would be provided by the Central Government. Loans under SEEUY Scheme shall attract interest at the rate of 10% per annum for specified backward areas and 12% per annum for other areas. The scheme is extended to all areas of the country except cities having more than one million population as per 1981 census.

Lock-out in Hindustan Lever Limited

2014. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the loss of Excise Duty suffered by the national exchequer as a result of the four months old lock-out imposed by the management of Hindustan Lever Limited at its biggest soap manufacturing unit at Bombay; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA): (a) The estimated loss due to lock-out is about Rs. 40 crores during the year 1988-89.

(b) Conciliation machinery of the Government of Maharashtra has held a series of discussions with the parties concerned including a meeting called by the State Labour Minister on 11th July, 1988 with a view to bringing about a settlement.

CBI Findings in Reliance Industry Affairs

2015. SHRI RAM SWAROOP RAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has submitted its report about P.T.A. imports by Reliance Industries; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Report was examined in consultation with RBI and no further action is called for in the matter.

Iron Ore Export

2016. SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether iron ore exports have touched a new peak in the first six months of 1988-89;

(b) if so, the target set for 1988-89 and the achievement made and foreign exchange earned so far; and

(c) whether Government contemplate value added exports in this sector also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A target for export of 32 million tonnes of iron ore during 1988-89 has been fixed. The achievement during the first six months has been about 13.3 million tonnes, earning foreign exchange worth Rs. 272.11 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Action Plan by APEDA

2017. SHRI S. B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agricultural and Processed Foods Export Development Authority (APEDA) has drawn up plan for 1988-91 for investment over the next three years in a number of areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main areas that will be covered under the action plan; and

(d) how many of them are for export oriented industries and by which time the plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The Action plan has been drawn with a view to increasing the exports of agricultural and processed food exports. The main areas to be covered under the plan are fresh fruits and vegetables, meat, guar gum, walnuts and alcoholic beverages. The major thrust of the plan is on Research and Product Development. Some of the other components of the plan include production and infrastructure development, market development, packaging, promotion and publicity etc. The plan is likely to be implemented by 1990-91.

Export Development Councils in States

2018. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the setting up of export development councils in each State and the creation of a National Export Development Council; and

(b) if so, the functions of the Council in details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). There is no proposal to set up Export Development Council for each State or for the creation of a National Export Development Council.

Trade Treaty with Nepal

2019. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Nepal propose to sign a new trade treaty;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to sign more treaties with Nepal to strengthen its trade relations in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). A new Treaty of Trade is being negotiated to provide a framework for increased trade between India and Nepal.

(c) There is at present no proposal for any more treaties to be signed with Nepal to strengthen trade relations.

Demand for Simplification of Procedure for Submission of Returns

2020. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the representations by the tax-payers to simplify the procedure for submission of the returns and quick disposal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) Simplifications of the tax laws and procedures is a continuing process and the Government does receive representations from time to time for the same. Some time back, suggestions were received in this regard in response to a Discussion Paper presented in the Parliament in August, '86 to elicit public opinion, in which the Government itself gave suggestions for the simplification of the procedures and measures to ensure quick disposal of assessment and collection of tax.

(b) In response to this, suggestions were received from tax-payers, Chambers of Commerce, trade associations, tax practitioners etc. Amendments have been made in the Income-tax, Wealth-tax and Gift-tax Acts, through the Direct Tax Laws (Amendment) Act, 1987. These, *inter alia*, prescribe a simple way for assessment of income. Under the new scheme, the assesses are required to pay tax on returned income along with interest thereon, if any, at the time of filing the return. In a large majority of cases, the issue of acknowledgement slips for the returns will be the end of the matter and passing of assessment orders will not be necessary. Only in a few cases, selected for scrutiny, assessment orders will be passed after scrutiny. The new procedure would be extremely convenient to the tax payers.

[Translation]

Malpractices in Reservations at Samastipur

2021. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons convicted in connection with bungling and corruption in reservation of seats and berths at Samastipur junction and the total number of complaints received in this division during the last three years.

(b) the details of officials who conducted enquiry into this matter so far and the number of those punished in this connection;

(c) whether it is a fact that many railway officials in this division travel in the class to which they are not entitled; and

(d) whether Government propose to conduct enquiry into the matter and also take necessary corrective measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). During the last three years, two complaints about corruption and fourteen complaints regarding irregularities in rail reservations were received at Samas-

tipur Division. The enquiries in these complaints were conducted by the Senior Subordinate Officials of N.E. Railway. One person was punished departmentally as a result of the enquiries. No person was convicted.

(c) No such case has come to the notice.

(d) As and when any case will come to notice, suitable disciplinary action will be taken against the staff under relevant rules.

[English]

Attachment of Coaches in Trains between Hyderabad and Mahboob Nagar

2022. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coaches attached to the trains on meter gauge running between Hyderabad-Mahboob Nagar on South Central Railway are in a very dilapidated condition or obsolete;

(b) if so, whether the number of coaches on these trains have been decreased; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to provide the latest or more new coaches for the benefit of the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Composition of Kachiguda-Mahboob Nagar Passenger has been reduced temporarily from 8 to 6 coaches due to less passenger occupation and shortage of M.G. Coaches on Indian Railways.

(c) Number of M.G. Coaches being manufactured has been stepped up considerably.

Special Task Force to Assess Flood Damage

2023. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:
SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA:
SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have set up a special task force to assess the damage to irrigation works during the recent floods in the country;

(b) if so, by when the task force will submit its report to Government;

(c) the details of the irrigation sites the Task Force will visit; and

(d) the other steps Government propose to take to get the irrigation works repaired?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d). Special Task Force was set up in respect of the States of Punjab and Haryana. After inspecting damage to irrigation works, the Task Force submitted its report on 5th November. Provisions for urgent repairs to damaged irrigation works have been indicated to the States of Punjab and Haryana, and some works have been completed already.

Opening of Accounts and Policies by Banks and LIC in Names of Children

2024. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether banks and Life Insurance Corporation of India refuse to open accounts or policies in the names of children when mothers sign as their 'parent' and insist on father's signature as 'parent'; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to direct them to end the discrimination against mothers in view of the constitutional provision of equality for all?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Opening of an account with a bank and operation of the same involves contractual relationship between the bank and the customer. In terms of the provisions of the Indian Contract Act, a minor is not competent to contract.

However, in terms of the banking practice which has developed over a period, the banks permit guardians to open and operate accounts on behalf of minors subject to taking adequate safeguards. The question who would be the natural guardian of a minor is dependent upon the Personal Law as applicable to the minor. However, keeping in view the problems faced in the matter of opening of accounts in the names of minor children with mothers as guardian, Reserve Bank of India had advised the commercial banks in 1976 to permit opening of accounts (fixed and savings accounts only) in the names of minors with mothers as guardian after taking adequate safeguards in allowing operations in the accounts.

In the case of Life Insurance Corporation of India, in respect of certain types of children *Deferred Assurances*, the Corporation permits a parent including mother or a legal guardian or a near relative to sign as proposer. However, the father as natural guardian of the minor child has to submit the proposal on the lives of minors where risk is desired to be covered *immediately* during minority. If the father is not alive, mother can submit the proposal as the natural guardian. If the parents of the minor are separated or not staying together, the Corporation accepts the proposal from the mother as a special case.

Assistance to Rubber Cultivators

2025. SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rubber Board is adequately financed to discharge its obligations towards rubber cultivators;

(b) whether Government propose to provide more finances to various developmental schemes for rubber cultivators;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether existing minimum purchase price of rubber is remunerative to farmers; and

(e) if not, whether Government propose to raise it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE: (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) to (c). Rubber Board is financial within the available Plan Resources to discharge its obligations towards rubber cultivations in the best possible way. Rubber Board has been allotted adequate funds to carry out different development schemes from year to year. The requirement of funds of Rubber Board under the approved plan schemes of the Seventh Plan is Rs. 53.43 crores, which has already been allotted. Considering the additional requirement of funds, releases have been made in excess of this amount to Rubber Board. The Planning Commission has also been approached for allocating additional funds to Rubber Board.

(d) and (e). Government's endeavour is to ensure fair remunerative returns to the growers as also steady supply of natural rubber to the consuming industry at reasonable prices.

Indira Vikas Patra

2026. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any dead line has been fixed for the purchase of 'INDIRA VIKAS PATRA';

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Scheme is not limited to any specified period.

Exhibitions by Soviet Foreign Trade Organisation

2027. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Soviet Foreign Trade Organisation recently organised exhibitions in certain parts of the country;

(b) if so, the names of the places where exhibitions were organised with details thereof; and

(c) the details of business made in these exhibitions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). The following exhibitions were recently organised in India by the Government of USSR in association with the Soviet Foreign Trade Association and the USSR Chamber of Commerce & Industry:

- i) Business Information Exhibition, Calcutta, September 1-5, 1988
- ii) Business Information Exhibition, Ranchi, September 18-23, 1988
- iii) Business Information Exhibition, Bhuvaneshwar, September 18-23, 1988

(c) These exhibitions were held exclusively by the Soviet side and there was no participation by the Trade Fair Authority of India. Hence details of the business booked are not available.

Over-bridges at Alwar and between Level Crossings 114-115 on Delhi-Ahmedabad Route

2028. SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for construction of over-bridge near Alwar railway station in Rajasthan has been approved;

(b) whether State Government of Rajasthan and Urban Improvement Trust, Alwar have agreed to provide their share of finance for this project;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in this regard;

(d) whether construction of over-bridge between level crossings 114 and 115 on Delhi-Ahmedabad meter-gauge route has been included in the works programme of the Railways; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Rajasthan have agreed to bear their share of the cost of the work.

(c) and (d). The estimated cost of the work is Rs. 277.24 lakhs which will be shared by the Railways (Rs. 120.49 lakhs) and the State Government (Rs. 156.75 lakhs). The proposal will be included in the Railways Works programme for 1989-90 along with similar proposals received from the other States and presented to the Parliament, in due course, for approval.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Publishing of Diaries and Calendars by Banks

2029. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Yeh Kaisa Bachat Abhiyan" appearing in Jansatta of 18 October, 1988;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government for checking recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Government have seen the news-item referred to in the Question. Government had earlier advised

the public sector banks and financial institutions not to incur any expenditure on bringing out of calendars and diaries for the year 1989 in view of the need to continue measures to effect economy in expenditure. Subsequently, the matter was reviewed and it was decided to leave the matter to the individual banks' commercial judgement whether to bring out any calendar and diary for 1989. Government have not issued any instructions to public sector banks to purchase the Jawaharlal Nehru commemorative diary sets costing Rs. 225/- per set as alleged in the news-item.

[English]

Cancellation of Trains on Western Railway

2030. SHRI C.D. GAMIT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some trains have been cancelled on Bhavnagar, Rajkot, Ahmedabad, Vadodara Divisions of Western Railway during 1 July, 1988 to 31 October, 1988;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) how many of them have since been restored; and

(d) the actions taken to restore the remaining ones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d). During this period, only one pair of trains on Narrow Gauge section was cancelled and still remains cancelled due to a bridge under repairs.

Quota of Berths at Rajkot

2031. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quotas of II Class berths for 506 Ashram from Rajkot railway station on Western Railway is not sufficient;

(b) if so, the steps taken to increase the same;

(c) whether Government have received representations from various organisations of Rajkot and other places to increase reservation quotas for Rajkot; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (c). Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d). The frequency of 505/506 Ashram Express has been increased from 4 days in a week to daily service from 1.11.88. Consequently, the availability of Second Class reserved accommodation has increased from 48 to 84 berths in a week at Rajkot and correspondingly at other places.

[Translation]

World Bank Loan for Hasdev Bango Dam in Madhya Pradesh

2032. DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the projects in Madhya Pradesh receiving financial assistance from the World Bank and the general guidelines laid down by the World Bank for giving these loans;

(b) the amount of loan sanctioned by World Bank for 'Hasdev-Bango Dam' project of Bilaspur district;

(c) the amount received so far;

(d) whether there is undue delay in the construction of the left and right side of Hasdev Bango Dam; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to avoid any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Madhya Pradesh Major Irrigation Project and Madhya Pradesh (Chambal) II Irrigation Project are receiving World Bank credit on the usual terms and conditions, namely, 50 years' ma-

turities with a grace period of 10 years. They carry no interest, but only a service charge of 0.75 per cent per annum on the disbursed balance.

(b) Hasdev Bango Dam is a part of the M.P. Major Irrigation Project for which assistance to the tune of US \$ 220 million has been committed.

(c) Till the end of September, 1988, the World Bank has disbursed US \$ 129.210 million for the M.P. Major Irrigation Project.

(d) The dam is almost complete.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Clearance of Irrigation Projects of Andhra Pradesh

2033. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMAMURTI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of irrigation projects cleared recently and pending for clearance till now by Union Government;

(b) the reasons for delay in clearance, project-wise;

(c) the details of projects since when these are pending;

(d) to what extent the cost escalation has been reported, project-wise;

(e) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent clarification on various projects; and

(f) what is the total extent of Anacut under these projects and the estimated amount for all the projects?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (e). One medium irrigation project, namely, Varadrajswami Gudi Project, namely, Singur Project has been found acceptable. In addition, appraisal of five major and five medium projects, including the one received in August, 1988, is held up for want of environ-

mental and forest clearance, resolution of inter-State issues or for non-receipt of replies from the State Government on the observations of the Central appraising agencies. Cost escalation of individual projects has not been worked out.

(f) These projects on completion will provide irrigation benefits to about 6 lakh hectares to new areas besides stabilisation of about 5 lakh hectares of existing irrigated areas.

[Translation]

Demands of Employees of General Insurance Corporation

2034. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of the General Insurance Corporation have submitted their demands to Government;

(b) if so, whether Government have so far taken any decision thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir. Demands were received from a number of employees' unions for the revision of scales of pay and other conditions of service of employees of the General Insurance Industry.

(b) and (c). On these demands, the process of discussions between representatives of the employees' unions and the management of the General Insurance Corporation of India is still continuing.

[English]

Ninth Finance Commission Allocation for Kerala

2035. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Government has complained that the allocations of funds by the Ninth Finance Commission is inadequate to Kerala; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Heroin in the Country

2036. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item published in the Jansatta dated 11 October, 1988 under the caption "*Bharat Heroin Taskari Ka Pramukh Kendra*"; and

(b) if so, the concrete steps taken by Government to curb smuggling of heroin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. India is increasingly used as a transit country for trafficking of drugs, mainly of heroin and hashish (charas), as given in the reports of the International Narcotics Control Board.

Government have launched various aggressive counter-measures which, *inter-alia*, include provision of deterrent punishments against drug-traffickers, strengthening of preventive and intelligence machinery

(especially around borders and vulnerable areas), adoption of a liberalised reward scheme for officers and informers, strengthening of bilateral co-operation between neighbouring countries (including regional co-operation under the aegis of SAARC). The Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988 provides for preventive detention upto a maximum period of two years for drug-related offences. 178 persons have so far been detained under the said Act.

Concessions to Export Oriented Units

2037. SHRI BALWANT SINGH
RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI TEJA SINGH DARDI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the benefits and concessions given by Government to the export oriented units;

(b) the export made by each of the units in last one year; and

(c) whether Government propose to reconsider the policy of giving incentives/concessions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) The scheme of 100% export oriented units offers various incentives and facilities including duty free import of capital goods, raw materials and consumables and a five year tax holiday to entrepreneurs who come forward to establish such units.

(b) A Statement is given below.

(c) No, Sir.

STATEMENT*Exports Reported by 100% Export Oriented Units during 1987-88*

(Value in Rs. lakhs approx.)

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Name of the unit</i>	<i>Exports in 1987-88</i>
1	2	3
1.	M/s. Wheels India Ltd., Madras	200
2.	M/s. Khammam Granite Ltd., Madras	86
3.	M/s. Nathani Steel P. Ltd., Bombay	488
4.	M/s. Delta Jute & Industries, Calcutta	174
5.	M/s. Cogte Textiles Ltd., Belgaum	186
6.	M/s. Nova Silk Ltd., Bombay	120
7.	M/s. Rol Kobo Chain Co., Gujarat	24
8.	M/s. Zuari Stainless Steel Industries, Bombay	1
9.	M/s. Champdany Industries, Calcutta	758
10.	M/s. Clarion Fisheries P. Ltd., Bangalore	11
11.	Lavino Kapur Cottons Ltd., Bombay	79
12.	M/s. Nuddea Mills Co. Ltd., Calcutta	36
13.	M/s. Incennet India Ltd., Mohali	38
14.	M/s. Nav Maharashtra Chakkan Oil Mills, Pune	460
15.	M/s. Ferro Alloys Corp. Ltd., Tumsar (Maharashtra)	2465
16.	M/s. Indian Xerographics Systems Ltd., Bombay	1000
17.	M/s. GKB Ophthalmics Ltd., Mapusa, Goa	176
18.	M/s. Sachdev Textiles P. Ltd., New Delhi	1045
19.	M/s. Kudrenmukh Iron Ore, Bangalore	8046
20.	M/s. General Optics Asia Ltd., Pondicherry	50
21.	M/s. Interfit India Ltd., Coimbatore	67
22.	M/s. Kar Mobiles Ltd., Madras	119
23.	M/s. Indian Connections, Bangalore	68

1	2	3
24.	M/s. Souza & Lewis Fisheries (India) P. Ltd.	120
25.	M/s. Technix Needles (I) P. Ltd., Baroda	3
26.	M/s. Chamundi Textiles (Silk Mills) Ltd., Bangalore	31
27.	M/s. Harwood Garments P. Ltd., Bangalore	10
28.	M/s. Tanin Granites, Madras	151
29.	M/s. Xenia Electronics (P) Ltd., Ranchi, Bihar	1
30.	Sterling Stationery Industries Ltd., Bombay	24
31.	Kazem Bunaris Electronics (P) Ltd., Bombay	68
32.	M/s. Magnetic Information Technology Ltd., SAS Nagar	94
33.	M/s. Rewdale Precision Tools P. Ltd., Bangalore	154
34.	M/s. Ponde Exports Ltd., Madras	409
35.	M/s. Zodiac Clothing Co. P. Ltd., Bombay	94
36.	M/s. Vestures India P. Ltd., Madras	176
37.	Arun Mica Industries, Ltd., Bhilwara	19
38.	M/s. Sahney Kirkwood P. Ltd., Bombay	97
39.	M/s. Nava Bharat Enterprises Ltd., Hyderabad	852
40.	Ley Fisheries P. Ltd., Bangalore	2
41.	M/s. Composite Tools & (India) P. Ltd. Jamshedpur	7
42.	Fertcytex Industries India P. Ltd., Ahmedabad	17
43.	M/s. Gopal Krishna & Co. P. Ltd., New Delhi	30
44.	M/s. Srinivas Cystine Ltd., Hyderabad	128
45.	M/s. Gem Granites, Madras	1078
46.	M/s. Fine Mobile Parts India P. Ltd., New Delhi	104
47.	Poona Dal & Besan Mills, Poona	115
48.	M/s. Cal D.C. (I) P. Ltd., Bihar	34
49.	M/s. Raslee Granite P. Ltd., Madras	77

1	2	3
50.	M/s. Seven Seas Nylon, Trivandrum	11
51.	M/s. Southern Sea Crafts Ltd., Madras	34
52.	M/s. East West Connection, Calcutta	2
53.	M/s. Shirt Works (India), Bangalore	5
54.	M/s. Champagne India Ltd., Bombay	49
55.	M/s. South India Refractories P. Ltd., Salem	44
56.	Richmen Silks Ltd., Hyderabad	1
57.	M/s. LVR & Dong In Granites Co., Madras	22
58.	M/s. Greeta Musical Instruments Mfg. Exports Ltd., Madras	120
59.	M/s. Pure Helium India P. Ltd., Bombay	120
60.	M/s. International Medical Devices P. Ltd., New Delhi	15
61.	M/s. Disco Garments P. Ltd., Bulsar	21
62.	M/s. Gujarat Polyweave Ltd., Bombay	255
63.	Advent Computer Services (P) Ltd., Madras	26
64.	M/s. Ferro Met Concentrate Margao	526
65.	M/s. Enterprising Enterprises, Madras	155
66.	VDQ & Company Nylons P. Ltd., Visakhapatnam	8
67.	M/s. Monuments India, Madras	58
68.	Mysore Minerals Ltd., Bangalore	60
69.	Chandra Capacitors, Pune	425
70.	M/s. Maris Apparels P. Ltd., Madras	115
71.	Baliga Exports Pvt. Ltd., Udupi	9
72.	Nav Maharashtra Sahkari Soot Girani Ltd., Ichalkaranji	1000
73.	M/s. Olympia Components P. Ltd., Gurgaon	898
74.	M/s. Neilly Garments P. Ltd., Bombay	10
75.	M/s. Himsatsingka Seide Ltd., Bangalore	160

1	2	3
76.	Usha Martin Industries Ltd., Calcutta	
77.	M/s. Universal Exports, Bangalore	
78.	M/s. Prime Home Computers P. Ltd., New Delhi	
79.	M/s. Anjaleam Enterprises P. Ltd., Vadodara	
80.	M/s. Prashant Poly Concrete (P) Ltd., Bombay	
81.	M/s. Anil Kumar (M/s. Anil & Co.), New Delhi	

[English]

Re-issue of Soiled Notes

2038. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of soiled and non-issuable currency notes marked out for destruction by the Reserve Bank of India have again been received by the bank and exchanged for fresh notes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such instances which have come to the notice of Government and the amount so involved; and

(c) the revised guidelines issued for destruction of cancelled notes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India has reported that in February, 1988, their Bhubaneswar Office had come across mutilated notes of Rs. 100/- denomination passed for payment at that office. The mutilations were of suspicious nature. In July, 1988 also the above office had come across several notes of Rs. 100/- denomination with punch marks already on them having presented over the counter and payment obtained fraudulently. The preliminary investigations made by the Reserve Bank of India reveal that the amount involved in the fraud is Rs. 12, 30, 300/-

comprising 12,303 pieces of Rs. 100/- denomination notes.

In another case, in 1985, 76 defective pieces of Rs. 100/- denomination notes passed for payment at Reserve Bank of India, Jaipur, in a Currency Chest remittance from State Bank of India, Sanganeri Gate, Jaipur.

(c) The existing procedures are reasonably sound. The above incident has occurred apparently due to complicity of certain persons in circumventing the rules and negligence of a few others in supervising the operations. The Reserve Bank of India has impressed on all its offices to follow the existing checks and precautions meticulously. The Reserve Bank of India has also constituted a special team to go round its offices for surprise checks so that the prescribed procedures are strictly followed.

[Translation]

Increase in Excise Duty on Bamboo Industry

2039. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Excise Duty on bamboo industry has been increased;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal to reduce the Excise Duty; and

(d) if so, the time by which it would be reduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA): (a) to (d). Presumably the question related to excise duty on manufactures products of bamboo like vegetable plaiting material. There has been no increase in excise duty on such items in the recent past and there is no proposal at present to reduce excise duty on such items.

Conversion of Daurala-Maharajganj Railway Route

2040. SHRI KRISHNA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the conversion of Daurala-Maharajganj section of North Eastern Railway from metre-gauge into broad gauge on the basis of survey conducted in this regard; and

(b) the time likely to be taken in the completion of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Survey for conversion of Daurala-Maharajganj isolated branch line from M.G. to B.G. was conducted in 1978. The project was found to be financially unremunerative. This section has already been closed.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of 'Jan Adalats' in Uttar Pradesh

2041. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Jan Adalat' has been set up in each district of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by him to constitute 'Jan Adalat' in the districts where these have not yet been set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b). 'Jan Adalat' if it refers to 'Lok Adalat' is not a regularly constituted law court and, therefore, the question of constituting the same in each district of Uttar Pradesh does not arise. Lok Adalat is a voluntary agency which is organised, from time to time, at different places within the States by the respective State Legal Aid and Advice Boards where disputes between the parties are resolved through conciliatory and persuasive methods. So far, over 545 Lok Adalats have been organised in different places in Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Railway Accidents on Western Railway

2042. SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some railway accidents have taken place on the Western Railway on Gujarat side during 1 June, 88 to 31 October, 88 and other railway zones;

(b) the details of loss of properties and lives; and

(c) the compensation given to each victim?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Statistics of railway accidents and related information are maintained railway-wise and not State-wise. Zone-wise break-up of consequential train accidents, loss of lives and cost of damage to railway property during the period 1.6.1988 to 31.10.1988 is as under:

Railway	No. of accidents	No of lives lost	Cost of damage to railway property (Rs. in lakhs)
Central	22	2	227.87
Eastern	32	—	36.93
Northern	31	—	62.16
North Eastern	12	—	5.90
Northeast Frontier	18	23	5.53
Southern	15	113	116.80
South Central	19	4	24.49
South Eastern	29	4	392.56
Western	29	14	15.60

(c) Compensation will be paid to the injured and the dependents of the deceased after the decision given by the Adhoc/ex-officio Claims Commissioners.

First Class Coaches in Delhi-Bangalore Trains

2043. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to increase the number of 1st Class coaches in Delhi-Bangalore trains; and

(b) if so, the time by which these will be increased to meet the increasing demand of 1st Class passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Surcharge on Income Tax

2044. SHRI K. MOHANDAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total annual receipts on account of surcharge on income-tax;

(b) whether there is any proposal to share it with the States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) During the year 1987-88 a sum of Rs. 40.20 crores was collected as surcharge on Income-tax.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration at present to share surcharge on Income-tax with the States.

(c) Does not arise.

States' Contribution for Railway Projects

2045. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the State Governments which have agreed to contribute for expenditure on railway projects in their States from 1986 to the end of October, 1988;

(b) the details of such contribution and the railway projects or works; and

(c) the terms on which such contributions are accepted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Stoppage of 131/132 Trains at Vetapalam

2046. SHRI C. SAMBU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to stop the 131/132 Trains at Vetapalam Station of South Central Railway; and

(b) if so, the time by which this will be stopped at Vetapalam Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Promotions from Clerical Cadre to Officers Cadre in New Bank of India

2047. SHRI LALA RAM KEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the New Bank of India has held any test for promotions in officers' cadre (JM-I) from clerical cadre;

(b) if so, the time by which result of this test is likely to be declared;

(c) the number of posts, out of those for which test has been conducted, reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(d) the promotions backlog from clerk to officers (JM-I) cadre in the Bank;

(e) whether the Bank Management proposes to clear the backlog; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). New Bank of India has reported that a test for promotion from Clerical and Special Assistants Cadre of the bank to the officers cadre (Junior Management Grade Scale-I) has been conducted for it by an agency outside the bank on 4.9.1988 and its results are expected to be declared shortly.

(c) and (d). The information is as under:

Channel of Promotion	No. of vacancies in JMGS-I for which test conducted	Current reservations		Backlog		Total posts reserved	
		SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
(i) Clerical to Officer	77	11	6	2	7	13	13
(ii) Special Asstt. to Officer	115	17	9	33	17	38	19
(iii) Head Cashier to Cash Officer	-	-	-	21	11	-	-

Note: While in promotions from Clerical to Officers cadre total backlog has been taken into consideration while reserving the posts for SC and ST, in the channel of promotions from Special Assistant to officers only 38 posts for SC and 19 for ST have been reserved because not more than 50% of the posts can be reserved in a year.

(e) and (f). Subject to the limitations on maximum reservations in a year, the bank is endeavouring to clear the backlog.

[English]

Writing off of Excise Dues

2048. SHRI H.M. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision in the Excise Law, which empowers Government to write off dues;

(b) whether there is any limit for writing off of the dues already levied;

(c) whether any applications have been received from companies against which crores of rupees of excise duty is outstanding;

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

(e) the steps proposed to realise the outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Do not arise in view of (c) above.

[Translation]

Arrests on the Charges of Having Black Money

2049. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people arrested during the last two months on the charges of having black money and smuggling and the amount received by Government from them; and

(b) the area-wise details of Customs officers and employees against whom action has been taken on charges of corruption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) During the last two months 576 persons were arrested for smuggling activities and contraband goods worth Rs. 79.42 crores were seized under the provisions of Customs Act, 1962.

There is no provision for arresting persons under Direct Taxes Laws.

(b) During the quarter ending 30.9.88, action against two Customs officers relating to Bombay Customs House has been initiated by the Department for corrupt practices and misuse of official position.

[English]

Expansion of Tracks and Shifting of Goods Terminal at Delhi and New Delhi

2051. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is need to expand the railway line at Delhi and New Delhi railway stations in view of the rise in traffic and demand for starting additional trains;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to shift the goods terminal from the Delhi and New Delhi railway stations to the neighbouring areas as has been reportedly suggested by the Delhi Development Authority in the news item "Delhi Main Bursting at Seams" appearing in the Hindustan Times of 15 October, 1988; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Certain works for augmentation of coaching facilities at Delhi and New Delhi have been approved.

(c) for coping with future increase in both goods and passenger traffic, it is proposed to set up directional terminals at Holambi Kalan, Anand Vihar and Bijwasan, as suggested by the Delhi Development Authority.

(d) Does not arise.

Problems of Jewellery Manufacturers and Exporters

2052. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of several schemes of jewellery production and exports, the jewellery exports have not picked up and crossed Rs. 1000 crores;

(b) whether procedural difficulties, including those due to gold policy are being faced by manufacturers and exporters; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures contemplated by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) to (c). The performance of jewellery exports has improved significantly in response to series of policy initiatives taken recently by the Government. As per provisional estimates during the period April-October, 1988, jewellery exports were approximately Rs. 83.61 crores as against Rs. 50.18 crores during corresponding period of last year.

Strikes in Public Sector Banks

2053. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the strikes resorted to by both officers and workmen of public sec-

tor banks during the last three years, bank-wise and year-wise;

(b) the details of their demands;

(c) whether one day's wage was cut on the basis of 'no work-no pay'; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Unions of bank employees have called strikes over their grievances on common issues of service matters as well as on various local issues pertaining to individual banks or individual branches of a bank. Information on the details of such strikes has to be collected and compilation of this information will involve considerable time and labour and the result to be achieved will not be commensurate with the time and labour involved in collecting/compiling this information.

(b) to (d). There are standing instructions issued by Indian Banks' Association as well as Government for implementing wage cut on the basis of the principle of 'no work no pay' in cases of strikes resorted to by the employee of banks, which Banks are required to invariably follow.

Central Assistance to Goa Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme

2054. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have provided any Central assistance to the Government of Goa under centrally sponsored schemes (i) on census of minor irrigation and (ii) on rationalisation of minor irrigation statistics;

(b) if so, the assistance given or proposed to be given under each of these schemes; and

(c) the details of the work done or proposed to be done under each of these schemes in the State?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Census of Minor Irrigation Scheme rationalisation of Minor Irrigation Statistics Rs. 27,000 and Rs. 1,79,000 have been sanctioned to Goa as Central assistance out of which Rs. 20,500 and Rs. 20,000 have been released during 1987-88 respectively.

(c) Census of Minor Irrigation Works has been completed, under the first scheme. The collection of minor irrigation statistics and quarterly reporting to Central Government is to be done under the other scheme.

SCICI Loans for Construction of Deep Sea Fishing Trawlers

2055. SHRI D.P. JADEJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India (SCICI) has been financing construction of deep sea fishing trawlers; and

(b) the departments which decided on the technical specifications of fishing trawlers before SCICI starts financing of such loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India (SCICI) provides finance to fishing companies for acquisition of deep sea fishing trawlers; and

(b) Before SCICI undertake to finance acquisition of deep sea fishing trawlers, the Fishing Acquisition Licensing Committee in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries examines the technical specifications of deep sea fishing trawlers.

Restriction on Expenditure by Political Parties during Election

2056. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme court judgement regarding not to impose a restriction on the money to be spent by political parties during election has been studied;

(b) the other points of criticism pertaining to the electioneering indulged into in clear contravention of the Representation of the People Act, 1951; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c). The Hon'ble Member has not cited the specific case and the judgement which he has in mind. The Supreme Court disposes of several cases of election petitions/appeals making observations on one aspect or another of the conduct of elections covered under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. In the absence of any indication regarding the case/Supreme Court judgement referred to, it is regrettably not possible to furnish the information required.

Telugu Ganga Project

2057. SHRI BIRINDER SINGH:
SHRIMATI MANEMMA ANJIAH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telugu Ganga Project has been approved by Union Government;

(b) the salient features of this project and the areas that will derive benefits;

(c) the objections which Government of Karnataka has raised; and

(d) what are the decisions, if any, taken on these objections?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The proposed project envisages conveyance of 15 TMC for Madras Water Supply and utilisation of 29 TMC for irrigation

from Srisailem reservoir on Krishna river in addition to 20.2 TMC of Pennar waters from Somasila reservoir for irrigation.

(c) and (d). The Governments of Karnataka and Maharashtra have raised objections to the clearance of the project. A meeting of the Chief Ministers convened by the Centre has not materialised.

Reconstruction of Tobacco Board

2058. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delay in reconstituting the Tobacco Board;

(b) the time by when the Board would be reconstituted; and

(c) the existing composition of the Board giving details of officials and non-officials members?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R.DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). The Tobacco Board has been reconstituted w.e.f. 4th September, 1988.

(c) A Statement regarding copy of Gazette Notification dated 2nd September, 1988 giving details of existing composition of Board is given below.

STATEMENT

(Published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary) Part-II, Section 3, Sub-Section (ii) - No. 444 dated 2nd September, 1988)

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (TOBACCO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT CONTROL)

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 2nd September, 1988

S.O. 832 (E) In exercise of the powers conferred by section 4 of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975 (4 of 1975) read with rules 3 and 4 of the Tobacco Board Rules, 1976, the Central Government hereby appoints the following as Members of the Tobacco Board for a period of three years except the Members against whom specific period have been mentioned, and directs that the following amendments shall be made with effect from the 4th September, 1988, in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce (Tobacco Industry Development Control), No. S.O. 5417, dated the 17th December, 1975 as amended from time to time, namely:-

In the said notification, for the serial numbers 1 to 22 and entries relating thereto, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

Appointed under clause (a) of sub-section (4) of Section 4.

- | | | |
|----|---|----------|
| 1. | Shri P.P. Williams
Tobacco Board,
Guntur - 522 007. | Chairman |
|----|---|----------|

Appointed under clause (b) of sub-section (4) of Section 4.

- | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------------------|
| 2. | Shri K.S. Rao,
Member, Lok Sabha,
142, North Avenue,
New Delhi - 110 001. | Member - Elected
by the Lok Sabha |
|----|--|--------------------------------------|

Permanent Address:

B-62, Skylark Apartments,
Basheer Bagh, Hyderabad - 500 029 (A.P.)

- | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------------------|
| 3. | Shri N. Venkata Ratnam,
Member, Lok Sabha,
40, Canning Lane,
New Delhi 110 001. | Member - Elected
by the Lok Sabha |
|----|--|--------------------------------------|

Permanent Address:-
3/1, Arundelpet,
Guntur - 522 007 (A.P.)

- | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| 4. | Shri Vithalbhai Motiram Patel,
Member of Parliament
(Rajya Sabha),
191, South Avenue,
New Delhi. | Member-Elected
by the Rajya Sabha | He will
hold office
upto 10th May,
1991. |
|----|--|--------------------------------------|---|

Permanent Address:-
Patrakar Colony,
Block No. 4,
Flat No. 20,
Vijay Nagar,
Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Appointed under sub-clause (i) of clause (c) of sub-section (4) of section 4.

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 5. | Director,
Directorate of Tobacco Development,

27, Eldahms Road, Teynampet,
Madras - 600 018. | Member - To represent
the Ministry
dealing
with Agriculture. |
|----|---|---|

Appointed under sub-clause (ii) of clause (c) of sub-section (4) of section 4.

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|----|--|--|
| 6. | Director, or Deputy Secretary
incharge of the
Export Promotion (Agriculture)
Division,
Ministry of Commerce,
New Delhi. | Member - To represent
the Ministry dealing
with Commerce |
|----|--|--|

Appointed under sub-clause (iii) of clause (c) of sub-section (4) of section 4.

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|----|---|---|
| 7. | Director, or Deputy Secretary,
incharge of the Finance Division
(dealing with Tobacco)
Ministry of Commerce,
New Delhi. | Member - To represent
the Ministry dealing
with Finance |
|----|---|---|

Appointed under sub-clause (iv) of clause (c) of the sub-section (4) of section 4.

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|--|--|
| 8. Under Secretary,
(dealing with Cigarette Industry)
Deptt. of Industrial Development,
New Delhi | Member - To represent
the Ministry dealing
with Industrial
Development. |
|--|--|

Appointed under sub-clause (v) of clause (c) of sub-section (4) of section 4.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 9. Director,
Central Tobacco Research Institute,
Rajahmundry - 533 105. | Member - To represent
the Indian Council of
Agricultural Research. |
|---|--|

Appointed under sub-clause (vi) of clause (c) of sub-section (4) of section 4.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 10. Principal Secretary or Secretary,
as the case may be,
or Ex-Officio Secretary,
Food & Agriculture Deptt.,
Government of Andhra Pradesh,
Hyderabad. | Member - To represent
the Government of Andhra
Pradesh |
|---|--|

Appointed under sub-clause (vi a) of clause (c) of sub-section (4) of section 4.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 11. Joint Director of Agriculture,
Cotton, Tobacco and Sugar,
Directorate of Agriculture,
Government of Gujarat, Paldi,
Ahmedabad (Gujarat). | Member - To represent
Government of
Gujarat. |
|--|--|

Appointed under sub-clause (vii) of clause (c) of sub-section (4) of section 4.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 12. Director of Agriculture,
Government of Karnataka,
Bangalore. | Member - To represent
Government of
Karnataka |
|--|---|

Appointed under clause (d) of clause (c) of sub-section (4) of section 4.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 13. Joint Director of Agriculture
(Pulses),
Directorate of Agriculture,
Government of Tamil Nadu
Madras - 600 005. | Member - To
represent the
Government
of Tamil
Nadu | } They
shall
hold
office
upto 15th
May, 1990 |
| 14. Additional Director (Oil Seeds)
Agriculture Deptt.,
Government of Uttar Pradesh,
Lucknow. | Member - To
represent the
Government of
Uttar Pradesh. | |

Appointed under clause (e) of sub-section (4) of section 4.

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 15. Vacant | } Member - To represent
the growers of Tobacco |
| 16. Vacant | |
| 17. Vacant | |

18. Vacant
19. Vacant
20. Vacant

Member - To represent the growers of tobacco

21. Vacant
22. Vacant
23. Vacant
24. Vacant

Member - To represent dealers, exporters of tobacco and tobacco product/manufacturers of tobacco products/expert in tobacco marketing.

Appointed under clause (f) of sub-section (4) of section 4.

25. Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India, Deptt. of Rural Development, New Delhi.

Member - Ex-officio

Appointed under clause (g) of sub-section (4) of section 4.

26. Executive Director, Tobacco Board, Guntur - 522 007.

Member - Ex-officio

Sd/-
(M.R. SIVARAMAN)
JOINT SECRETARY
[F. No. 8/16/87 - EP (Agri. VI)]

Committee for Planning Computerisation in the Banking Industry

2059. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has appointed high-level expert committee for planning computerisation in the banking industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the terms of reference of the Committee; and

(d) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). Taking into account the progress achieved so far by the

banks in mechanisation/computerisation and the requirements of banks in future to improve the Customer Service and productivity, the Reserve Bank of India has, in September, 1988, set up a Committee on Computerisation to prepare a perspective plan for computerisation of banks for the next five years covering the period 1990 to 1994. The Committee is likely to submit its report soon. The terms of reference of the Committee are given in the Statement below:

STATEMENT

Terms of reference of the Committee

- (i) To draw up a perspective plan for computerisation of banks at the Branch, Regional/Zonal and Head Office levels for the five years from 1990 to 1994 and to recommend the strategy for its implementation.
- (ii) To suggest modalities for implementing on-line banking, specially at the branch level.

- (iii) To indicate the application areas (like Electronic Funds Transfer, Electronic Mail, Message Switching, etc.) relating to the use of BANKNET and SWIFT.
- (iv) To suggest guidelines for installation of Automated Teller Machines and other self service machines by banks.
- (v) To assess the requirements of trained personnel and the need for training on computerisation and to recommend suitable arrangements therefor.
- (vi) To suggest modalities for phased introduction of bilingualisation in computers used in banks.
- (vii) To make any other recommendations which are incidental or related to the above terms of reference.

Export of Pepper to US

2060. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a ban was imposed by US on the Pepper exported from India;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has taken up the matter with U.S.; and
- (d) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) The US Food and Drug Administration has placed the pepper imports from India under block-listing with the result all the pepper consignments from India are subject to quality inspection.

(b) The block listing was on account of pepper from India being not upto the FDA quality standards.

(c) Yes, sir.

(d) Based on the discussions, it is expected that the block-listing would be lifted soon as now the FDA authorities are reported to be satisfied with the quality of pepper exported from India.

Simplification of Procedure for Export Brand Rates

2061. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any changes in the simplification of the procedure for export brand rates; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To expedite further Brand rate fixation, where this facility is sought for by the exporters, under the Duty Drawback Scheme, the Government have recently announced a simplified procedure termed 'Simplified Brand Rate Fixation Scheme'. It will be available to established manufacturer-exporters of particular export goods for the present, namely, engineering goods, chemicals and electronic items. Under the Scheme the brand rates will be essentially based upon applications with relevant data, in the form prescribed, to be submitted by the manufacturer-exporters duly authenticated by independent chartered engineers/Cost Accountants/Chartered Accountants for consumption pattern of various inputs and their procurement details-including duty payments. Government will fix Brand rates and the exporters authorised to claim Drawback, considered admissible, from the concerned Custom House(s) without insisting on preverification of the data by the Department. To safeguard against abuse, ex-post facto checking of data and execution of an indemnity bond by the exporters have also been provided.

Rail-road Crossing on Katihar-New Jalpaiguri Sector

2062. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway-road crossings in Katihar-New Jalpaiguri sector of the Northern Frontier Railway;

(b) the number of open crossings i.e. without chain or gate or chaukidar;

(c) the number of manned crossings, without manually operated barriers;

(d) the number of manned crossings with manually controlled barriers;

(e) the number of unmanned crossings with automatic barriers controlled from long distance;

(f) the number of accidents at these crossings during the last three years, year-

wise and upto 30 September, 1988 with the number of persons killed and injured; and

(g) the action taken regarding the accident near Tayyabpur in this Sector on 26 September, 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Katihar-Kumedpur-New Jalpaiguri (BG Section): 196 level crossings

Katihar-Siliguri-New Jalpaiguri (MG Section): 179 level crossings

(b) BG Section: 150 Numbers
MG Section: 113 Numbers

(c) None. All the manned level crossings are provided with manually operated gates/lifting barriers/chains.

(d) BG Section: 46 Numbers
MG Section: 66 Numbers

(e) BG Section: 8 Numbers
MG Section: 12 Numbers

(f) Year	No of accidents		Casualties	
	BG	MG	Killed	Injured
1985-86	-	-	-	-
1986-87	-	1	-	9
1987-88	1	-	1	2
1988-89 (upto September, 1989)	-	1	22	43

(g) The road users are required to cross the track with utmost care after ensuring that no train is approaching the unmanned level crossing. The accident on 27.9.88 an unmanned level crossing was caused due to the negligence on the part of the driver of the road vehicle. The State Government of Bihar have been requested to strictly enforce the observance of the relevant rules under the Bihar Motor Vehicles Act by the drivers of the road vehicles and take necessary penal action for violation.

Projects Undertaken by Rail India Technical and Economic Services Abroad

2063. SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN: Will the Minister RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rail India Technical and Economic Services has undertaken assignments abroad;

(b) if so, the names of the countries where the Company has assignments at present alongwith details of works undertaken; and

(c) the profit earned by the company during 1986-87 and 1987-88 from the assignments undertaken abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is given below:

(c)	1986-87	Rs. 265.2 lakhs
	1987-88	Rs. 273.1 lakhs

STATEMENT

<i>Country</i>	<i>Nature of Assignment</i>
Algeria	Construction Management Ain-Toute/M'Sila Railway Project.
Jordan	Technical and supervisory services provided to Aqaba Railway Corporation.
Zimbabwe	(i) Technical and Professional Services for workshops maintenance. (ii) Investment Plan Study.
Zambia	Technical assistance to World Bank Rehabilitation Project.
Sri Lanka	Improvement to Railway workshops.
Ghana	(i) Consultancy Services for rehabilitation project. (ii) Consultancy services/Implementation Adviser to Ministry of Transport & Communication, Ghana.
Mozambique	Technical and Management support services.
Iraq	Operation & Maintenance of Baghdad - Al Qaim - Akashat Railway Project.
Bangladesh	System rehabilitation of workshops and rolling stock.
Bhutan	Consultancy services for construction supervision of pavement terminal building and hangers.
Zambia	Optimisation of Railway operation.
Nepal	(i) Detailed engineering and project management supervision for Mohana Bridge. (ii) Feasibility study for transportation of over-dimensional consignment Karnali (Chisapani) Multipurpose Project.

[Translation]

Losses Incurred by MMTC on Export of Pig Iron

2064. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the losses incurred by the Metal and Minerals Trading Corporation of India Limited (MMTC) in export of pig iron during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the steps taken to prevent losses and earn profits with results thereof;

(c) the names of the countries to which the MMTC exports the pig iron; and

(d) the quantity of exports and foreign exchange earned therefrom during last three years, year-wise, alongwith per quintal price of pig iron at the time of export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) MMTC has not exported pig iron during the last 3 years and, as such, question of loss does not arise.

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

Direct Assistance to Beneficiaries under I.R.D.P.

2065. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the beneficiaries are getting money directly under the Integrated Rural Development Scheme (IRDP) in some development blocks on an experimental basis;

(b) if so, whether the beneficiaries are getting more benefit by getting money directly without any middleman;

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

(d) whether Government propose to introduce this procedure in the entire country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN

THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The performance of cash disbursement system in 22 selected blocks was reviewed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and it has revealed that the cash disbursement in selected blocks is having certain advantages as well as disadvantages. On the one hand it has been possible to eliminate middlemen and to give borrowers greater freedom in the selection of assets, while on the other hand the quality of assets bought has generally suffered.

(d) There is no such proposal for the present.

[English]

Smuggling of Narcotic Drugs

2066. SHRI RANJITSINGH GAEKWAD:
SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:
SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a significant increase in the drug trafficking/smuggling in the country during the last few months;

(b) if so, the different narcotic drugs seized during the period from January to October, 1988, State-wise;

(c) the number of persons arrested/prosecuted in this connection during the above period; and

(d) whether drug is being smuggled in the country from Pakistan border; if so, the steps taken to curb the smuggling and illicit traffic of the narcotic drugs from across the border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA): (a) to (d). While it is a fact that huge quantities of drugs are seized by various enforcement agencies, as may be seen from the following

Table-mainly on account of the vigorous drive and aggressive counter-measures launched by the Government,—it is difficult to assess the magnitude of smuggling of drugs or estimate in any precise manner either the quantum of increase or decrease in illicit trafficking thereof:

	Name of drug	Seizures of drugs made in 1988 (Upto September). Kgs.
1.	Opium	2,102
2.	Heroin	2,376
3.	Hashish (Charas)	14,124
4.	Morphine	5
5.	Ganja	31,380
6.	Methaqualone	902

(Figures provisional and rounded off to the nearest kilogram)

1,832 persons had been prosecuted for drug-related offences, of which 1,488 were arrested upto September, 1988.

Nearly 84% of the heroin and hashish seized upto September, 1988, as shown above, has been of the Golden Crescent origin (including Pakistan). Government have launched various aggressive counter-measures which, *inter alia*, include imposition of deterrent punishments against drug-related crimes, strengthening of preventive and intelligence machinery (especially around borders and vulnerable areas), adoption of liberalised reward scheme for officer/informers, strengthening of bilateral co-operation between neighbouring countries (including regional co-operation under the umbrella of SAARC). The Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988 provides for preventive detention upto a maximum period of two years for drug-related crimes.

Further, the police officers of the North-Eastern States have been entrusted the

functions of the Customs Officers under the Customs act, 1962 for the purpose of the provisions of Chapter IVB of that Act.

An Indo-Pak Committee to combat drug trafficking and smuggling has also been constituted for the purpose.

Funds for Model Railway Stations

2067. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state that the funds allocated for the development of model railway stations in the country, Zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): 67 stations have been selected to be developed as model stations on all the Indian Railways. The funds allocated during 1988-89 for development of these stations as model stations, railway-wise are as under:-

Railway	Amount allocated (In lakhs of Rs.)
Central	262.38
Eastern	377.26
Northern	152.20
N.E.	49.22
N.F.	54.22
Southern	112.40
S.C	53.04
S.E.	180.34
Western	101.29

Electrification of Railway Tracks in Tamil Nadu

2068. SHRI P.R.S. VENKATESAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any new proposal for electrification of railway tracks in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As electrification is capital intensive, within the limited resources available, it is being planned on the high density freight routes. Only after completion of these priority sections, other sections in various States including those in Tamil Nadu will be considered during future plan periods.

Electrification of Karjat-Khopoli Route (Maharashtra)

2069. SHRI D.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to large scale increase in the number of passengers travelling from Karjat to Khopoli and Khopoli to Karjat (Maharashtra) in the last ten years, there is persistent demand for electrification of the route; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the Seventh Plan, priority for

electrification is to first complete electrification of Delhi-Bombay (via Central Railway route), Delhi-Madras (Grand Trunk route and Howrah-Bombay (via Nagpur route). In view of the above priorities and constraint of resources, as well as low traffic density on the Karjat-Khopoli section, there is, at present, no proposal to electrify this section.

Setting up of Institute for Legislative Drafting and Research

2070. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up an Institute for Legislative Drafting and Research;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof;

(c) when the proposed Institute will start functioning; and

(d) who will be the beneficiaries of the Institute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As recommended by the Law Ministers' Conference, a small Committee of Law Secretaries had prepared a concrete scheme for the setting up of an Institute of Legislative Drafting and Research. As per its recommendations, the Institute will be imparting training in Legislative Drafting and the courses would be broadly as per the following details:-

-
- | | | |
|-------|-----------|--|
| (i) | Basic | One year duration (with small breaks); |
| (ii) | Advanced | three months duration (the duration may be revised on the basis of experience) |
| (iii) | Refresher | Three weeks (This should be more in the nature of a workshop) |
-

The Basic Course would be meant for officers in the junior time scale, whereas the Advanced Course would be for middle level officers, and the Refresher Course will be for officers of the level of Secretary to State Government. To start with the Institute will function under the direct control of the Legislative Department.

(c) Arrangements have already been made to invite names of candidates for the Basic and Advanced Courses and it is proposed to start the Institute from the 1st January, 1989.

(d) Officers of the Central/State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, who are in charge of legislative drafting and who are administratively concerned with the implementation of Acts of Parliament/State Legislatures will be the beneficiaries.

Action Plan for Exporters by TDA

2071. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Trade Development Authority (TDA) has prepared an Action Plan for promoting exports from different states;

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

(c) whether Government have finalised the strategy to implement these Action Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. In 1986, the Trade Development Authority prepared an Action Plan for Promotion of Exports from Kerala on behalf of the Government of Kerala. In 1988, at the instance of the Central Government the Trade Development Authority has recently prepared Action Plans for Promotion of Exports from some of the States like West Bengal and the North Eastern Region including Tripura, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Government Borrowing

2072. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total borrowing done by Government so far both from within the country and from outside; and

(b) the present position of the consolidated funds of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The outstanding internal and external debt at the end of march 1988 is given below:-

	Outstanding at the end of March 1988
	(Rs. in crores)
Internal debt	99520
External debt (at the current rate of exchange)	36670

(b) The proceeds of loans raised by the Government as also the revenue realised by the Government flow into the Consolidated Fund of India from which expenditure is also incurred. Hence, the net position of the Fund at any point of time need not be equal to aggregate receipts during the year.

Raids on Industrial and Commercial Premises in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana

2073. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any tax raids have been conducted on some industrial and commercial premises; offices and residences in Punjab, Himachal and Haryana during the period 1 January to 30 September, 1988;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the cash, kind and incriminating documents etc. seized during the raids; and

(d) the action against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (c). During the period 1st January, 1988 to 30th September, 1988, the Income-tax Department conducted 183 searches in the State of Punjab and 114 searches in the State of Haryana. No searches were conducted in the State of Himachal Pradesh during this period. The details as to the value of assets seized and the concealed income admitted during these searches are given below:

State	Amount of seizure (Rs. in lakhs)	Concealed income admitted during searches (Rs. in lakhs)
Punjab	173.82	186.66
Haryana	72.69	76.41

Several incriminating documents indicating tax evasion were also seized during the said searches.

(d) Appropriate action under the direct tax enactments is taken in all such cases.

Conversion of Bhatni-Varanasi and Jaunpur-Aurihar Railway Lines

2074. SHRI RAM SAMUJHAWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey to convert Bhatni-Varanasi railway track into broad gauge has been completed;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken to convert Jaunpur-Aurihar meter gauge line into broad gauge to provide direct link to Allahabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Conversion of Bhatni-Varanasi M.C

rail line into B.G. is an approved project and the work on it is in progress.

(c) Survey for conversion of Jaunpur-Aurihar M.G. section into B.G. was conducted in 1986 and the project was assessed to be financially unremunerative. There is, no proposal at present to take up conversion of this section.

Vacancies of Judges in Calcutta High Court

2075. DR. PHULRENU GUHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of posts of judges lying vacant in Calcutta High Court at Present; and

(b) the reasons for not filling up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) As on 21.11.1988, out of the sanctioned strength of 42 permanent

Judges in the Calcutta High Court, 2 posts were vacant.

(b) Selection of Judges involves deliberation in consultation with the concerned constitutional authorities and is a continuous process.

Increase in Powers of Railway Protection Force

2076. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new security measures have been adopted in trains during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the powers and functions of the Railway Protection Force;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Protection of passengers and their belongings is the responsibility of State Government concerned. They keep on reviewing the security arrangements on trains and make changes according to the requirements of the local situations.

(c) and (d). The powers and functions of the Railway Protection Force have already been enumerated in the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957 as amended by Railway Protection Force (Amendment Act), 1985. There is no proposal at present to increase the powers and functions of RPF.

[Translation]

Special Assistants in New Bank of India

2077. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the management of the New Bank of India considers the appointment of clerk to the post of special assistant as promotion;

(b) if so, whether there is any reservation for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes therein; and

(c) if not, the reasons for preparing two separate panels, one for promotion from clerk grade to officer grade and another from special assistant to officer grade for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The bank has reported that preparation of two separate panels - one for promotion from clerk grade to officer grade and another from Special Assistant to Officers Grade is done as per the provisions of the Settlement between the bank management and the recognised employees federation. Reservations for SC/ST are provided in both the panels separately.

Promotions of Peons in New Bank of India

2078. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any promotions have been made in New Bank of India from the posts of peons to the posts of clerk after the nationalisation of the bank;

(b) if so, the number of persons promoted as clerks from the posts of peon during the last three years and whether reservations were provided to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates therein;

(c) if so, the extent thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any backlog of posts

reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(e) if so, the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DE-

PARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). New Bank of India has reported the following information with regard to promotions in the bank from its sub-staff cadre to the cadre of clerks:-

				General			On the basis of Educational Qualifications		
				1986	1987	1988	1986	1987	1988
(i)	Total promotions			3	212	-	-	2	3
(ii)	Reservations for SC & ST	SC	2	32	-	-	-	-	-
		ST	-	16	-	-	-	-	-
(iii)	Filled by SC/ST	SC	1	30	-	-	-	-	-
		ST	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

Note:-In the case of general promotions, there was no reservation for SC and ST during the year 1986 as the extent of vacancies filled by direct recruitment exceeded 66-2/3%. During the year 1987 when the direct recruitment was less than 66-2/3% the reservations have been provided by the bank as per rules. In respect of the promotions based on educational qualifications, as per the existing policy of the bank all persons working in the sub-staff cadre of the bank who attain the qualification of graduation are promoted. There is, therefore, no reservation, as such.

(d) and (e). As on date the backlog in the bank is 2 for Scheduled Caste and 15 for Scheduled Tribes.

Sweepers in New Bank of India

2079. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are part-time sweepers in New Bank of India and if so, the number of thereof and their working hours;

(b) whether the management of the Bank proposes to make them full-time sweepers; and

(c) if so, the time by which they would be made full-time sweepers and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The New Bank of India has reported that there are 527 part-time sweepers in the bank. Their working hours vary from less than 6 hours per week to 29 hours per week.

(b) and (c). Part-time sweepers are made full time, depending upon the enhancement, if any, in carpet area/working hours of the premises for which they are appointed. The bank also has a scheme of their conversion to full time peon after completion of five years service, subject to other stipulated terms.

[English]

Central Team for Study on Danages of Floods in Gujarat

2080. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any central team has visited Gujarat to survey the damages caused by the recent floods to the irrigation works in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the team has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details of findings in this regard; and

(e) the steps being taken for their repairs by Government?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (e). Yes, Sir. The Government of India after considering the recommendations made by the Central Team sanctioned a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 27.02 crores for relief and restoration. Out of this, Rs. 7.05 crores is

meant for restoration of works connected with irrigation structures.

Archaic Laws Referred to New Law Commission

2081. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state what are the archaic laws, which Government have decided to refer to the new Law Commission headed by Justice M.P. Thakkar, for examination and making recommendations for amendment in the context of the present-day socio-economic needs, particularly laws affecting the poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Government have not referred any specific Laws to the present Law Commission for its examination and recommendations. However, the following are the terms of reference of the present Law Commission:-

1. Law and Poverty

(a) To examine the Laws which affect the poor and carry out post-audit of socio-economic legislation.

(b) To take all such measures as may be necessary to harness law and the legal process in the service of the poor.

2. To keep under review the system of judicial administration to ensure that it is responsive to the reasonable demands of the times and in particular to secure:-

(a) elimination of delays, speedy clearance of arrears and reduction in costs so as to secure quick and economical disposal of cases without affecting the cardinal principle that decisions should be just and fair.

(b) simplification of procedure to reduce and eliminate technicalities and devices for delay so that it operates not as an end in itself but as a means of achieving justice.

(c) improvement of standards of all concerned with the administration justice.

3. To examine the existing laws in the light of Directive principles of State Policy and to suggest ways of improvement and reform and also to suggest such legislation as might be necessary to implement the Directive Principles and to attain the objectives set out in the Preamble to the Constitution.

4. To revise the Central Acts of general importance so as to simplify them and to remove anomalies, ambiguities and inequities.

5. To recommend to the Government measure for bringing the statute book up-to-date by repealing obsolete laws and enactment or parts thereof which have outlived their utility.
6. To consider and to convey to the Government its views on any other subject relating to law and judicial administration that may be referred to it.

Commercial Loans

2082. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the international market for tax-spared syndicated commercial loans has turned sour with Governments imposing more restrictions on such deals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the effect of the hardening market on Air-India's Euro-dollar loan by a consortium of banks led by Fuji Bank of Japan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). 'No, Sir. The availability of tax-spared loans from UK alone is likely to be restricted from April, 1989 owing to certain changes in the fiscal regulations in UK. There is, however, continued interest among banks to provide loans on tax-spared basis from other countries.

(c) The tax-spared loan recently concluded for Air-India through a syndicate of banks led by Fuji Bank of Japan received good response. The loan was offered to Air India on fine terms, viz. at London Inter Bank Offered Rate without any mark-up thereon. The loan was provided by a total of 12 banks.

Guidelines on Debenture Redemption Reserve

2083. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guidelines have recently

been issued on Debenture Redemption Reserve; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No guidelines have recently been issued on Debenture Redemption Reserve.

(b) Does not arise.

New Credit Policy

2084. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has announced any new credit policy measures for the slack and busy seasons for implementation by the nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the salient features of the policy, including the relaxation allowed under Credit Authorisation Scheme (CAS);

(c) whether any changes have also been made in the deposit rates, statutory ratios, refinance facilities and controls for selective credit;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the benefits likely to accrue to the nationalised banks in operations and the parties utilising the credit under the new policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN

THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India announced in October 8, 1988 the credit policy measures for the current busy season. The changes made are summarised below:

- (i) *Lending Rates*: Effective from October 10, 1988 all lending rates which are presently prescribed at 16.5% fixed will cease to have a ceiling stipulation but will be subject to a minimum of 16%.
- (ii) *Inter-bank participation Certificates*: With a view to providing an additional instrument for evening out short term liquidity within the banking system, two types of Participation Certificates have been introduced, one on risk sharing basis and the other without risk sharing. While rate of interest on the two Participation Certificates (PCs) when introduced would be left free to be determined by the two concerned banks, the interest rate on the risk sharing PC' would be subject to a minimum of 14% and that on the 'without risk PC', to a maximum of 12.5%.
- (iii) *Money Market Operations of Discount and Finance House of India (DFHI)*: The operations of DFHI in the call notice money market would not be subject to the provisions of the ceiling on the rate of interest set out by the Indian Banks Association.
- (iv) *Credit Authorisation Scheme (CAS)*: The present system of prior authorisation by the Reserve Bank of India for sanction of working capital limits/term loans has been withdrawn. However, all proposals involving sanction of aggregate working capital limits beyond Rs. 5 crores would be subject to post sanction scrutiny by Reserve Bank to ensure that the basic disciplines are being observed.
- (v) *Transfer of borrowal accounts and lending under consortium arrangements*: Parties have now been allowed to transfer their accounts from one bank to another without the requirement of a 'no objection' letter from the existing bank. However, if any industrial group maintaining more than one account with a bank, seeks to transfer only a good account leaving unsatisfactory account with the existing bank, the latter may refuse to allow such transfer unless arrangements are made by the party concerned to the banks satisfaction. The limits on the maximum number of banks permissible in each consortium arrangement has been removed. It would, however, be advisable to limit the number of banks in formal consortium arrangements to around ten.
- (vi) *Housing Finance*: The following changes have been made:
 - (I) Maximum loan period extended from 10 years to 15 years.
 - (II) Margin requirements relaxed under graded scale with the maximum fixed at 35%.
 - (III) Lending rates altered effective from October 10, 1988 as under:

<i>Amount of loan</i>	<i>Rate of Interest (% p.a.)</i>
Upto Rs. 20,000	12.5
Above Rs. 20,000 and upto Rs. 50,000	13.5
Above Rs. 50,000 and upto Rs. 1 lakh	14.0
Above Rs. 1 lakh	14.5, 16.0

The rate of interest on housing loans to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes upto and inclusive of Rs. 5,000/- remains unchanged at 4%.

(c) and (d). No changes have been made in the deposit rates, statutory ratios, interest rates and terms and conditions of the refinance facilities and minimum margins and level of credit ceilings stipulated for commodities covered under Selective Credit Controls.

(e) The changes made in the lending rate structure are expected to benefit the borrowers with good track record.

Opening of Agricultural Development Branches of State Bank of India

2085. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of agricultural development branches have been opened by the State Bank of India;

(b) if so, their number, State-wise along with the names of such branches in Himachal Pradesh, district-wise;

(c) the salient features of the functioning of these branches which distinguish them from ordinary branches of the Bank in providing direct credit in the agriculture sector;

(d) whether the Bank propose to open any more branches of this type in the remaining years of the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as at the end of June, 1988, 430 Agricultural Development Branches (ADB's) of State Bank of India (SBI) were functioning in the country. State-wise details are given below:-

Name of State/Union Territory	No. of ADBs of SBI
Andhra Pradesh	71
Assam	9
Bihar	50
Gujarat	1
Haryana	11
Himachal Pradesh	3
Jammu & Kashmir	6
Karnataka	16
Kerala	10
Madhya Pradesh	32
Maharashtra	28
Meghalaya	3
Nagaland	1
Orissa	29
Punjab	15
Rajasthan	24
Tamil Nadu	15
Tripura	1
Uttar Pradesh	78
West Bengal	21
Delhi	1
Goa	3
Pondicherry	2

In Himachal Pradesh, ADBs of SBI are functioning at Chowari, Palampur and

Paonta in District Chamba, Kangra and Sir-mur respectively.

(c) to (e). The scheme of ADBs was first introduced in 1971 by SBI. These branches are specialised branches in the field of agricultural financing. ADBs were opened to provide assistance for intensive agricultural in identified areas having potential for such development. In view of the service area approach which will be introduced throughout the country, it will be the responsibility of the designated branch to provide credit to all the villages allotted to it. The scope of opening more ADBs do not, therefore, arise in the modified credit delivery system.

Introduction of Credit Cards by Commercial Banks

2086. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any of the commercial banks in the country have introduced the credit-card system for the benefits of their depositors;

(b) if so, the names of the banks concerned along with their branches in which the system has been introduced and the salient features of this system; and

(c) if not, whether any other bank propose to introduce this system, if so, the names thereof and the likely dates by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

Hill Concession Tickets

2087. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Northern Railway has decided to introduce hill concession tickets to and from Shimla and Pathankot during the current and coming financial years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such tickets would also be made available for Kalka, Joginder Nagar, Baijnath, Palampur, Jwalamukhi Road, Guler, Nangal Dam, Kirat Pur Saheb, Hoshiarpur, Mukerian, Chandigarh, Jammu and Solan stations so as to give concession to tourists and pilgrims alighting at these stations; and

(d) if so, the likely date by which decision would be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d). It has been decided to issue Hill concession Return Tickets to Shimla & Jammu Tawi from stations located at a distance of more than 800 Kms. from these stations. The tickets will be issued from 1.4.1989 to 31.8.89. The percentage of concession will be 20% in Second Class, 15% in First Class and Air-Conditioned Sleeper and 10% in Air-Conditioned First Class fares.

There is no proposal to issue such tickets for other stations.

R & D Training by Tea Board

2088. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of research, development and training project being carried out at Tocklai, Jorhat by the Tea Board;

(b) the number of tea garden workers trained at Tocklai in the last three years, category-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the number of the persons other than tea garden workers trained at the Tocklai in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) Tea Board provides financial

assistance to the following Research and Training Scheme being carried out at Tocklai, Jorhat:-

- (i) Short Training course of 3 months-cum-study tour for new/non-traditional/backward areas.

- (ii) Bio-technology unit.

- (b) The number of tea garden workers

trained at Tocklai during the last three years is as follows:-

Year	Tea Garden workers
1985	72
1986	Nil
1987	Nil

(c) The number of persons other than tea garden workers trained at the Tocklai during the last three years is as follows:-

Category	1985	1986	1987
Garden Staff	18	-	16
Asstt. Manager	110	100	95
Manager	45	33	31

Financial Assistance by Tea Board for Welfare Activities

2089. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of cess collected by Tea Board in the last three years, year-wise;

- (b) the financial assistance provided to the owners of tea gardens in the last three years, year-wise;

- (c) whether imparting primary and adult education also are the part of welfare measures of the tea garden workers; and

- (d) if so, the details of the measures taken in this regard and its result?

Cess. Cess is collected by the Central Excise Department and credited to the consolidated Fund of India after deduction of expenses of collection. The amount of cess collected by the Central Excise Deptt. during the last three years is as follows:-

(Rs. in lacs)

Year	Cess collected
1985-86	573
1986-87	638
1987-88	*982
*(Provisional)	

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI): (a) Tea Board does not collect any

(b) The financial assistance extended by Tea Board under its various loan and subsidy schemes to tea estates during the last three years is as follows:-

(Rs. in lacs)

	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
(1) Loan Schemes	482.68	412.29	350.84
(2) Subsidy Schemes	107.52	145.12	169.96

In addition to the above, the following assistance has also been extended by Tea Board for Research and Development purposes:

	(Rs. in lacs)
1985-86	34.00
1986-87	59.50
1987-88	79.36

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Incentives to Tax Payers

2090. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income tax Department offers any incentives to tax payers for declaration of their true income and prompt payment of the taxes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken against those persons who are not paying proper taxes and also not in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). With a view to encouraging taxpayers to make a voluntary disclosure of their income, Section 273 A of the Income-tax Act provides for reduction or waiver of penalty and interest in cases where a person voluntarily and in good faith, makes a true and full disclosure of his income. This concession is available subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions laid down in the law in this behalf. One of the conditions is that the assessee should have paid or made satisfactory arrangements for payment of the assessed tax. Clause (2) of Explanation 5 to Section 271 (1) (c) of the Income-tax Act also provides immunity from penalty in cases where a taxpayer makes a full and true disclosure of his concealed income in

the course of a search under Section 132 of the Income-tax Act. This concession is also allowed subject to certain conditions as specified in the relevant provisions.

(c) The Income-tax Department takes action against the persons found to be defaulting in making payment of taxes by levy of penalty and by resorting to recovery proceedings as specified in the Income-tax Act.

The Income-tax Department has been taking various measures for detection of unaccounted income and for checking tax evasion. Some of the important measures taken are systematic survey operations, searches in appropriate cases and intensive scrutiny in cases of suspected tax evasion. In the case of persons found to be evading taxes, action by way of penalty and prosecution is taken under the relevant provisions of the Income-tax Act.

NRI Representations Regarding Procedural Problems

2091. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received certain representations from non-resident Indians about the procedural problems being faced by them in investing in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken/have been taken to look into those problems to solve them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Government receives various suggestions and representations from Non-Resident Indians about procedures and policy issues concerning the NRI Investment. These issues are examined in consultation with the concerned Departments and Organisations and suitable changes are made wherever necessary.

Opening of Branches of Foreign Banks

2092. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have liberalised policy for the licensing of foreign banks, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the profits repatriated by the various foreign banks during 1987-88 and 1988-89 uptill 30th June, 1988;

(c) the particulars of banks seeking approval of the Reserve Bank of India for opening branches or representative offices (or conversions of representative offices into branches); and

(d) whether any principle of reciprocity is followed while allowing such banks to open their offices in India, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a), (c) and (d). Reserve Bank of India has reported that it has not liberalised its policy in permitting foreign banks to open branches/offices in India. Permission is generally granted by the Reserve Bank of India to a foreign bank to open a branch/representative office in India keeping in view various aspects such as financial solvency of the applicant bank, its international standing, trade and economic linkages, reciprocity in banking relations, etc. Reserve Bank of India has further reported that it is receiving applications from various foreign banks from time to time for opening of branches/representative offices in India. A decision on these requests is taken by the Bank keeping in view the criteria mentioned above.

(b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that during the period 1.4.1987 to 30.6.1988, it had permitted foreign banks to remit a sum of Rs. 72.57 crores to their respective Head Offices on account of profits earned/balances etc. held with Reserve Bank of India. A part of this amount pertained to earlier periods.

Appointment of Non-Officials on Boards of Directors of Financial Institutions

2093. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines, if any laid down, for the appointment of non-officials on the Boards of Directors of the various financial institutions under his Ministry; and

(b) the level at which the selection and appointment of such incumbents is made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The appointment of non-official Directors on the Boards of financial institutions is made by the Government in accordance with the procedure and criteria laid down in the statutes/Articles of Association governing them.

External Value of Rupee

2094. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the erosion in the external value of the Rupee vis-a-vis major currencies has continued throughout October, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the cumulative depreciation of Rupee among the four currencies relative to the Japanese Yen, Deutsche Mark, Pound Sterling and Dollar during the period 30 September to 29 October, 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir. The exchange rate of the rupee is fixed with reference to the exchange rate movement of a suitably weighted basket of currencies, mainly of countries which are India's major trading partners. In a regime of floating exchange rates, upward or downward movements of the value of rupee, which depends

upon the fluctuations in the value of these currencies, is a normal phenomenon.

(b) Based upon day-to-day appreciation or depreciation over the previous day, the cumulative depreciation of the Rupee during the period from September 30, 1988 to October 29, 1988 works out to 2.31 percent against the U.S. Dollar 6.85 percent against the Pound Sterling, 7.78 percent against the DM and 8.36 percent against the Yen.

Tax Evasions by Professionals

2095. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a high rate of evasion of Income Tax by professionals like Doctors, Lawyers, Architects, Chartered Accountants and Income Tax practitioners particularly those who are reputed; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to detect the concealed income of these professionals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) As persons engaged in various professions, as also those carrying on various business, have been found to evade income-tax, it will not be justifiable to make any such generalization.

(b) The Income-tax Department has been taking various measures for detection of unaccounted income by all categories of persons, including those engaged in various professions. Some of the important measures taken are systematic survey operations, searches in appropriate cases and intensive scrutiny in cases of suspected tax evasion.

Tax Exemption to Nationalised Banks having Foreign Deposits

2096. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently

decided to permit such nationalised banks operating abroad as have foreign deposits to transfer certain amount of their income to a special reserve account which qualify for tax exemption; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the policy of Government and decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. With effect from 1.4.1983, section 36 (1) (viii a) of the Income-tax Act provides for creation of a special reserve by a scheduled bank (other than a bank incorporated by or under the laws of a country outside India), which is engaged in banking operations outside India.

(b) Under section 36 (1) (viii a) of the Income-tax Act, scheduled banks (as specified above) are entitled to a deduction, in computation of their taxable profits, upto 40% of the total income (computed before making any deduction under this clause and Chapter VIA of the Income-tax Act) carried by them to a reserve account. This concession is available only if the bank is approved by the Central Government for the purposes of this clause after taking into account the capital structure, the extent of its banking operations outside India, its need for resources for operations outside India and other relevant factors. Section 36 (1) (viii a) of the Income-tax Act has been introduced with effect from 1.4.1983 by the Finance Act, 1982.

Changes in Customs and Excise Duty Structure

2097. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently announced more changes in Customs and Excise Duty structures; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MIN-

ISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). During the period 1st July, to 31st October, 1988, 127 notifications were issued making changes in the customs and excise duties. Copies of such notifications are being laid on the Table of the House from time to time.

Pre-Shipment Inspection of Rice

2098. DR. B. L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some consignments of basmati rice are held up at U.S. ports as importers there have refused to take delivery on the ground that these consignments contain mixture of inferior quality of rice;

(b) whether this has resulted in the U.S. importers filing claims on Indian exporters;

(c) the estimated value of these claims;

(d) whether the shippers are incurring demurrage in U.S. ports;

(e) the reasons why proper quality inspection of overseas consignments is not made before shipment; and

(f) how it is now proposed to resolve the tangle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI): (a) to (c). There is no report to indicate that importers in USA have refused to accept the Basmati Rice consignments on the ground that the consignments contain inferior quality of rice. One complaint was received from USA for inferior quality of Basmati Rice and the importer has filed a suit for US\$ 24.10 lakhs in the Superior Court of the State of California against a consignment worth US\$ 40,400.

(d) The shippers have not mentioned, so far, anything incurring heavy demurrage in US Ports.

(e) and (f). Basmati Rice is subject to compulsory pre-shipment inspection suggestion of improving the quality of Basmati

Rice for export to U.S.A. is under examination in consultation with the trade.

Boycott of Assembly Elections by Kani Tribals in Kanyakumari

2099. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kani tribals of Kanyakumari district had resolved to boycott forthcoming assembly elections;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to bring back the tribals into the democratic process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The Election Commission has no such information.

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

Exchange Rate of Rupee vis-a-vis Rouble

2100. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any recent change in exchange rate of Rupee vis-a-vis Rouble; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the value of Rouble has been appreciated in exchange with Rupee; if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Rupee-Rouble exchange rate has undergone a change with effect from 20.11.1988. The present rate of exchange between Rouble and Rupee is Rouble 1 = Rs. 18.119.

(b) The value of Rouble has appreciated in terms of Rupee. The Rouble-Rupee exchange rate is determined from time to time in accordance with the provisions of Protocol dated 25.11.1978 between the Govern-

ment of India and the Government of USSR. According to this, Rupee-Rouble exchange rate is adjusted with reference to the Rupee value of the basket of currencies, specified under the Protocol.

Export of Diamonds

2101. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to increase the export of diamonds; and

(b) the target set for the export of diamonds in 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI): (a) Government has recently notified certain measures for promoting export of cut and polished diamonds. These include revised rates of replenishment, amendment to the Imprest Licensing procedure, improvements in bank credit facility, exemption under Section 80 HHC of Income Tax Act etc.

(b) A target of about Rs. 3740 crores has been fixed for exports of cut and polished diamonds for 1988-89 by the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council.

Loans Advanced by IDBI in Palghat, Kerala

2102. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received about the loans advanced by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) to farmers in Palghat in Kerala;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The Industrial

Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that it does not advance loans to the agricultural sector and hence is not aware of any complaint received about the loan advanced to farmers in Palghat (Kerala).

Modification of Gold Control Act

2103. SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering modification of Gold Control Act to allow liberal imports of gold by individuals;

(b) the considerations on which such a liberalisation is being thought of;

(c) the precise modifications which are proposed to be made in the Gold Control Act;

(d) how far the proposed modifications will check the smuggling of gold which has reached about 200 tonnes during the current year; and

(e) what will be the effect of the proposed modifications on the economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA): (a) to (e). The Government had set up two Working Groups, one headed by Shri J. Datta and the other by Dr. C. Rangarajan, to look into the Gold Control Act and the policy on gold. The recommendations of Datta Committee *inter alia* include increase in limits of primary gold to be possessed by goldsmiths; modifications in records and returns; review of the system of licensing of gold dealers and relaxations under the Gold (Control) Act to facilitate export; the Rangarajan Committee has, *inter alia* suggested modifications in Gold (Control) Act, review of the present ceiling on the aggregate value of gold jewellery that could be brought into India free of duty under the Transfer of Residence Rules, 1978 and Baggage Rules, 1978. Government are considering some appropriate legislative changes in connection with the Gold Control Act on the basis of the recommendations made by these two

Working Groups and also keeping in view general considerations, such as the need for prevention of the smuggling of gold. Some of the procedural aspects of the former Working Group have already been given effect to.

Computerisation in Banks

2104. SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which computers have been introduced in the banks as on 31 October, 1988, bank-wise;

(b) whether computerisation in the banks has been introduced as per Government's decision; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken to secure full computerisation and to mechanise banking operations to improve customer service and their own house-keeping?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) As per the information furnished by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as on 30th September, 1988, the public sector banks have installed 3615 Advanced Ledger Posting Machines (ALPMs) at their branches and 186 mini computers at Regional/Zonal Offices. One bank has in-

stalled a mainframe computer at its Head Office. The bank-wise details are given in the Statement below. In addition, some banks have installed mini computers for undertaking specialised business.

(b) and (c). Computerisation and mechanisation in the banking industry had been initiated with the main objective of improving the Customer Service, and to have better house-keeping and more effective Management Information System. The programme of computerisation had been drawn up on the basis of the recommendations of the Rangarajan Committee set up by Reserve Bank of India. The recommendations of the Committee are being implemented by the banks in a phased manner after taking into account the terms of settlements arrived at in 1983 and 1987 between the Indian Banks' Association and the major workmen unions. The progress achieved by the banks in this regard is being closely monitored by Reserve Bank of India on continual basis.

Taking into account the requirements of banks in future and to improve Customer Service and productivity, the Reserve Bank of India has set up high powered Committee in September, 1988 to prepare a perspective plan for computerisation of banks for the next five years covering the period 1990 to 1994.

STATEMENT

Bank-wise position of mechanisation/computerisation at branch and regional/Zonal Office level of public sector banks

Position as on 30.9.1988

S.No.	Name of Bank	Status of Mechanisation at Branch Level	Status of Computerisation at Regional/Zonal Offices Level
		No. of ALPMs installed	No. of Mini-computers installed
1	2	3	4
1.	State Bank of India	549	57
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	96	2

1	2	3	4
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	45	1
4.	State Bank of Indore	30	1
5.	State Bank of Mysore	55	2
6.	State Bank of Patiala	51	2
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	50	2
8.	State Bank of Travancore	54	4
9.	Allahabad Bank	129	8
10.	Andhra Bank	83	6
11.	Bank of Baroda	325	10
12.	Bank of India	213	11
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	71	8
14.	Canara Bank	250	5
15.	Central Bank of India	215	8
16.	Corporation Bank	31	6
17.	Dena Bank	82	4
18.	Indian Bank	207	7
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	225	5
20.	New Bank of India	64	1
21.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	51	1
22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	51	2
23.	Punjab National Bank	156	9
24.	Syndicate Bank	138	5
25.	Union Bank of India	150	6
26.	United Bank of India	92	5
27.	UCO Bank	96	4
28.	Vijaya Bank	56	4
Total		3615	186

Malpractices in EOU's

2105. SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Export Oriented Units have misused the excise free raw materials imported for producing goods for export;

(b) if so, the contributory circumstances therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to eliminate such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) to (c). It is not correct that a large number of Export Oriented units have misused facilities extended under the scheme of 100% Export Oriented Units. A few cases of malpractices with a view to secure unintended benefits through sales in the Domestic Tariff Area have been detected. Action has been taken against such malpractices through confiscation of goods, imposition of duties and fines, suspension of licence etc.

[Translation]

News-item Captioned "Malkhane main Rakhi Heroin Wa Charas Gayab"

2106. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Malkhane Main Rakhi Heroin wa Charas Gayab" appearing in the Daily Rajasthan Patrika (Jodhpur) dated 16 October, 1988;

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

(c) the action taken by Government against the offenders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. It has been reported by the

Customs and Central Excise Collectorate, Jaipur that the Drug Destruction Committee of that Collectorate has found, on verification of stock, a shortage of 23 packets of heroin and 27 packets of charas. The Collector has been directed to suspend the officials involved and besides the departmental action being taken against them to take action under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 which, *inter alia* provides for deterrent punishment for officials wilfully conniving at the contravention of the provisions of the Act and for abetment of trafficking offences.

To prevent recurrence of such an eventuality in future, instructions have been issued to all Collectors of Customs and Central Excise to exercise utmost circumspection and vigil over drugs in custody and to introduce a system of periodical stock verification. The State enforcement agencies have also been advised to take similar action.

Plantation along Barmer-Balotra Railway Line

2107. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Northern Railway has formulated a scheme to plant trees and shrubs along both sides of the railway line between Barmer and Balotra in Rajasthan to check and control the dust storms there during the summer season;

(b) if so, the details therefor?

(c) the progress made so far in implementation of this scheme; and

(d) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented fully and the programme chalked out in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Scheme formulated in consultation with the Central Arid Research Institute (CAZARI) is for plantation of specified

species of trees on railway land along the track most prone to shifting sand dunes.

(c) About 7500 trees have already been planted.

(d) The first phase of the scheme is likely to be completed in three years' time. Further expansion of the Scheme would depend on the efficacy of this phase.

Demand for Daily Running of Marwar Express

2108. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 507 UP/508 DN Marwar Express runs twice a week between Jodhpur and Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, whether all the coaches in the above trains remain full and the waiting list is also quite long;

(c) whether the railways administration would meet the public demand by running this train daily; and

(d) if so, when it would be done?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The matter is under active consideration.

[English]

Loan Assistance by World Bank

2109. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the loan assistance given by the World Bank to India for the years 1986, 1987 and 1988;

(b) the projects in respect of loan assistance by the World Bank for the years 1989 and 1990; and

(c) whether any further reduction in the

rate of interest has been promised by the World Bank by way of concessional assistance for the development of projects and programmes in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The World Bank's fiscal year is from 1st July to 30th June of the following year. The World Bank group (IBRD and IDA assistance committed to India during the Bank's fiscal years 1986, 1987 and 1988 was US dollars 2.37 billion, 2.81 billion and 2.97 billion respectively.

(b) At the Aid India Consortium meeting held in June, 1988, the World Bank has indicated that Bank group commitments to India for the fiscal year 1989 would be US dollar 2.7 billion. The figure for the fiscal year 1990 would be determined at the Aid India Consortium meeting to be held in June, 1989.

(c) No, Sir.

Fraud in Subsidiaries of General Insurance Corporation

2110. SHRI MANIK REDDY:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA
GAVIT:
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA:
SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI:
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fraud resulting in the smooth syphoning off of crores of rupees from the four subsidiaries of the General Insurance Corporation of India Limited has been unearthed by an ace insurance surveyor;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any arrest has been made in this regard; and

(d) whether any inquiry has since been conducted in the regard and if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). Government have seen a press news item which appears in the Blitz of 29th October, 1988 about alleged massive fraud resulting in the settlement of claims relating to stolen vehicles. Since the subject matter of the report refers to the role of the Regional Transport Authority, Bombay and the Bombay Municipal Corporation, General Insurance Corporation of India, which is the holding company of four subsidiary insurance companies, namely, National Insurance Co. Ltd., New India Assurance Co. Ltd., Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd. and United India Insurance Co. Ltd., have referred the matter to the State police for investigation. They have advised their companies to collect details of total loss claims paid on stolen vehicles in Bombay since 1984. They are also taking necessary steps to make possible recoveries, against claims settled on these stolen vehicles.

Erosion in Irrigation Structures

2111. SHRI MANIK REDDY:
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is erosion alongwith irrigation structures which has obliterated the natural drainage pattern in the country according to the Operation Research Group Study;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to minimise erosion with irrigation structures; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d). The problem of erosion or deterioration of natural drainage are studied by the State Governments/U.T. Administrations concerned. The steps required to check erosion or im-

prove drainage are site specific and are taken into account in the preparation of various schemes. The details of such schemes are not maintained at the Centre.

Seizure of Brown Sugar

2112. SHRI MANIK REDDY:
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the "Indian Express" (Madras) dated 8 October, 1988 wherein it is stated that Brown Sugar worth Rs. 58.5 crore had been seized in Bombay from five persons travelling on fake South Korean passport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any action has been taken against the culprits and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. As per details of the case reported to the Narcotics Control Bureau, on 7.10.1988, the officers of the Bombay Police attached to the Airport Security at Sahar airport intercepted five passengers bound for Geneva and on examination of their checked-in baggages, brown sugar weighing 58.5 kgs. was recovered and seized.

On further investigation, it was found that the South Korean passports in their possession were fake. Two of the persons were found to be Afghan nationals and the third, an Afghan refugee from Delhi. The other two were Indian and Tibetan nationals from Mizoram.

No precise value of the drugs seized can be determined as this is dependent upon various factors like purity of the drug, places of origin and sale, local demand and supply, etc.

All the five persons have been arrested for appropriate action under the law.

Nationalisation of Scheduled Banks

2113. SHRI MANIK REDDY:

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to nationalise some more scheduled banks in near future in accordance with the prescribed rules;

(b) if so, the names of the banks proposed to be nationalised; and

(c) the time by which they will be nationalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Passenger Amenities at Girimaidan in Kharagpur

2114. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue earned from Girimaidan railway station in Kharagpur division from 1 January, 1987 to 30 September, 1988, month-wise;

(b) whether there is any scheme to provide passenger amenities like telephone, sanitation and other essential amenities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the same is likely to be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) A sum of Rs. 1584 thousand was collected at Girimaidan railway station from 1-1-87 to 30-9-88. Monthwise details are given in the statement below.

(b) and (c). Girimaidan was opened as a

passenger halt on 19-1-85. Essential Amenities have been provided viz. (i) high level platform to cover 8 EMU coaches (ii) one small shelter with R.C. Benches (iii) Booking office with suitable covered verandah (iv) one tap for drinking water (v) one sanitized latrine (vi) station electrified (vii) Public Address System. There is a plan to provide 100 ft. long platform over and 4 Nos. of Mosaic Benches. These are likely to be provided by March, 1989.

STATEMENT

Month-wise earning of Girimaidan railway station from January, 87 to September, '88

(Figures in thousand Rs.)

Month	Amount
1/87	61
2/87	59
3/87	61
4/87	59
5/87	74
6/87	73
7/87	73
8/87	68
9/87	63
10/87	86
11/87	64
12/87	73
1/88	73
2/88	76
3/88	80
4/88	81
5/88	84

Month	Amount
6/88	127
7/88	78
8/88	80
9/88	82
	1584

Recruitment of Doctors for South Eastern Railway Hospitals

2115. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the sanctioned strength of doctors for the hospitals and dispensaries on South Eastern Railway;

(b) the actual strength as on date;

(c) the number of doctors on the South Eastern Railway going to retire by 31 March, 1989; and

(d) whether in view of the scarcity of doctors on the Railways, particularly on South Eastern Railway Government propose to recruit doctors on ad hoc basis so that demand of the patients can be met?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) 304

(b) 264

(c) 9

(d) Recruitment of ad hoc doctors is not feasible. Efforts are, therefore, being made to meet the shortage of doctors on the Railways by recruitments through the Union Public Service Commission as far as possible.

Modernisation and Traffic Performance of Railways

2116. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:
SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have planned massive modernisation to almost double the freight and passenger traffic by the end of the century;

(b) if so, whether any concrete proposals have been prepared in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by what time the same will be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c). Indian Railways have prepared a Corporate Plan for the period 1985-2000 which lays down broad strategies to augment transport capacity of the System to match with the growth in demand. These strategies will be concretised in short-term planning exercises which will also set the time-frame, for implementation.

World Bank Assistance to Developing Countries

2117. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU:
SHRI S. B. SIDNAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has decided to finance 30 projects designed to assist Government in developing countries to privatise state enterprises;

(b) if so, whether any project from India has also been included; and

(c) if so, the names of the projects and the amount of loan to be provided.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). No such

proposal with reference to India has been made by the World Bank.

(c) Does not arise.

Outstanding Loans of Banks and Financial Institutions

2118. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total overdues of the banks and other financial institutions at the end of June, 1988 and their sector-wise break up, also the percentage of each sector for (i) large and medium scale industries, (ii) small scale industries, (iii) agriculture, and (iv) others;

(b) the details thereof as on 30 June of 1985, 1986 and 1987; and

(c) the names of the sectors in order to increase the overdues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The overdues of the public sector banks as at the end of December 1985, December 1986 and December 1987 (latest available) amounted to Rs. 7214 crores, Rs. 8824 crores and Rs. 10972 crores respectively which works out to 14.61 percent, 15.69 percent and 17.39 percent of the total outstanding advances of various sectors is as under:

	<i>Percentage of overdues to outstanding advances at the end of</i>		
	Dec. 1985	Dec. 1986	Dec. 1987
Large and medium Industries	13.14	14.00	15.60
SSI (including Industrial Estt.)	18.57	19.56	20.49
Agriculture	20.93	20.86	21.30
Other priority sectors	26.58	27.69	29.54
All others	6.39	7.70	9.93

Rate of Interest on Agricultural Loans

2119. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether loan for agriculture sector is advanced on concessional interest rate of 4 per cent; and

(b) the actual rate of interest that the farmer is usually paying to the village societies, State-wise, which get loan from district level banks (which get reimbursement from the Apex Banks)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The scheduled commercial banks provide loans at an interest rate of 4% per annum under Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme. The loans under DRI scheme cover activities falling in agricultural sector as well as in industry/service/business sectors. The general interest rates chargeable on crop loans from borrower farmers, however, vary from 10% per annum to 15.5% per annum depending upon the size of loan. The same

interest rates are applicable to loans given by the Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACs) to farmer borrowers.

Common Causes of Train Accidents

2120. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the most common causes of train accidents that occurred in 1988 as per the Reports of the Railway Accidents Committee; and

(b) what measures are being adopted to prevent accidents due to these causes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Failure of railway staff, equipment failure and failure of road users were the major causes of accidents during the period January to October, 1988.

(b) The following steps are being taken to prevent accidents;

- (i) Greater emphasis on training, refresher courses, etc. to safety categories of staff viz. drivers, switchmen and cabinmen etc.
- (ii) Revamping of training systems, methods and procedures, etc. through use of modern teaching aids like slide projectors, practical demonstrations, etc.
- (iii) Greater emphasis upon rehabilitation of rolling stock, including passenger coaches.
- (iv) Increased pace of track renewals.
- (v) Induction of sophisticated technology to supplement human vigilance viz., auxiliary warning system, axle counters, etc.
- (vi) Ultrasonic testing of axles and rails.
- (vii) Modernisation of workshops to improve the quality of repairs and maintenance.

(viii) Educative campaigns through the medium of All India Radio, Door-darshan for educating the road users about the precautions to be observed while negotiating level crossings.

(ix) Enlisting the co-operation of State Governments to educate road users before issue/renewal of driving licenses.

Norms for Marketable Lots of Shares

2121. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has reviewed the decision on the norms for marketable lots of shares;

(b) the features of the new schemes proposed; and

(c) to what extent it will be helpful to companies and share-holders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The leading Stock Exchanges had initiated steps for ensuring the uniform trading lots of 10 shares of Rs. 100/- each or 100 shares of Rs. 10/- each requiring that trading lots other than these would be converted to the above desired lots at time of further issues or as early as possible preferably at the time of next book closure. Accordingly, shares of some companies were converted into such desired lots. However, in view of the reported problems being faced by small investors due to this change, the matter was considered in detail with representatives of Stock Exchanges and it was decided that.

- (i) the Stock Exchanges will not proceed with such requirements for conversion of existing trading lots of 50 shares into 100 shares of face value of Rs. 10/- or of 5 to 10 of face value of Rs. 100/-.

- (ii) they will ensure that the shares of those companies which have recently been converted into trading lots of 100 shares of Rs. 10/- each, or 10 shares of Rs. 100/- each, are restored to the previous position of lots of 50 shares/5 shares latest with the time of next book closure.
- (iii) in cases of new public issues, where offer for subscription and allotments of shares are in lots of 100 shares of Rs. 10/- each, no change in trading lot be effected. It is considered that this decision will be helpful to the companies as well as shareholders.

Impact of Integration of EEC into a Single Market

2122. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:
SHRI P. M. SAYEED:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study was conducted to assess the impact of the proposed integration of the European Economic Community (EEC) into a single market by 1992;

(b) if so, the details of the same;

(c) the target fixed for exports to the EEC during 1988-89.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI): (a) to (c). A study of the measures initiated for integration of the European Market indicates that the proposals cover simplification and abolition of frontier controls on goods, freedom of movement and establishment for people, implementation of the new approach for technical harmonisation and standards and prevention of new technical barriers, opening of public procurement markets, liberalisation of capital movements, company law and taxation, intellectual and industrial property removal of fiscal frontiers and liberalisation of capital movements and in the services sector, financial services, banking, insurance, securities markets and transport. Since a large

number of the proposals have yet to be adopted by the EEC, exact impact of these on our trade cannot be assessed accurately.

(d) Export targets are fixed commodity wise, on a global basis.

Technology Finance and Development Scheme

2123. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced the details of the technology finance and development scheme implemented by the Risk Capital and Technology Finance Corporation;

(b) if so, the thrust areas identified in this regard;

(c) the activities covered under the scheme to accelerate the pace of technological progress in industry; and

(d) the rate of interest charged under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The Risk Capital and Technology Finance Corporation Ltd. (RCTC) apart from providing assistance in the form of risk capital is expected to provide finance for hi tech projects in the form of venture capital and for technology upgradation and development.

The accent in technology finance is to be on funding the following activities:

- (i) Proving of substantially innovative technologies, products, processes, markets, services, technological upgradation, energy conservation, control of environmental pollution and supporting infrastructure for advanced or complex technologies developed either through In-house (R&D) efforts, or in recognised research laboratories and Centres of higher learning, to the commercial

stage, entailing customer acceptance and/or acceptable production economies. These may include the setting up of pilot plants, demonstration scale plants and studies, R & D activities, specialised training, proto-type manufacture and evaluation, proving of quality and market acceptability, etc.

- (ii) Meeting the expenditure of national, international consultants/institutions for substantial product/process/ technology improvement and innovation.
- (iii) Sponsored commercial R & D programmes.

(d) Assistance will be provided in any one or more of the following forms, depending upon merits of each case:

i) *Conventional loans:*

Regular loans to be repaid according to certain predetermined conditions viz., interest rate, grace period, repayment period, etc.

ii) *Conditional/Development loans:*

Financial instruments that allow profit and risk sharing with project sponsors.

iii) *Investment in Equity Shares of the concern:*

The rate of interest/repayment, etc., will depend upon the nature of assistance provided.

Grants to States

2124. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of grants allotted to various States by Union Government during 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88; state-wise; and

(b) the amount given to Andhra Pradesh as loan during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE: (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) A statement is given below.

(b) Following amounts were released to Andhra Pradesh as loan during 1985-86 to 1987-88:

	Amount (Rs.Crores)
1985-86	231.16
1986-87	204.38
1987-88	223.39

STATEMENT

Amounts of grants for State Plans released to the States during 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	States	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	99.07	87.59	95.73
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	15.67	119.94
3.	Assam	159.26	183.29	208.08
4.	Bihar	161.77	135.68	150.25

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Gujarat	61.28	65.79	64.30
6.	Haryana	48.22	24.18	17.80
7.	Himachal Pradesh	152.89	150.74	207.03
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	109.26	120.46	139.50
9.	Karnataka	61.38	62.47	61.73
10.	Kerala	86.76	83.76	65.67
11.	Madhya Pradesh	95.59	102.81	113.77
12.	Maharashtra	105.36	109.72	105.30
13.	Manipur	89.03	95.37	108.03
14.	Meghalaya	57.93	82.46	97.38
15.	Mizoram	-	8.39	54.62
16.	Nagaland	110.98	122.01	143.60
17.	Orissa	60.55	72.32	78.60
18.	Punjab	76.94	16.58	14.57
19.	Rajasthan	67.06	70.98	80.60
20.	Sikkim	40.39	47.22	53.42
21.	Tamil Nadu	97.08	89.27	112.85
22.	Tripura	82.96	96.81	113.06
23.	Uttar Pradesh	304.96	322.27	373.39
24.	West Bengal	66.90	79.78	88.40
25.	Goa	-	-	24.96
Total		2195.62	2246.62	2601.86

Collection of Direct and Indirect Taxes

2125. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of direct and indirect taxes collected by Union Government from

the States during the last three financial years; and

(b) the amount States had received from the Centre's divisible pool, State-wise, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DE-

PARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA) (a)
The amount of Direct and Indirect Taxes

collected by Union Government from the States during the last three financial years is as under:

	(Rs. in crores)	
	Direct Taxes	Indirect Taxes
1985-86	5,539.00	22,446.10
1986-87	6,221.00	25,878.29
1987-88	6,758.50	30,188.58

(b) Amount paid to States as their share of Central Taxes and duties during 1985-86 to 1987-88 is as under:

		(Rs. in crores)		
Sl.No.	States	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	581.83	657.09	732.08
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	5.79	63.52
3.	Assam	256.53	299.76	338.40
4.	Bihar	855.75	966.45	1077.25
5.	Gujarat	284.98	322.65	360.62
6.	Goa	-	-	27.95
7.	Haryana	85.57	97.06	107.53
8.	Himachal Pradesh	101.29	121.43	142.57
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	146.37	170.45	104.92
10.	Karnataka	356.00	403.73	451.11
11.	Kerala	266.21	300.83	335.61
12.	Madhya Pradesh	589.44	667.58	743.78
13.	Maharashtra	522.96	593.28	667.25
14.	Manipur	55.94	68.11	80.87
15.	Meghalaya	45.53	55.25	65.20
16.	Mizoram	-	5.85	65.33
17.	Nagaland	58.56	72.67	87.76

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Orissa	346.21	374.98	402.14
19.	Punjab	121.89	138.29	155.45
20.	Rajasthan	325.30	367.89	410.32
21.	Sikkim	11.60	14.14	16.81
22.	Tamil Nadu	516.74	585.07	653.90
23.	Tripura	67.45	81.71	96.67
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1262.47	1427.60	1593.12
25.	West Bengal	623.52	678.26	728.66

Assistance by Banks to Drought Hit Farmers

2126. SHRI V.TULSIRAM:
SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had issued directions to the banks to help the drought hit farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the financial help given, so far to the farmers, State-wise; and

(d) the terms of repayment in case it is a loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a), (b) and (d). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued detailed guidelines to the commercial banks for providing credit assistance to the persons affected by drought and other natural calamities. The guidelines envisage conversion of short term loans into medium term loans and reschedulement of investment credit apart from giving fresh crop loans. Banks have also been advised to provide assistance for raising alternative crops or fodder

production of seeds in such cases and to raise the consumption loan to Rs. 500/- to weaker section.

(c) The existing data reporting system does not yield statewide information as desired. However, assistance extended by the public sector banks to persons affected by drought in the country as at the end of January, 1988 was to the extent of Rs. 78,604 lakhs in 18,48,247 borrowal accounts.

Bank Loans for Housing

2127. SHRI V. TULSIRAM:
SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued directions to the banks for liberal terms and conditions for housing loans to the public as reported in the Economic Times of 2 November, 1988;

(b) the ratio of the poor and rich persons likely to get loans from the banks, State-wise;

(c) the maximum and minimum limit of loan to be given to an individual;

(d) the terms of repayment of loan together with interest thereon; and

(e) whether some preference will be given to the States like Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (d). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued the following guidelines during October - November, 1988 for giving loans on liberal terms for housing purposes as under:

- (i) The maximum period of repayment of housing loan from commercial banks which was 10 years has been extended upto 15 years.
- (ii) The maximum margin has been reduced from 50% to 35%.
- (iii) The rate of interest for housing loan has been altered with effect from October 10, 1988 as under:

	Amount of loan	Rate of Interest (% p.a.)
(I)	Upto Rs. 20,000	12.5
(II)	Above Rs. 20,000 and upto Rs. 50,000	13.5
(III)	Above Rs. 50,000 and upto Rs. 1 lakh	14.0
(IV)	Above Rs. 1 lakh	14.5 - 16.0

The rate of interest for housing loans for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes upto and inclusive of Rs. 5,000/- remains unchanged at 4% p.a.

- (iv) Where mortgage of property or bank guarantee is not feasible, banks have been permitted to accept other forms of securities such as Life Insurance Policies, Government Promissory Notes, Shares and Debentures, Gold Ornaments, etc.
- (v) The banks will also have the discretion to fix the repayment instalments in such a way that housing loans become more affordable by the lower income groups and repayment instalments may not exceed normally 30% of the income of the borrower.
- (vi) In the case of individuals who might have raised funds from other sources, bank have been permitted to provide supplementary finance.
- (vii) Banks have been permitted to ex-

tend credit for additions, repairs and alterations of houses.

(b) RBI advised the banks on 16th March, 1988 to ensure that atleast 50% of the amount advances for housing to individuals/group of borrowers etc. and lending to HUDCO, Housing Boards, HDFC and other housing agencies for constructions of houses should be for SC/STs, economically weaker sections and low income groups. No State-wise target has been fixed for providing housing loans by banks.

(c) While no minimum amount of housing loan an individual can take has been specified, the maximum has not to exceed Rs. 3 lakhs.

(e) RBI has reported that no preference is given to any State. Guidelines on housing finance are applicable uniformly to the entire country.

New Alarm Chain System

2128. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new alarm chain system has been introduced in the trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the Railway zones where this new system has been introduced and the extent to which it has proved successful for the purpose;

(d) the estimated expenditure involved; and

(e) whether it is introduced with indigenous know-how or imported technology alongwith details?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. New coaches being manufactured now are being provided with this arrangement. Old coaches are also being modified to incorporate this system.

(b) The system incorporates a hooter and flash light indicator to identify the coach quickly where the alarm chain is pulled. The clappet valve has also been relocated so that miscreants cannot operate the alarm chain system from outside the coach easily. The number of alarm chain points have also been rationalised.

(c) The new system is being introduced on all the Zonal Railways. This arrangement has proved successful in reducing miscreants activity.

(d) Rs. 27 Crores (Approximately).

(e) With indigenous know-how only.

Irregularities in State Bank of Indore

2129. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of financial irregularities detected in the State Bank of Indore during the last three years including current year so far, together with the amount involved; and

(b) the action taken against the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) According to RBI, the total number of cases of frauds detected in various branches of State Bank of Indore and amount involved therein, as reported to it by the bank, during the years 1985, 1986, 1987 and 1988 (upto 30.9.88) is as indicated below:

Year	No. of cases of frauds	Amount involved (Rs. in lakhs)
1985	13	672.60
1986	17	37.35
1987	44	231.96
1988 (upto 30.9.88)	9	12.93

(Data provisional)

(b) RBI has further reported that in connection with these frauds, State Bank of In-

dore has taken action against 172 officials as indicated below:

(1) No. of employees given major/minor penalty

(2)	No. of employees out of (1) above dismissed/ discharged/removed	-	13
(3)	No. of employees against whom prosecution is pending in Courts	-	13
(4)	No. of employees against whom disciplinary proceedings are pending	-	131

(Data provisional)

Expenditure Incurred by State Bank of Indore on Litigations

2130. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by the State Bank of Indore on litigations during the last three years;

(b) whether there has been a steep increase in such expenditure;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the percentage of such expenditure spent on lawyers fees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) State Bank of Indore has reported to have incurred the following expenditure on litigation during the last three years:

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1985	7.50
1986	14.41
1987	25.06

(b) and (c). Due to increase in cases involving refusal to renew documents by the borrowers, the Bank has to resort to recovery through legal recourse to avoid docu-

ments becoming time barred. This has resulted in steep increase in expenditure on litigation.

(d) Percentage of such expenditure spent on litigation to lawyers' fees is as under:

1985	—	12.13%
1986	—	11.45%
1987	—	10.50%

Visit of Trade Delegation of USSR

2131. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level delegation from the Soviet Union visited for improvement of Indo-Soviet Trade Plan for 1989;

(b) if so, the main points of discussions:

(c) whether the Soviet Union has agreed to improve the trade with India and new contracts in this regard have been signed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI): (a) to (d). Recently a Soviet delegation led by Mr. V. F. Mordvinov, Deputy Minister for Foreign Relations of the USSR visited India for conclusion of the Indo-Soviet Annual Trade Plan for 1989. The Indian delegation was led by Shri A. N. Varma, Commerce Secretary. The Trade Protocol for 1989 was signed on 16th November,

1988. The Trade Plan envisages a trade turnover of Rs. 7000 crores between the two countries in 1989 comprising of Rs. 3880 crores as India's exports to the USSR and Rs. 3200 crores as imports from the USSR. This would represent a growth rate of about 35% over the expected trade turnover during 1988.

Apart from increasing the provisions in respect of a number of existing items, a number of new items have been added to trade basket by way of diversification. This includes analyser for quality control of agricultural products, sports shoes, razor blades, detergents, industrial laminates, castings for railway wagons, abrasives goods etc. in the list of Indian export and equipment and materials for railways, benzene, pig iron etc., in India's import list.

The implementation of the trade plan will be through specific contracts that would be signed between the actual importing and exporting organisations of the two countries.

Impact of Decanalisation of Leather Items on STC

2132. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL :
SHRI S.B. SIDNAL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decanalisation of leather items had impact on State Trading Corporation (STC) budget;

(b) if so, whether the STC's budget has come down in 1988-89 compared to previous year;

(c) the main reasons for this and whether the low budgeting has affected the STC working; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures being contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) to (d). STC's original export target was Rs. 700 crores for 1988-89 which

included canalised leather items of semi-processed leather and footwear. However, after decanalisation of leather items the State Trading Corporation had fixed revised export targets for different commodities retaining the target of Rs. 700 crores.

Quota of Berths at Rajkot

2133. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there exists any reservation quota from Rajkot to Ahmedabad in 6 Up Saurashtra train in IIInd A/C or 1st Class;

(b) if not, the steps taken to provide reservation quotas from Rajkot in this train;

(c) whether there are demands to add special coaches of IIInd Class A/C and 1st Class from Rajkot; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The quotas available at Rajkot are for journeys to stations beyond Ahmedabad. However, passengers holding upper class tickets upto Ahmedabad are accommodated to the extent of vacant berths available on 'first come first served' basis.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) At present, it is not proposed to attach air-conditioned/first class coaches on this train, due to shortage of such stock on Indian Railways.

Appointment on Compassionate Ground in N.F. Railway

2134. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of cases for appointment on compassionate ground are pending in North Frontier Railway for last three years; and

(b) if so, the number of such cases since last three years, year-wise alongwith the reasons for delay in settling up those cases and steps taken or proposed to be taken to settle them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). The number of cases pending consideration for appointment on compassionate grounds on the Northeast Frontier Railway at the end of the years 1985 to 1987 are as under:

Year	Group 'C'	Group 'D'	Total
1985	237	1380	1617
1986	264	1045	1309
1987	352	1102	1454

2. Delay in finalising these cases is mainly due to difficulty in finding adequate and suitable vacancies in Group 'D' for female candidates many of whom are not literate. Further, 50% of Group D vacancies in Assam Area also required to be filled up by candidates sponsored by the Employment Exchange.

3. Action is taken by the Railway Administration to appoint as many widows as possible on Compassionate grounds by issuing local instructions for the purpose.

Procurement of Cashewnuts in Kerala

2135. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was proposed to procure cashewnuts in Kerala through the State Trading Corporation (STC);

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the financial assistance given to Government of Kerala for procurement of cashewnuts;

(d) whether the entire financial assistance was made use of; and

(e) the steps Government contemplate for procurement of cashewnuts in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). No Sir. The Kerala Govt. has already introduced a scheme for procuring cashewnuts in Kerala.

(c) and (d). No direct financial assistance has been made by the Central Government to the Government of Kerala for procurement of Cashewnuts. The State Government institutions engaged in procuring and processing cashewnuts in Kerala have availed of credit facilities from banks.

(e) The Government of Kerala has already initiated a scheme in the State for procurement of raw cashewnuts in the State.

[Translation]

Balance of Payments

2137. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of the balance of payment;

(b) whether at present imports of the country are more than its exports;

(c) if so, the details in this regard for the current financial year;

(d) whether Government have imposed restrictions on the quantity of certain export items;

(e) if so, the item-wise details thereof; and

(f) the concrete steps taken by Government so far to check the adverse trend in balance of payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The balance of payments data, as compiled and released by the RBI, are not available for period beyond the first quarter of 1987-88. The DGCI & S information on India's foreign trade and movements in foreign exchange reserves however indicate a difficult but manageable balance of payments situation during the current financial year.

(b) and (c). According to the latest available information from DGCI & S, during April-August, 1988 exports amounted to Rs. 7,313 crores and imports to Rs. 10,797 crores, both on a provisional basis. These figures imply a growth rate of 20.4 % for exports and 27.6 per cent for imports in comparison with the same period in 1987-88.

(d) and (e). There are a number of items exports of which are allowed within limited permissible ceiling during 1988-89. These include crushed bones, steamed crushed bones, live sheep (adult), live goat (adult), iodised salt, corundum other than sapphires and rubies, calcium carbide, pyrophyllite, butyl alcohol, insoluble sulphur, jaggery, textile cloth dyed in O.G. shade, textile cloth other than O.G. material, viscose staple fibre spun yarn, polyester staple fibre, polyester yarn, magnesite with silica content between 4.5% to 7.5%, semi-processed leathers, pure milk ghee, manufactured articles made out of whole antlers, manufactured articles made out of processed cut material and shavings, manufactured articles made out of porcupine quills, peacock tail feathers and articles/handicrafts made therefrom, raw wool upto 36s quality (indigenous) except Angora goat hair or mohair, non-Basmati rice, rayon filament yarn, khandsari sugar, palmyrah sugar candy, wheat, wheat products, barely, maize, bajra, jowar, Ragi, vanaspati ghee,

cotton seed expeller cakes, wheat straw and wool tops including wool noils.

(f) The balance of payments situation is being continuously and carefully monitored. Measures have been taken to generate additional exports, contain imports and augment foreign exchange flows through NRI deposits/bonds, additional direct/indirect investments and increased tourism receipts in order to strengthen the balance of payments position.

Medta-Pushkar Railway Line

2138. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for construction of Medta-Pushkar railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Amounts locked up in Sick and Closed Industries

2139. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of the banks and other financial institutions held up in sick and closed industries and the steps taken so far (including further financial help) to remove the sickness thereof;

(b) the amount of the banks, etc. help up in sick farming sector and the steps taken so far (including further financial help) to remove the sickness thereof; and

(c) the amount of overdues towards the industrial sector and the agriculture sector, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as at the end of June '87 banks outstanding advances against the sick units stood at Rs. 4222.69 crores. Bank's outstanding advances locked-up in closed units/units in liquidation were Rs.143.28 crores. The amount outstanding in sick industrial units in respect of financial institutions namely Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI), Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India (IRBI) & Industrial Credit & Investment Corporation of India Limited (ICICI) stood at Rs. 1361.40 crores as at the end of June, 1987.

RBI has reported that guidelines have been issued to the banks envisaging, *inter alia*, drawing up of rehabilitation packages in respect of potentially viable sick units, providing need based credit facilities to support genuine production activity phased repayment of overdues etc. Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction, set up under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, also takes preventive, ameliorative, remedial and other measures in respect of sick companies as per provisions of the Act.

(c) As at the end of June 1987, the overdues of public sector banks were as follows:

(Amount in Rs. lakhs)

1.	Industry (Large & Medium)	261336.77
2.	SSI including Industrial Estate	193679.98
3.	Agriculture	223990.67

Issue of Coins with Bust of National Leaders

value of the coin, (iii) year of issue, and (iv) number of coins issued from time to time?

2140. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the various coins issued by Government with the bust of national leaders along with the following details (i) name of the leader, (ii)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): Coins with the bust of the following national leaders have been issued:

	Name of the leader	Denomination of the coin	Year of issue
(a)	Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru	Rupee 1 and 50 paise	1964
(b)	Mahatma Gandhi	Rupees 10, Rupee 1, 50 paise and 20 paise	1969
(c)	Smt. Indira Gandhi	Rs. 100, Rupees 20, Rupees 5 and 50 paise	1985
(d)	Jawaharlal Nehru	Rupees 100, Rupees 20, Rupees 5, and Rupee 1	1988

Information regarding number of coins issued from time to time is being collected.

[Translation]

Introduction of a Direct Express Train between Delhi and Ram Nagar

2141. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to introduce a direct express train between Delhi and Ramnagar on the demand of the local public; and

(b) if so, the time by which it will be introduced?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). A direct express namely 55A/56A in conjunction with 55/56 Express between Delhi and Ramnagar is already available which is adequate for the present level of traffic.

Opening of Branches of Regional Rural Bank in Almora District

2142. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the places selected in Almora district of Uttar Pradesh by State Government and the banks for setting up of branches of regional rural banks in 1988-89 and 1989-90 and the places for which licences have been issued to open bank branches;

(b) whether there is also a demand for opening the bank branches in Bhondanda, Manan, Dhyadi, Tadagtal, Chonaliya, Syoni in this district; and

(c) if so, the time by which bank branches will be opened at these places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that out of 38 centres identified in District Almora by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for opening bank branches under the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90, licences had been issued for 12 eligible centres including seven centres of RRB as per details given below:

Name of Centre	Name of allottee Bank	Date of opening the branch
1	2	3
1. Chhina	Regional Rural Bank	-
2. Dhauladevi	State Bank of India	12.1.1988
3. Chalni Chhina	State Bank of India	18.6.1988
4. Kanari Chhina	Regional Rural Bank	-
5. Bohla	Regional Rural Bank	-
6. Chilianaula	State Bank of India	-
7. Sindra	Regional Rural Bank	-
8. Paisia	State Bank of India	21.9.1988
9. Bharari	Regional Rural Bank	-
10. Harsila	Regional Rural Bank	-

1	2	3
11. Loharkhet	Regional Rural Bank	-
12. Chagrigoal	State Bank of India	28.3.1988

In addition to 12 centres mentioned above following 26 centres were also recommended by the State Government for opening bank branches but were not found conforming to the norms of branch expansion policy by RBI.

1. Lodh Chaugaon
2. Kharakwalgaon
3. Naini
4. Kheti
5. Dhayari
6. Paudhar
7. Daulaghat
8. Almora Evening Branch
9. Syalidhar
10. Chitai
11. Raniket Evening Branch
12. Billekh
13. Chamarkham
14. Kafra
15. Pali
16. Sanra
17. Binayak
18. Ekhukhet
19. Marchula
20. Rima

21. Chaura
22. Bageshwar Evening Branch
23. Dafauto
24. Deotoli
25. Jaurasi
26. Taragtal

(b) RBI has reported that proposal was received for opening branches at Manan and Dayadi. The centre Manan was not considered for allotment as it had not included in the list of identified centres by the State Government under the current Plan as the block in which the centre falls is considered adequate in banking coverage on population norm. As regards the centre Dayadi, though it was included in the list of identified centres it was not considered for allotment by RBI as it was having meagre population of 172 as per 1981 census. The other centres namely Bhondanda, Tadagtal, Chonaliya and Syoni had not been included in the list of identified centres by the State Government.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Introduction of an Additional Passenger Train between Bangalore and Maddur

2143. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passenger trains running between Bangalore-Maddur every day;

(b) whether there is any demand for additional passenger train between Bangalore-Maddur and Maddur-Bangalore every day; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c). Nine pairs of trains are running daily on Bangalore-Maddur section which are sufficient for the present level of traffic.

Travel Concession to the Deaf

2144. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to provide travel concession to the deaf; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). 50% concession in first and second class single journey ticket fares and season ticket fares is admissible to deaf & dumb (both afflictions together) persons.

Loans Advanced by Financial Institutions

2146. SHRI H. M. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several financial institutions have advanced loans to such companies who are in the market for borrowing money through convertible debentures and public deposits; and

(b) the names of the companies which have been advanced an aggregate amount of more than Rs. 25 crores during 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87, by each of the financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Financial Institutions

encourage well established companies to resort to market borrowings by way of convertible/non-convertible debentures besides raising of funds by rights issue of shares in order to reduce the draft on institutional resources. Public deposits are also raised by companies including assisted companies of financial institutions for augmenting their working capital requirements.

(b) In accordance with the provisions of the Public Financial Institutions (Obligations as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, information relating to or to the affairs of their constituents cannot be divulged except in circumstances, in which it is, in accordance with law or practice and usage, customary among bankers, necessary or appropriate for them to divulge such information.

Outstanding Claims of GIC

2147. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the implementation statement of assurance given on 18th March, 1988 to Unstarred Question No. 3660 regarding claims entertained by GIC in Delhi laid on the table on 5 August, 1988 and state:

(a) the number of claims outstanding as on 1 November, 1988 with reasons for the delay in the speedy finalisation thereof;

(b) details of steps taken for speedy finalisation thereof;

(c) whether some of the insurance companies have referred the investigation to a second surveyor after getting the matter investigated from one surveyor; and

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in the settlement of the claims and the steps taken to check such tactics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Income Tax Assesses in Delhi

2148. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new income-tax assesses other than Government employees in Delhi listed during the last 12 months and how does this compare with the figures of the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken to bring up to date the income tax assessment year with reasons for slow progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA): (a) The number of new income-tax assesses other than Government employees in Delhi added during the last 12 months and the comparative figures of the last three years are as under:

<i>Period</i>	<i>Number of new income-tax assesses other than Govt. employees added in Delhi.</i>
From 1.10.87 to 30.9.88	55964
From 1.10.86 to 30.9.87	102628
From 1.10.85 to 30.9.86	125844
From 1.10.84 to 30.9.85	31822

(b) In pursuance of Direct Tax Laws (Amendment) Act, 1987 a new jurisdiction order was issued by the Board. The Income-tax department decided to clearly demarcate the jurisdiction of the Assessing Officers i.e., Dy. Commissioner (Asstt.), Assistant Commissioner and Income-tax Officer in terms of returns of income-tax filed with the Department. In pursuance of this all Chief Commissioners of Income-tax had to issue a fresh notification of jurisdiction which resulted in a large scale transfer of files. The low disposal of assessments are attributed to this re-organisation of the Department.

However, the Department is taking all possible steps to update the income-tax assessments of each assessee. It has an Action Plan target of reducing all the pendency as far as possible to nil by the close of the current financial year. Commissioners and Chief Commissioners of Income-tax are actively involved in expediting the disposal of assessments. Computers are also being

used in expeditious disposal of summary assessments.

Introduction of a Super Fast Train between Visakhapatnam and Delhi

2149. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to introduce a super fast train between Visakhapatnam and Delhi; and

(b) if so, the time by which it will be introduced?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). A Superfast service linked with 927/928 Karnataka Express is already available between Delhi and Visakhapatnam. There is no proposal to introduce a new service.

Committee on Floods

2150. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the two Committees set up by the Ministry to study the problem of floods and to suggest measures to give long term protection to the flood prone areas in the Eastern and North-Eastern States have since submitted their reports; and

(b) if so, the main recommendations thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). The Committees have not submitted the reports.

Chief Executives and Executive Directors of Public Sector Banks

2151. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the qualifications and experience prescribed for the Chief Executives and Executive Directors of public sector banks;

(b) the qualifications of the present Chief Executive of public sector banks before their joining the banks and the qualifications they acquired after they joined the banks; and

(c) the criteria being followed for giving extension to the Chief Executive and the Executive Directors of the banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Chairmen and Managing Directors and Executive Directors of the nationalised banks are appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Schemes 1970 and 1980. Likewise, the Chairman and Managing Director of State Bank of India are appointed in Accordance with the provisions of the State Bank of India act, 1955. The Nationalisation Schemes and State Bank of

India Act do not prescribe any specific qualifications and experience for these appointments.

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

(c) The statutes governing the public sector banks provide for reappointment of Chief Executives and other whole-time directors including Executive Directors of nationalised banks. Decision in each case of reappointment/extension is taken after a careful consideration of all relevant factors, including the performance of the bank concerned under the stewardship of the person concerned.

Check-off Facility to Registered Trade Unions in Public Sector Banks

2152. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the guidelines for extending the check-off facility to the registered trade unions have been fully implemented in public sector banks;

(b) whether the check-off facility, being fair labour practice and fundamental right of registered trade union in banks, has been extended in areas where no court cases are pending; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House to the extent available and permissible under the rules.

Sprinklers and Drip Irrigation System in Goa

2153. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any centrally sponsored scheme for sprinklers and drip system of irrigation is in force in the State of Goa;

(b) if so, when was it introduced; and

(c) the details of assistance/subsidy given by the Government during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). A Centrally Sponsored Scheme is in operation for all States/Union Territories since 1982-83, under which subsidy is available to the small and marginal farmers for installation of sprinklers and drip systems. No scheme for Goa has been sanctioned so far.

Allocation of Funds Under Command Area Development Programme to Goa

2154. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allotted any fund to the Government of Goa for the Command Area Development Programme for 1988-89;

(b) if so, the quantum of amount allotted;

(c) the names of the schemes under which the same is allotted;

(d) the manner in which and guidelines under which the amount is to be spent; and

(e) the target achieved by the State Government with respect to the funds allotted in the past?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Central assistance released to Goa for 1988-89 under CAD Programme is given below:

Grant	Rs. 45.59 lakhs
Loan	Rs. 5.00 lakhs

(d) Central Assistance is available for expenditure incurred on survey and planning, construction of field channels, warabandi, land levelling and measures like adaptive trials, training and demonstrations, farmers' participation etc.

(e) Targets and achievements during 7th Plan are given below:

Item	Targets for 7th Five Year Plan (Ha.)	1985-86	Achievements (Ha.)		Total
			1986-87	1987-88	
Field Channels	15,000	210	730	1500	2440
Land levelling & shaping	-	20	20	110	150
Warabandi	10,000	80	150	570	800

Central assistance released during the 7th Plan is as follows:

Year	Amount (lakhs)
1985-86	194
1986-87	45
1987-88	180

Popularisation of Coffee in the Country

2155. SHRI D.P. JADEJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the steps being taken for popularisation of coffee in the areas of the country where average consumption is very low?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MIN-

ISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI): The Coffee Board through its promotion Department is taking various measures for increasing the consumption of coffee within the country and abroad. These include:

- (1) India Coffee Depots/Coffee Houses of the Coffee Board;
- (2) Participation in various Internal Exhibitions.
- (3) Release of Advertisements.
- (4) Grant of Agencies for sale of Raw Coffee and Powder on Commission basis.

Facilities to Indian Exporters to China

2156. SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian traders are facing difficulties in their exports to China mainly due to lack of communication with Chinese business houses;

(b) if so, the measures adopted or proposed to be adopted to provide facilities and the requisite information for the benefit of the Indian traders;

(c) whether Chinese Government is encouraging increased business ties to promote economic cooperation between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI): (a) The FICCI trade delegation which visited China in June 1988, has pointed out that there is a communication gap which is coming in the way of increasing bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

(b) FICCI and CCPIT (their counter-part in China) have agreed to sponsor sector-specific delegations and regular exchange of information. The Indian Embassy regularly

sends available information on market and conditions to various nodal agencies and also extends help to the private traders from Indian and China.

(c) and (d). Some important steps are:

- (i) The Chinese Council for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) has set up a Joint Business Committee in India.
- (ii) CCPIT and FICCI have agreed to exchange information and data about trade and industrial cooperation possibilities.
- (iii) Establishment of direct trade contacts between the business enterprises of the two countries.
- (iv) Identification of sectors in which India can offer technologies to China.
- (v) In the Trade Protocol signed with China for the year 1988-89 the basket of items of exports has been diversified to include more value added products and non-traditional items. Similarly, new items have been added for imports from China.

Income Tax Arrears against Film Stars

2157. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of film actors/actresses against whom Income Tax arrears amount to more than Rs. 30 lakhs;

(b) in how many cases notices for legal action have been served;

(c) in how many cases legal action has been started; and

(d) in how many cases the complaints have been withdrawn, fine imposed and penalty enhanced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MIN-

ISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA): (a)
The names are:

- (1) Amjad Khan
- (2) Jayapradha R.,
- (3) Rajnikant R.,
- (4) Rekha Ganeshan

(b) and (c). In all the four cases, demand notices have been issued. In one case garnishee notices requiring the debtors of the assessee to make the payment of the tax dues to the Income-tax Department directly have been issued. In three other cases, part of the demand is being realised in instalments or recovery is stayed pending the decision of Appellate or Revisionary authorities.

(d) No complaint has been filed and no fine or penalty has been imposed.

Amendment in Income Tax Act

2158. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to bring an amendment to the Income Tax Act so that tax litigation is not prolonged;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the legislation is going to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA): (a) to (c). With a view to reduce the time period for tax litigation, the Government is actively considering the proposal to set up a National Court of Direct Taxes. This Court would be only dealing with the cases relating to direct taxes. The exclusive jurisdiction for tax matters to this court would certainly expedite disposal of tax cases.

The necessary legislation in this regard is expected to be introduced in the Budget Session of the Parliament.

Rajkot-Veraval Railway Route

2159. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand to convert Rajkot-Veraval-Junagarh-Veraval metre-gauge rail line into broad-gauge;

(b) the total length of the said railway route; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this respect and by when the work on this project is likely to be started?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 185 Km.

(c) The proposal to convert Rajkot-Veraval M.G. line into B.G. has been sent to the Planning Commission. Construction work on this project will depend on the decision of the Planning Commission.

PHDCCI Suggestion for Liberalisation of Imports

2160. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) suggested continuation of the liberalised import policy to meet the industry requirements for technology upgradation, modernisation and export promotion;

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

(c) the gap between import and export during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether a large number of big industrial units are not functioning properly and their production has also come down which required modernisation; and

(e) if so, whether Government contemplates to liberalise its import policy in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Basic objectives of the Government's

Import Policy are to provide easy access to imported inputs to sustain modernisation and technological upgradation as also to promote efficient import substitution and export promotion.

(c) Data showing import, export and Balance of Trade during last three years is as under:-

(Value in Rs. crores)

Year	Imports	Exports	Balance of Trade
1985-86	19657.69	10894.59	- 8763.10
1986-87	20200.65	12569.33	- 7631.32
1987-88	22343.02	15719.36	- 6623.66

(d) Government does not have any such information.

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

Interest on Bank Loans

2161. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some nationalised banks are charging interest more than the principal;

(b) if so, the remedial measures Government propose to take to see that interest does not exceed the principal amount;

(c) whether nationalised banks are not charging the simple interest on the short, medium or long term loans; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Banks have been advised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) not to charge total interest in excess of the principal amount in respect of short term advances to small and marginal farm-

ers. Corrective action is being taken whenever any specific violation comes to the notice of Government and Reserve Bank of India.

(c) and (d). Banks are charging simple interest on current agricultural dues and compound the interest only when crop loans or instalments under term loans become overdue.

Electrification of Railway Lines

2162. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been delay, cost escalation and lack of proper planning in the execution of electrification work of railway lines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to prevent such delays?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Largely due to constraint of resources, there have been in the Sixth Plan some time and cost overruns in

execution of some of the railway electrification projects. Most of the projects in the Seventh Plan period are progressing according to time schedule.

(c) Railway electrification is being accorded high priority in allocation of resources and projects are closely monitored.

Recovery of Agricultural Loans

2163. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a strong demand from the agricultural community that recovery of the loan be adjusted against the principal and not against the interest; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Recoveries of agricultural loans are adjusted against the dues consisting of principal and outstanding interest. However, interest on current agricultural dues is not compounded. At present there is no proposal under consideration to change the above policy.

National Committee for Spice Exports

2164. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a National Committee for Spice export strategy;

(b) whether there was any demand for setting up of such a Committee; and

(c) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI): (a) There is no proposal to set up a National Committee for Spice export strategy. The Ministry of Agriculture has however set up a Committee on Spices to

make suitable recommendation on short and long term strategies for development of spices,

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Foreign Debt

2165. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total foreign debt as on 1st April of each year from 1985 to 1988;

(b) the total market debt included in the above in each case;

(c) the total payment on account of principal and interest during each financial year; and

(d) the total additional international debt incurred during each financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The total outstanding foreign debt of India as on 1.4.85, 1.4.86, 1.4.87 and 1.4.88 is estimated to be Rs. 35725 crores, Rs. 39701 crores, Rs. 48895 crores and Rs. 54817 crores respectively.

(b) The total external commercial borrowing outstanding as on each of the above period is estimated to be Rs. 6413 crores, Rs. 7647 crores, Rs. 10868 crores and Rs. 12951 crores respectively.

(c) The total debt service payment on account of principal and interest during 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 amounted to Rs. 3206 crores, Rs. 4584 crores, Rs. 5950 crores respectively.

(d) The total loans received during 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 amounted to Rs. 2495 crores, Rs. 3176 crores and Rs. 4575 crores respectively.

World Bank Warning about Inflation in India

2166. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has warned India against its high rate of inflation in the recent years;

(b) the reasons for inflation of the rates; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to curb the inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The Annual Report of the World Bank for 1988 states that because of the effect of drought on agricultural prices, inflation in India neared 10 per cent for the first time since the early 1980s.

The Report has commended India's success in averting the worst effects of the drought by timely action taken by the Government and the existence of well-established institutional mechanisms for coping with such emergencies. The Central Government maintained availability of basic foods and contained price increases by drawing down its foodgrain stocks, and by importing edible oils, pulses, and fodder.

Conservation of Energy

2167. SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) whether a seminar on conservation of energy by Railways was held recently;

(b) if so, the outcome of the discussions; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the decision taken at the Seminar?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Seminar generated a number of ideas on energy conservation and an Action Plan has been drawn up to implement proved schemes and to initiate research into areas which bear promise of energy savings.

[Translation]

Raid on the Premises of Officers of Income Tax Department

2168. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the officers of Income Tax Department from whose premises illegal/undeclared property worth rupees one lakh or more have been recovered during the raids conducted since 1986; and

(b) the number of cases referred to Central Bureau of Investigation and other intelligence agencies or filed in the courts against such officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA): (a) In the cases of five officers of the Income-tax Department illegal/undeclared property worth Rs. 1 lakh or more was found during searches conducted by the C.B.I. since 1986.

(b) All the five cases were investigated by the C.B.I. Chargesheets in two of these cases have been filed in the courts.

Contract Labour

2169. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to get their work completed on contract basis by stopping the recruitment of gang-man at present;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken for increasing productivity and improving quality of work?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Introduction of modern track structure which is more durable and requires less of maintenance attention, use of labour-saving devices, mechanisation of track maintenance and renewals and directed maintenance of track and buildings are some of the important steps taken to increase productivity and improve quality of work.

[English]

Interest Rate of Foreign Currency Accounts of Non-resident Indians

2170. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has reduced the rate of interest payable on

foreign currency accounts of non-resident Indians with Indian banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether interest rate has been reduced in respect of all currencies and deposits of all maturing period; and

(d) if so, the reasons for reducing the rate of interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Keeping in view the present levels of interest rates in overseas markets, the RBI have changed the interest rates effective from 31st October, 1988 for the US \$, Deutsche Mark and Japanese Yen Deposits under the Foreign Currency Non-Resident (FCNR) Account Scheme. There was no change in interest rates for Stg. Deposits. The rate of interest on Foreign Currency Non-Resident Accounts prevailing at present are as follows:-

Period	Per Cent Per Annum			
	STG.	U.S.\$	D.M.	YEN
6 months and above but less than 1 year	11.50	9.25	5.75	5.25
1 year and above but less than 2 years	11.75	9.75	6.00	5.50
2 years and above but less than 3 years	12.00	10.25	6.00	5.75
3 years only	12.00	10.50	7.00	6.00

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Cases of Central Excise Evasion in Kerala

2171. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of evasion of

Central Excise detected in Kerala during the last three years;

(b) the estimated amount of duty evasion, year-wise;

(c) the number of cases which have been finalised and in which cases recoveries have been made in respect of each year;

(d) the amount recovered year-wise; and

(e) the total amount of reward paid to officers of the Central Excise Department, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DE-

PARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA): (a) to (e). The desired information is given in the Statement below.

STATEMENT

Year	No. of cases of evasion of Central Excise duty detected	Estimated amount of duty evasion (Rs. in crore)	No. of cases finalised where recoveries have been made	Amount recovered in respect of cases mentioned in Col.(4) (Rs. in crore)	Amount of reward paid to Departmental officers (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1986	442	8.01	131	1.03	12.81
1987	551	10.86	282	0.54	4.59
1988 (upto 30.10.88)	130	0.26	85	0.03	0.09
Total	1123	19.13	498	1.60	17.49

Pre-examination Training to Minority Communities by State Bank of India

2172. SHRI MAMATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India has recently formulated a scheme whereunder intensive pre-examination training would be given to the candidates belonging to certain communities so as to equip them for the examination to be shortly held for recruitment to the posts of Probationary Officers in the bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the considerations on which such scheme has been formulated;

(c) whether the Bank proposes to formulate similar scheme for socially and economically backward communities also;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (e). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cadre Review in Indian Economic Service

2173. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the cadre strength of the Indian Economic Service as on 1 March, 1986 and 1 March, 1988 respectively;

(b) the number of officers in position as on 31 October, 1988 against the sanctioned strength of the service;

(c) the reasons for the shortfall, if any, of personnel to fill the sanctioned post;

(d) whether no cadre review has been undertaken during the last two years and no recruitment has been made to the Service during this period;

(e) whether diminution in the chances of promotion in the service has led to a sense of frustration among the officers; and

(f) the steps Government propose to take to remove the cause of resentment of officers in the Service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The cadre strength of Indian Economic Service as on 1st March, 1986 and 1st March, 1988 was 515 and 519 respectively.

(b) 559 officers were in position as on 31st October, 1988.

(c) At present the appointments to vacancies in Grade IV are stayed as per orders passed by the Supreme Court.

(d) and (e). Several measures have been taken to improve promotion prospects in the service. Amongst the significant measures are upgradation of posts from Grade III level to Grade I level (Grade II merged with Grade I), merger of Grade I and Grade II levels, strengthening of middle and top levels by encadrement of additional posts and decision to encadre posts above Junior Administrative Grade level.

(f) Proposal to restructure the Cadre through substantial augmentation of middle and top level posts has recently been considered by the Indian Economic Service Board.

Rail Yatri Niwas

2174. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the places where Yatri Niwas have been constructed by the Railways;

(b) the average percentage of occupancy in these Yatri Niwas by passengers;

(c) whether the Railways propose to construct more Yatri Niwas in the major cities of the country to facilitate the railway passengers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) New Delhi.

(b) The percentage of occupancy during August to October, 1988 was 100%.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Rail Yatri Niwas at Howrah is under construction.

Credit Policy

2175. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the banks are adopting tight credit policy for the States particularly the States with low credit ratio;

(b) whether there is a need on the part of the banks to liberalise this tight credit policy currently being followed by them;

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard; and

(d) the directions given if any to the commercial banks in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). Low credit:deposit ratio in some of the States are not due to the credit policy measures but due to low credit absorption capacity due to the level of economic development, supporting infrastructure for various activities, local entrepreneurship and the extent of incentive offered. Banks have been advised to take effective steps to increase the flow

of credit to all productive and identified viable proposals in credit deficient areas. Banks have also been asked to maintain a minimum credit:deposit ratio of 60 percent in respect of their rural and semi-urban branches separately.

Performance of MMTC and STC

2176. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of State Trading Corporation (STC) and Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited (MMTC) in 1987-88; and

(b) the prospects of export by them in 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI): (a) State Trading Corporation (STC) had a total trade turnover of Rs. 3645.52 crores and a profit before tax of Rs. 51.97 crores in 1987-88. Similarly in 1987-88, Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) achieved a total trade turnover of Rs. 2894.10 crores and a profit before tax of Rs. 38.00 crores.

(b) Export targets of STC and MMTC for 1988-89 have been projected at Rs. 700 crores and Rs. 730 crores respectively.

Replacement of Steam Engines in Khurdha Road Division

2177. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether steam engines are added in most of the trains running in Khurdha Road division;

(b) whether most of these engines are old and out dated and therefore causing extraordinary delay; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken for replacing these engines with diesel engines?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Exemption from Income Tax to Delhi Stock Exchange Association Limited

2178. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Stock Exchange Association Limited is exempted from the payment of Income Tax; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA): (a) In the assessment of Delhi Stock Exchange Association Limited upto assessment year 1985-86, exemption of income under section 11 of the Income-tax Act has been allowed.

(b) The Delhi Stock Exchange Association Limited was treated as an institution for charitable purposes within the meaning of section 2(15) of the Income-Tax Act which includes an object of general public utility.

Resumption of Train Service on Narrow Gauge Line in Gujarat

2179. SHRI RANJITSINGH GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some train services on narrow gauge sections on Western Railway in Gujarat remain suspended for more than two years and the poor tribal inhabitants of the area are facing great hardship for want of this facility;

(b) whether Government propose to restore the running of those trains particularly in Vadodara division; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and when the train services are expected to be restored?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c). A number of Narrow Gauge trains in Gujarat were cancelled from time to time during last two years due to different reasons. On Vadodara Division 46 trains, which were found justified, have since been restored.

Vadodara Railway Station

2180. SHRI RANJITSINGH GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop Vadodara railway station for removing congestion;

(b) if so, the details thereof and allocation made for the purpose; and

(c) the time by which entire project is likely to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The work of providing booking office, waiting hall on the west side and extension of foot over bridge at Vadodara station has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 37.16 lakhs, during the current year. Rs. 20 lakhs have been allocated during 1988-89. The works are likely to be completed by end of 1989.

World Bank Assistance for Sardar Sarovar Project in Gujarat

2181. SHRI RANJITSINGH GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to extend full assistance for the construction of Sardar Sarovar Project in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The World Bank is giving part assistance under two credits for the construction of Sardar Sarovar Project.

(b) The details of the assistance being received for the project are as follows:

<i>Name of the project</i>	<i>Amount of assistance</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Narmada River Development - Sardar Sarovar Dam & Power Project	US \$ 300 Million	Construction of dam and power houses
Narmada River Development - Gujarat Water Delivery and Drainage Project	US \$ 150 Million	Part construction of main and branch canals, head regulators and cross drainage structures etc.

Additional Central Assistance for Irrigation Projects

2182. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are providing additional financial assistance for completion of ongoing major and medium irrigation projects under construction in different States;

(b) if so, the amount of additional

Central assistance provided to the State of Karnataka for that purpose during 1988-89; and

(c) the progress made in the completion of those major and medium irrigation projects?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Irrigation projects are planned, funded and implemented by the State Governments and Central assistance is given in the form of block grants and loans. However, Union Government has sanctioned additional financial assistance for expediting certain irrigation projects in some States as a part of drought relief assistance and under the Framework Action Plan for Foodgrains Production.

(b) and (c). Rs. 6.5 crores under Drought Assistance Programme and Rs. 1.22 crores under Framework Action Plan for Foodgrains Production Programme has been released to the State of Karnataka. Additional irrigation potential of 1073 ha. is reported to have been created by June 1988 in the State.

Service Conditions of Staff Thrift and Credit Societies of RBI

2183. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the emoluments of various categories of staff of the Staff Thrift and Credit Societies of Reserve Bank of India are uniform, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the employees of these Societies have been demanding better service conditions;

(c) whether there is any Government control over the activities of these Societies in view of their huge deposits; and

(d) the steps being considered for ameliorating the service conditions of the staff of these Societies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and to the extent available and permissible under rules will be laid in the Table of the House.

Staff Thrift and Credit Societies of RBI

2184. SHRI G.S.BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Staff Thrift and Credit Societies of the Reserve Bank of India, branch-wise;

(b) the average annual transactions carried by each of them (in terms of rupees) during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) their profit/loss for the last three years, year-wise and

(d) the strength of staff of each Society as on 31 March, 1988.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and to the extent available and permissible under rules will be laid on the Table of the House.

Banking Service Commission

2185. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute the Banking Service Commission to improve the functions and organisations of banks;

(c) the steps contemplated for its immediate constitution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

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

Reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Banks

2186. SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in direct recruitment to clerical cadre and sub-staff cadres dereserved in last three years in twenty nationalised banks, State Bank of India and its subsidiary banks; bank-wise;

(b) whether Government have examined the indents given by the banks to BSRBs/Employment Exchanges and in case the sufficient candidates were not supplied by any BSRB, the details as to name of BSRB the name of indenting bank, the number of reserved candidates asked, the actual number supplied and the reasons for shortfall, for last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to avoid dereservation and fulfilling of reserved vacancies and implementation of reservation orders for SCs and STs in services of banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Information so far reported by 20 of the 28 Public Sector Banks regarding dereservation of vacancies reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in direct recruitment to Clerical and Sub-staff cadres during the year 1985, 1986 and 1987 is given in the Statement below.

(b) and (c). The indents are placed by the Public Sector Banks on BSRBs/Employment Exchange directly and these are not to be vetted by the Government. Government have however, issued suitable instructions to the banks regarding placing of indents by them and also regarding the procedure to be followed by them for dereservation of vacancies reserved for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe owing to non-availability of suitable Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes candidates. The following further steps have been advised to

the Public Sector Banks to avoid dereservation and for implementation of reservation policy in the banks:

1. Educational Qualifications have been relaxed in favour of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe to facilitate their intake in the services of the Public Sector Banks in an increasing degree.
2. Lower cut off point being prescribed for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Candidate for their selection vis-a-vis general candidates.
3. Pre-recruitment training programmes are being conducted by banks to prepare the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates for the recruitment tests.
4. Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Member is being associated with the interview boards to safeguard the interests of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates.
5. Interviews of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates are being conducted in separate sittings/dates to avoid their being compared with general candidates during interview process.
6. Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates are not required to pay examination fees, to facilitate larger number of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates applying for various posts in the banking industry.
7. Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates called for interview are being reimbursed travelling expenses.
8. To ensure proper implementations of the reservations for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe, the banks are required to place before their boards, once a year, a Review

Report, for which comprehensive proforma has been prescribed. The reviews are also examined by the Government.

9. Yearly Meetings/Seminars of Liaison Officers for the Scheduled Cast and Scheduled Tribe in the Public Sector Banks are being convened.
10. Public Sector Banks are being subjected to indepth examination at the rate of atleast one bank in a quarter by the Liaison Officer in

the Banking Division of the Deptt. of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance to ensure proper implementation of the policy of reservations for the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe.

11. A comprehensive proforma has been prescribed by the Govt. to enable the Banks and the Banking Service Recruitment Boards to ensure that full permissible backlog for the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes is being included in the indent.

STATEMENT

	Name of the Bank	1985				1986				1987			
		Clerical		Sub-staff		Clerical		Sub-staff		Clerical		Sub-staff	
		SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Oriental bank of Commerce	13	18	4	3	1	24	11	5	5	7	8	2
2.	Central Bank of India	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	7	15	-	-
3.	S.B. of Indore	61	364	374	24	381	11	98	12	203	11	100	
4.	New Bank of India	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	9	1	1	5	2
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.	S.B.I.	1003	1045	51	237	932	1136	62	241	240	270	65	252
7.	Corpora- tion Bank	4	101	3	13	51	100	2	15	52	58	1	14
8.	P.N.B.	47	21	-	-	11	11	-	-	7	13	7	1
9.	Bank of India	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Conference of State Secretaries Incharge of Agricultural/Irrigation/Command Areas in Delhi

2187. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of the State Secretaries incharge of irrigation, agriculture and command areas was held recently in Delhi to review the programmes taken by the States for water budgeting after the favourable monsoon this year; and

(b) if so, the main decisions taken at the Conference?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The meeting was held to discuss and review the position regarding water budgeting to optimise the utilisation of water in the reservoirs for irrigation, performance of command area development, progress of special foodgrain production programme, evaluation of State owned drilling rigs and training needs in the water resources sector including the working of Water and Land Management Institutes. The State Governments were advised to adopt suitable measures to achieve the crop production targets of Rabi 1988-89.

Change in Timings of Puri-Bound Trains

2188. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have changed the timings of some puri bound trains;

(b) whether the existing arrival and departure time is causing a lot of inconvenience to the passengers;

(c) whether adequate night patrol arrangement is being made in every coach for the safety of passengers in the trains; and

(d) the steps taken to restore the old timings?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some representations to this effect have been received.

(c) Security of passengers and their belongings is the responsibility of State Government concerned, who keep on reviewing security arrangements in the trains and make changes according to the requirements of the situation.

(d) Review can be done in the next time table.

Joint Ventures with Singapore

2189. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to expand joint ventures with Singapore;

(b) if so, the area identified for the expansion of joint ventures;

(c) whether Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between both the countries for that purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAMUNSI): (a) and (b). There is no specific proposal by the Government to expand joint ventures with Singapore. However, every proposal for setting up joint ventures, is considered on its merits, keeping in view the general policy guidelines and procedures.

(c) and (d). No Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between the Governments of the two countries for expansion of joint ventures. However, a MOU was signed between the Confederation of Engineering Industry of India and the Singapore Manufacturers' Association on 3rd November, 1988 with the objective of promoting trade and industrial cooperation,

specifically joint ventures, technology transfer and research and exchange of information between members of the two organisations.

Supplementary Import Licences

2190. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR:
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure for grant of supplementary import licence; and

(b) the details of the cases in which the procedure has been waived off and import licences issued during 1987-88 and 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS-MUNSI): (a) Supplementary import licences are granted as per procedure laid down in para 232 of the Hand Book of Procedures for April, 1988 - March, 1991. (Page 32-33 of the the Book).

(b) There is no case where the procedure has been waived off and import licences issued during 1987-88 and 1988-89.

Branches of Life Insurance Corporation of India in Rural areas of Andhra Pradesh

2191. SHRI SRIHARI RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches/offices of Life Insurance Corporation of India in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether there is any proposal to open more such LIC offices/branches in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a). There are 96 Branch Offices of Life Insurance Corporation of India in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c). The LIC proposes to open 6 more Branch Offices in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh at Naidupet, Hyderabad Cantonment, Siddipet, Vinukonda, Cajularega and Huzurabad during the current financial year.

Advance Flood Forecasting Centre in Orissa

2192. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up an advance flood forecasting centre at Banki in Cuttack District of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a). No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Directors on Boards of Nationalised Banks

2193. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of posts of official and non-official directors on the boards of nationalised banks as a whole as on 1 October, 1988;

(b) the number of vacant posts in either category as on 1 October, 1988;

(c) the procedure for nomination to the posts of non-official directors;

(d) when the vacancies are likely to be filled; and

(e) the number of non-official directors as on 1 October, 1988 belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other backward classes and religious minorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The Board of

Directors of each of the 20 Nationalised Banks may comprise two whole-time Directors, two employee Directors, nine non-official Directors, one reserve Bank's official nominee Director and one Government's official nominee Director. The present vacancy position in respect of these categories is as set out below.

(1)	Whole-time Directors	5
(2)	Employee Directors	27
(3)	Non-official Directors	180
(4)	RBI nominee Directors	NIL
(5)	Government nominee Directors	NIL

(c) Nomination of non-official Directors on the Boards of the Nationalised Banks is made in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Schemes, 1970 and 1980.

(d) and (e). At present there are no non-official Directors on the Boards of any of the 20 Nationalised Banks. The process of identification of suitable persons to fill up these vacancies is expected to be completed soon.

Flood Control Plan on Mahananda Basin in Bihar

2194. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress towards the finalisation of the Flood Control Plan for the Mahananda Basin in Bihar;

(b) the brief particulars of the works completed during 1987-88;

(c) the brief particulars of the works in hand and of those proposed to be undertaken during 1988-89;

(d) the financial allocation by the Central Government for the purpose for 1988-89; and

(e) the reason for the slow progress in the implementation of flood control plan for this basin?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a). Ganga Flood Control Commission has updated the comprehensive Plan of flood control for Mahananda Basin in 1987 in consultation with the State Governments of Bihar and West Bengal to enable them to take up the follow-up action.

(b) and (c). 11 works in 1987-88 and 19 works in 1988-89 were recommended by the Scheme Review Committee of the Government of Bihar for flood protection in Mahananda Basin.

(d) and (e). The execution of the schemes depends upon prioritisation and resources provided by the State Government.

Finalisation of Landless labour Life Insurance Claims by General Insurance Corporation

2195. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of landless labour life insurance claims received and finalised by the General Insurance Corporation (G.I.C.) and its subsidiaries during 1987-88, State-wise;

(b) the number of cases of hut fire insurance claims received and finalised upto 30 September, 1988 by the G.I.C. and its subsidiaries;

(c) the total amount paid under (a) and (b) above so far; and

(d) the steps taken by G.I.C. and its subsidiaries to publicise these two schemes and the estimated number of rural people made aware thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN

THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The General Insurance Corporation (G.I.C.) and its subsidiaries do not have any Life Insurance Scheme for Landless Agricultural Labourers, as this Scheme is administered by the Life Insurance Corporation of India.

(b) The number of cases of Hut Fire Insurance claims received and finalised upto 30 September, 1988 by GIC and its subsidiaries is 4626 and 4138 respectively.

(c) The total amount paid so far by LIC upto September, 1988 (1988-89) under Life Insurance Scheme for Landless Agricultural Labourers is Rs.74,42,000/- and under the Hut Insurance Scheme by GIC and its subsidiaries it is Rs.43,65,360/-

(d) The steps taken by LIC to publicise the Life Insurance Scheme for Landless Agricultural Labourers include wall painting in the local language, distribution of posters in various places, publicity through newspapers, Radio and TV and village level functions held to hand over the claim cheques to the beneficiaries. GIC and its subsidiaries have also been popularising Hut Insurance Scheme through various media such as Radio, Newspapers, other audio-visual means, wall paintings, leaflets, pamphlets, cinema slides, vans, awareness camps, seminars and village melas/cattle fairs.

REP Imports

2196. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA:
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Replanishment (REP) system of imports against exports is meant to replenish the imported ingredients used to manufacture the goods exported;

(b) if so, the value of flavouring essences used in processed fruit, vegetables, juices and pulp;

(c) whether the flavouring essence are permitted to be imported to the extent of 1 per cent of F.O.B. value; and

(d) whether Government propose to change the REP value for flavouring essences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). It is not feasible to give the value of flavouring essences used in processed fruit, vegetables, juices and pulp in specific terms as it may vary from case to case. However, taking these export products as a whole, the import of flavouring essences has been allowed to the extent of 1 per cent of the F.O.B. value.

(d) The Import Policy is kept constantly under review and the changes therein are made, as deemed fit, from time to time.

Import of Capital Goods by NRI

2197. SHRI R.M. BHOYE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued guidelines governing imports of capital goods by non-resident Indians; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the schemes pertaining to import by Indians returning from abroad for permanent settlement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). Detailed guidelines for import of capital goods by Non-Resident Indians, are given in Chapter-XI of Import & Export Policy, 1988-91, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

Proposal to Lift Ban on Gold Imports

2198. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals for lifting ban on gold imports for curbing huge gold smuggling; and

(b) if so, the views of Government regarding gold imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has no proposal, at present, for lifting the ban on import of gold.

Export of Molasses by State Trading Corporation

2199. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation announced that the private parties would be permitted to export molasses; and

(b) if so, whether the molasses exported would also continue to be canalised through the State Trading Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). Export of molasses is canalised through State Trading Corporation. However, privates have been permitted to export molasses after registration of their export contracts with the State Trading Corporation.

Auditing of Accounts of Political Parties

2200. DR. DATTA SAMANT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to make it compulsory for the political parties to get their accounts audited every year; and

(b) the suggestions made so far by the political parties in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The proposal for empowering the Election Commission to frame regulations for providing inter alia for auditing of accounts of political parties forms part of the proposals for electoral reforms.

(b) No suggestion in this regard has been received from any political party.

Indo-Danish Trade

2201. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level team from Danish Development Fund for the Developing Countries had discussions on 23 September, 1988 with Government of India representatives;

(b) if so, the matters discussed and the final outcome; and

(c) the areas that have been identified for improving the trade between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). A Danish IFU (Industrialisation Fund for Developing Countries) Team visited India in September, 1988. In their meeting with representatives of the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) the Danish delegation evinced interest for cooperation between Danish and Indian partners in the areas of food-processing, pollution control, seed improvement, tissue technology for plants, natural gas, wind energy, solar energy for refrigeration, diesel engines for power plants, consultancy services etc. No concrete project has yet been identified. Any specific proposal will be considered by Government under its general policy regarding foreign collaborations.

Raids on Ball Pen Companies

2202. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain well known Ball Pen companies in Bombay and their factories in Gujarat were raided recently by the tax authorities and unaccounted money worth crores of rupees detected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the tax raids conducted during the last twelve months and the details of the unaccounted wealth so unearthed and persons booked and how does the same compare with the last three years; and

(d) the action contemplated by Government against the proprietors of these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). The premises of a leading Ball Pen

manufacturing company and its associates were searched by the Income-tax Department under section 132 of the Income-tax Act at Bombay, Nasik, Rajkot, Bhavanagar, Hyderabad and Baroda in September, 1988. During these searches, *prima-facie*, unaccounted assets worth approximately Rs.1.94 crores were seized. In their statements during the course of the searches, the persons searched admitted concealment of income of nearly Rs.4.62 crores in the aggregate.

(c) Details of income-tax searches conducted during the preceding the financial years and during the current financial year upto 31st October, 1988, are as under:-

Financial Year	No. of Searches.	Amount of seizure (Rs. in crores)	Concealed income admitted during searches (Rs. in crores)
1985-86	6,431	50.32	-
1986-87	7,054	100.70	36.85*
1987-88	8,464	145.02	147.49
1988-89 (upto 31.10.1988)	3,992	81.70	131.29

*Amended Explanation 5 to Section 271 (1) (c) of the Income-tax Act, which provides immunity from imposition of penalty in cases of such admissions, came into force only w.e.f. 10.9.1986.

(d) Appropriate action under the direct tax enactments is taken in all such cases.

Soviet Loans to Private Firms

203. SHRI TEJA SINGH DARDI:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH
RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Soviet Union is considering to provide loans to private firms in India;

(b) if so, the purpose for which the loan would be available; and

(c) whether Government of India have agreed to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) to (c). The USSR provides suppliers credit facilities to both private and public sector importers in India in order to facilitate export of a wide range of capital equipment and machinery items from the USSR to India. The suppliers' credit terms are in accordance with the standard pattern as incorporated in an Inter-governmental Agreement concluded between the two countries. In addition to the suppliers credits, the USSR is now agreeable to provide a rouble line of credit for such imports to an Indian financial institution. No

agreement has been signed so far about this.

Proposal for Setting up Export Authority

2204. DR. PHULRENU GUHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state whether Government have any proposal to set up an Export Authority to serve as a window to deal with all matters relating to export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): There is no such proposal.

Reservation Quota for Railway Board

2205. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board controls certain reservation quota on each train in each class;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board provides return journey reservation in large number of cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the criteria adopted in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). A limited number of berths on trains originating from or passing through stations in the Delhi areas has been earmarked as emergency quota for dealing with High Official Requisitions and other emergent requests. This quota is jointly controlled by Ministry of Railways and Northern Railway. The number of berths against this quota varies from train to train depending upon the total number of re-

served berths available at any particular time, the number of trains run for the same destination, the demand from other sectors viz. Defence, Foreign tourists, Parliament, etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) ⁴¹ Does not arise.

U.N. Assistance for Drug Abuse

2206. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a U.N. Organisation has agreed to make available \$ 20 million to India for the prevention and cure of drug addiction;

(b) if so, whether Government have availed of this offer;

(c) the various schemes proposed to be implemented with this assistance; and

(d) whether any scheme is likely to be introduced in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) has committed financial assistance to the tune of US \$ 20 million, to be spent over a period of five years from 1980, for drug abuse prevention as also control measures like strengthening of machinery for control over drug trafficking, strengthening of narcotics testing laboratories and community-based treatment and social reintegration of drug addicts. To this effect, an agreement has been signed between the Government of India and the Fund authorities on 17.8.1988. Various allocations, as indicated below, have been tentatively agreed upon:-

U.S. \$ (In million)

1. Strengthening of control over transit traffic	7.50
2. Modernisation and strengthening of forensic laboratories	0.80

U.S.\$ (In million)

3. Strengthening of control over licit opium production	3.50
4. Drug dependence, prevention and treatment	5.35
5. Rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug addicts	2.50
6. Prevention of drug abuse through education and information	0.35

The project would be implemented in stages, throughout the country (including Maharashtra), involving voluntary agencies, wherever considered necessary.

Poultry Farming

2207. SHRI MANIK REDDY:
SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI:
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has not financed poultry farming in Andhra Pradesh particularly in Nalgonda district;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Union Government propose to instruct the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development to finance the poultry farming in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it had provided refinance facilities to banks for financing poultry farming in Andhra Pradesh. The details of loans disbursed and the refinance provided by NABARD for poultry farming in Andhra Pradesh are given below:-

Rs. in lakhs

Year	Bank loan disbursed	Refinance released by NABARD
1985-86	893.594	714.398
1986-87	938.827	747.245
1987-88	1112.142	908.397

12.00 hrs.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All of you take your seats. I will call you. Yesterday only, the Speaker observed about this. If all of

you are standing and shouting like this, how can I listen? First, all of you take your seats. I will call you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Acharia, have received your adjournment motion.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): In view of the recent and fresh documents that have come out in "The Hindu" today...

AN HON. MEMBER: 18 documents have come.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: It is proving what the Prime Minister has said

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. Please listen.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: We want that the Government should come out with a statement and we have been demanding

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give the reply. Please listen.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Regarding your adjournment motion, we cannot take it up. We have discussed this matter recently only. If at all any fresh thing has come, the Government can take care of it. Even the Prime Minister, in the press statement he has given, has said that CBI is investigating this matter. Therefore, if there is anything fresh, they will take care of it. I cannot give permission to an adjournment motion for this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: There should be a statement in the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, if there is anything fresh, you give in writing.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any allegation will not go on record.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): I have received an explanatory memoran-

dum with the signature of the Prime Minister yesterday in reply to my privilege notice against him and the Defence Minister and he has once again denied all the allegations regarding pay offs, middlemen.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no. You pass it on to me. I will find out.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, please listen to me. Yesterday, the Prime Minister has given to me in writing, as an explanation to my notice of Privilege, that no middlemen, no pay-offs, no Indians are involved. But, today in The Hindu

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That point, I have already told.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: We have given notice demanding a statement from the Defence Minister..*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already given my ruling. I want to tell you the same thing. Already, we have discussed this matter in the same Session. If you want anything, you can give it in writing. I will see it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever Motion you have given, I will consider.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati): Am I to understand that if a foreign company takes for a ride the Parliamentary Committee, this House has no concern?
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already given my ruling in this matter.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (adavpur): Sir, freedom of Press is in danger in West Bengal. One Reporter of Uttar Bangha

Sambhat has been killed and four others were injured and they have been hospitalised..

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is a State subject.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: The Government has to look into the matter.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): Sir, this is a question of freedom of the Press.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is purely a State subject. We cannot discuss it here. Madam, You give it in writing. I will pass it on to the Home Minister.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.K. PANJA: Every-day, the Opposition leaders come up with a newspaper report and try to raise one issue after another. In West Bengal, freedom of the Press is in danger. One Reporter of *Uttar Bangha Sambhat* has been killed (Interruptions) Please hear me. The District Administration is not giving any protection. Family members, children are being harassed and injured. Yesterday, one Reporter has been killed. (Interruptions)

This is a subject matter which concerns the freedom of the Press. It can be considered here. This is most important. Every-day, this is happening. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not allowing.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.K. PANJA: I have written a letter to the Chairman, Press Council (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already told the Hon. Lady Member that whatever she has given, I will pass it on to the Home Minister.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I have already given a notice. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, order.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: There is a ruling of the Speaker. In the past, whenever any media man or any newspaper man was hit or killed, it was discussed in this House. Why not this be discussed?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will find out the facts.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: The Speaker has given permission earlier and whenever media man or press man was attacked, it was discussed. (Interruptions)

In the past, you have allowed a discussion. You have given direction to the Home Minister in the case of Indian Express and in the case of Hindustan Times. He has given enough scope. Why not allow a discussion in this case?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let her give a notice. You give in writing.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I have written a letter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You first give in writing, I will pass it on.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: You direct the Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot direct. I will pass it on to the Government. (Interruptions)

SHRI T.BASHEER (Chirayinkil): I also want to raise the same thing that Mamata

Banerjee has raised and support her contention *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already told about it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): I only want to know, are you advising us to ignore this new document? What are you suggesting? What should we do?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have already discussed this matter. You give in writing. I have already told you to give in writing.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: You may not allow an adjournment motion on this. But it is a clear case of misguiding the House. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In reply to Professor, I have already said that I will consider it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Do we ignore this material? Have you seen this document?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have seen it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Do you advise to ignore it?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You give fresh notice.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: We have given.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Already we have given a motion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Already I have told that adjournment motion, I have not admitted.

11/25/88

(Interruptions)

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara): I have given a privilege motion against the

Prime Minister and the Defence Minister on account of changing their stand *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will see.

(Interruptions)

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central): The Government is shirking its responsibility in the Maharashtra, Karnataka border dispute. They asked the two Chief Ministers to talk. But for the last four years, there is no solution. Again, the Ekikaran Samiti are having their dharna. I demand that opinion poll should be held in this area.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You give a separate notice.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: I have given notices twenty times in the last four years.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will find out the facts.

(Interruptions)

DR. DATTA SAMANT: This Government is shirking its responsibility to solve the border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.K. PANJA: A press man has been killed. He is also a citizen of India. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: Whenever a mediaman or a newspaperman was attacked, it has been allowed to be raised in the House in the past.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already given my ruling.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): It has now been proved by the documents published in the Hindu today that the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee is utterly useless. What are you going to do in regard to this?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You give a separate notice, I will see.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What remains of the sanctity of the debate if the House is deliberately misled? How can you ignore these documents?

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please. Now papers to be laid.

Shri A.K. Panja.

12.16 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Notification under Customs Act, 1962 and Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): Sir, I beg to lay on the table:

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindu and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:-

- (i) G.S.R. 925 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th September 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain making certain amendment to the Notification No. 71/87-Customs, dated the 1st March, 1987 so as to extend the validity of the Notification upto the 31st March, 1990 and amplify the description of airjet looms already covered therein.
- (ii) G.S.R. 930 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th September, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide concessional duty of 35 percent basic

and nil additional duty in respect of four machinery for manufacture of packaging media.

- (iii) G.S.R. 931 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th September, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide total exemption from auxiliary No. 250/88-Cus. dated the 16th September, 1988.
- (iv) G.S.R. 941 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th September, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to change the basic customs duty on certain items covered by Chapter Heading No. 39.19 of Customs Tariff Act from Rs. 100 per kg. to 50 per cent advalorem plus Rs. 35 per Kg.
- (v) G.S.R. 942 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th September, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification Nos. 158/88-Cus. and 162.88-Cus., dated the 13th May, 1988.
- (vi) G.S.R. 943 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th September, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum exempting Black Pepper from the whole of the duty of Export.
- (vii) G.S.R. 946 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st September, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum excluding specified goods from the purview of the heading 98.06 of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act.
- (viii) G.S.R. 947 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st

- September, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum deleting certain goods from the scope of heading No. 98.06
- (ix) G.S.R. 948 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st September, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing import duty of Rs. 50 per kg. on almond kernel when imported from regular sources and Rs. 45 per kg. when imported from preferential sources.
- (x) G.S.R. 949 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st September, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum providing nil auxiliary duty in respect of almond kernel and almond in soft shell.
- (xi) G.S.R. 950 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st September, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding notification No. 35/88-Cus. dated the 1st March, 1988.
- (xii) G.S.R. 953 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum extending the validity of Notification Nos. 111/84-Customs dated the 21st April 1984 upto 31st March, 1989.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 956 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum extending the validity of Notification Nos. 127/82-Cus. dated the 1st May, 1982 and Notification Nos. 513 to 516/86-Cus. dated the 30th December, 1986 upto the 30th November, 1988.
- (xiii) (a) G.S.R. 957 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 21/88-Cus. dated the 1st March, 1988 so as to add one machinery to the list of machinery prescribed with concessional duty.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 963 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th September, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing a basic customs duty of 45 percent on component parts of forklift trucks with modified conditions.
- (xv) G.S.R. 964 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th September, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 20/88-Cus, dated the 1st March, 1988 so as to give the powers of certification in respect of small scale industries for import under the notification to Industrial Adviser in the office of Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 966 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 84/86-Cus. dated the 17th February, 1986 so as to reduce the basic customs duty on unwrought zinc from 85 percent advalorem to 50 percent advalorem.
- (xvii) G.S.R. 967 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum providing reduction in the basic customs duty on copper scrap imported for the manufacture of copper oxychloride from 65 percent advalorem to 40 percent advalorem.

- xviii) G.S.R. 968 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding reduction in the basic customs duty on aluminium waste and scrap from 50 percent advalorem to 30 percent advalorem.
- (xix) G.S.R. 969 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt aluminium waste and scrap from auxiliary duty of customs in excess of 5 percent advalorem.
- (xx) G.S.R. 970 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum extending the validity of Notification No. 341/76-Cus, dated the 2nd August, 1976 upto 31st December, 1988.
- (xxi) G.S.R. 971 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide importers of machinery for manufacture of bicycles/components to discharge their export obligation by export of bicycles as well as components.
- (xxii) G.S.R. 986 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd October, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum providing increase in the basic customs duty on Sultanas.
- (xxiii) G.S.R. 987 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd October, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 123/86-Cus, dated the 17th February, 1986.
- (xxiv) G.S.R. 988 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd October, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to increase the import duty on pulses from 10 percent advalorem to 35 percent advalorem.
- (xxv) G.S.R. 1011 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th October, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe a concessional rate of 20 percent customs duty on the import of specified medical equipments so as to give the concession in respect of the said goods sent by any Indian settled abroad for a minimum period of one year.
- (xxvi) G.S.R. 1012 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th October, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe 40 percent customs duty instead of nil rate on the import of Plastic Bags for preserving blood and its components.
- (xxvii) G.S.R. 1041 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st November, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum exempting specified bulk hormone and drug namely Prostaglandin F2 Alpha and Lincomycin Hydrochloride when imported for manufacture of specified drugs and hormones covered by notification 27/88-Customs, dated the 1st March, 1988 from basic duty of customs as is in excess of 25 percent advalorem and the whole of the additional duty of customs.
- (xxviii) G.S.R. 1042 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st November, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum exempting goods covered by Notification 296/88-Cus, dated

the 1st November, 1988 from the whole of the auxiliary duty of customs.

[Placed in library. See No. LT-6768/88]

(2) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944:-

- (i) G.S.R. 928 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th September, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification Nos. 188A/62-CE, dated the 3rd November, 1962 and 53/87-CE, dated the 1st March, 1987 prescribing a concessional rate of excise duty on Polypropylene multifilament yarn.
- (ii) G.S.R. 929 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th September, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification Nos. 191/85-CE, dated the 28th August, 1985.
- (iii) G.S.R. 932 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th September, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe concessional duty of 5 percent in respect CNC machine tools.
- (iv) G.S.R. 985 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd October, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to fully exempt roasted chicory from excise duty.
- (v) G.S.R. 991 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th October, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt newsprint rejects arising during the course

of manufacture of newsprint in a factory in financial year subject to a limit of 5 percent of the total production of the newsprint.

- (vi) G.S.R. 1015 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th October, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe excise duty on video tapes at the rate of Rs. Ten per square metre instead of the present rate of 25 percent advalorem.
- (vii) G.S.R. 1016 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th October, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt specified type of blank/recorded video cassettes subject to the condition that excise duty at the rate of ten percent square metre has been paid on the video tapes used in the manufacture of the said cassettes
- (viii) G.S.R. 1017 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th October, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to introduce excise duty at the rate of 10 to 20 percent on permanent magnets other than cast alloy permanent magnets, metallised polyester films and metallised polypropylene film of thickness not exceeding 12 microns and etched or formed aluminium foils respectively.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6769/88]

Notifications under Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 General Insurance Business (Rationalisation) Act, 1972 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): Sir, on behalf of Shri Eduardo Faleiro, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English ver-

sions) under sub-section (3) of section 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 :-

- (i) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Class III and Class IV Employees (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) Second Amendment Rules, 1988 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 870 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd August, 1988.
- (ii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Development Officers (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 1988 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 871 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd August, 1988.
- (iii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Class I Officers (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) Second Amendment Rules, 1988 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 872 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd August, 1988.
- (iv) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Class III and Class IV Employees (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 1988 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 873 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd August, 1988.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6770/88]

- (2) A copy of the General Insurance (Rationalisation and Revision of Pay Scales and other Conditions of Service of Supervisory, Clerical and Subordinate Staff) Amendment Scheme, 1988 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 783 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd August, 1988 issued under Section 17A of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6771/88]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970:-

- (i) Amendment to Regulation (20) (4) of the Union Bank of India Officer Employees (Conduct) Regulations, 1976.
- (ii) The Allahabad Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) (Amendment) Regulations, 1988.
- (iii) The Canara Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) (First Amendment) Regulations, 1988.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6772/88]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980:-

- (i) The Corporation Bank Officer Employees (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 1988.
- (ii) The Punjab and Sind Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 1988.
- (iii) The Vijaya Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) First Amendment Regulations, 1988.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6773/88]

- (5) A copy of the Regional Rural Banks (Appointment and Promotion of Officers and other Employees) Rules, 1988 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 895(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 1988, under sub-section (3) of section 29 of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6774/88]

[English]

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot hear all of you are shouting....

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam, I told you that you pass on that thing to me and I will find out from the Home Minister. I cannot direct him now

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point, Mr. Kishore Chandra Deo?

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (Parvathipuram): I have been patiently waiting for you to call me. How can I speak when they are shouting?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You speak to me, I am listening.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: I have given a notice of breach of privilege against the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister... (Interruptions) ... Please listen to me. I have not got a ruling from the Speaker. I have got a note from the Prime Minister's office under the Prime Minister's signature... (Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not allowing him. You give it in writing, I will find out.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: You called me Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot accept all that you are saying. If you give any notice, I will take care of it. Whatever you receive, I cannot take up. If you want to get anything, you give it in writing, I will find out.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: What is your ruling?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You give it in writing. What you receive from the Prime Minister's office cannot be taken up here.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: I have given a notice of privilege.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is disallowed. Your notice has already been disallowed.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Why has it been disallowed?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): As yet, the Speaker has not disallowed our Motion. The Prime Minister's explanation is not a ruling from the Chair... (Interruptions)...

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: It is a note sent by the Prime Minister's office to the Speaker which has been forwarded to me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What you receive is for your information only.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: It is not a ruling.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Already the Speaker has disallowed your privilege notice.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati): We have to be told that our Motions have been disallowed. Prime Minister's comments are there; by that is not the ruling.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is for your information.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You have still to give the ruling Sir.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): Will you apply your mind to this?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I said I cannot take up the Adjournment Motion. You give some other notice.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: After all, some new evidence has come to light and we are trying to bring it to your notice. What do you advise us to do? You say adjournment motion is not allowed. What about privilege motion?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Dandavate has given a notice. I have told that I will consider it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: We have already given notice under Rule 184. I have read it to you and you have said it is under your consideration.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Kindly go through that material and give it your consideration.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You send. I will see.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: This is not Indian Express. This is The Hindu.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever it is.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will consider. Please sit down. There is a limit. Not allowed.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): Sir, I would like to know what everybody is shouting about. The Prime Minister has replied to his notice of privilege sent by the Speaker. I do not see why it should become a matter of discussion here. Why is everybody making this noise about it. It is perfectly in order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Already the Speaker has disallowed that.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Decision of the Speaker has not been communicated to us. We are entitled to know the ruling of the Chair... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He has not ruled it out.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will find out.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION

AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): A copy of any reply in the privilege motion sent by the Lok Sabha Secretariat to any member for information cannot be a subject-matter of discussion in this House and, therefore, it cannot go on record.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay.

(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): Japanese Government has placed at the disposal of our Government Rs. 250 crores for development of Buddhist places... *(Interruptions)* In Ladakh and Kargil we have got Buddhist places. So part of it should be given to our State.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have taken note of what you say. Please do not disturb the proceedings of the House now.

(Interruptions)

12.22 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE - *Contd.*

[English]

Notifications under Imports and Exports, (Control) Act, 1947, Reviews on the working of an Annual Reports of Project and Equipment Corporation of India Ltd. New Delhi for 1987-88 etc, etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 3 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947:-
 - (i) S.O. 1026 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th

November, 1988 making certain amendments in the Open General Licence No. 1/88 dated the 30th March, 1988.

- (ii) S.O. 1030 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th November, 1988 making certain amendments in the Open General Licence No. 5/88 dated the 30th March, 1988.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6775/88]

- (2) 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 on the working of the Projects and Equipment Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1987-88.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Projects and Equipment Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6776/88]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Spices Trading Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1987-88.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Spices Trading Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6777/88]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Plastics and Linoleums Export Promotion Council, Bom-

bay, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Plastics and Linoleums Exports Promotion Council, Bombay, for the year 1987-88.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6778/88]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Marine Products Export Development Authority, Cochin, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts, under sub-section (3) of section 22 of the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act, 1972.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Marine Products Export Development Authority, Cochin, for the year 1987-88.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6779/88]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Council for Leather Exports, Madras, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Council for Leather Exports, Madras, for the year 1987-88.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6780/88]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Diamond Institute, Surat, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the

Government on the working of
the Indian Diamond Institute,
Surat, for the year 1987-88.

12.24 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6781/88]

[English]

- (7) A statement (Hindi and English versions) (i) Correcting reply given on 21st August, 1988 to Unstarred Question No. 2503 by Shri Amarsinh Rathawa, M.P. regarding exports of farm and agricultural products, and (ii) giving reasons for delay in correcting the reply.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6782/88]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing Monday, the 28th November, 1988, will consist of:-

- (1) Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.

- (2) Consideration and passing of:-

- (a) The Sixth Schedule to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 1988.

- (b) The Constitution (Sixtieth Amendment) Bill, 1988.

- (c) The Punjab Pre-emption (Chandigarh and Delhi Repeal) Bill, 1988, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

- (3) Discussion and voting on:-

- (a) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Tamil Nadu) for 1988-89.

- (b) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Punjab) for 1988-89.

- (4) Discussion on the National Housing Policy.

12.23 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Delhi Prohibition of Eve-teasing Bill, 1988, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 24th November, 1988."

DELHI PROHIBITION OF EVE TEASING
BILL

As Passed by Rajya Sabha

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table the Delhi Prohibition of Eve Teasing Bill, 1988, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): Why don't you listen to individual members?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already listened to you. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

DR. G. S. DHILLON (Ferozpur): Sir, I wanted to draw your attention to the news item about the beating of two MPs -- one from Lok Sabha Mr. Vijayaraghavan and the other from Rajya Sabha -- Mr. Baby.

It has appeared in today's *Tribune* at Page 9. The contents of the news are perfectly all right. But the caption is very misleading. I don't say, it is deliberate; may be due to inadvertence but quite misleading. This reads as:

Enquiry assured into MP's 'misbehaviour'

This is the caption. Whereas the contents are perfectly all right, the word 'misbehaviour' is given within quotations. It is very intriguing. *Tribune* is not such a paper to report the news in such a manner. But, I think, I should draw your attention to it. It may be misleading because instead of misbehaviour of the Police, it is shown as misbehaviour of the MP.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yesterday, the Home Minister also observed that he would look into it. Also, our Members of Parliament would not misbehave. Whatever the paper has given, it may be a wrong thing.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Idukki): It is a question of misreporting of the proceedings in the House. You have to take it in that light.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): It should go to the Privileges Committee.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will see.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: I want to know why it has been raised by a senior Member like Dr. Dhillon... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, submissions of Members.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have gone to the next item.

12.27 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE - *Contd.*

[*Translation*]

SHRI K. N. PRADHAN (Bhopal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, despite all these family planning programmes, the population of the country goes on increasing constantly and as a result of that all our development programmes become meaningless. We have not been able to control the population growth. I, therefore, request that a discussion should be held on this important subject.

In India, more than 3.5 lakh persons are carrying medical practice without obtaining any valid diploma or degree on the subject. While on the one hand some quacks are playing with the lives of the people, on the other a large number of experienced doctors are clamouring for due recognition. This has been the position for the last 40 years. This may please be immediately taken into consideration.

SHRI MADAN PANDEY (Gorakhpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, next to agriculture, it is the handloom sector which provides maximum employment. During the good olden days, this industry of India achieved world wide acclamation due to its superb/craftsmanship. But during the last few years this industry has been witnessing downfall due to rise in the use of clothes made of artificial yarn, fall in the demand of clothes manufactured by this industry in the absence of new techniques, defect in the implementation of the textile policy and lack of proper development in the craftsmanship of the weavers.

I, therefore, request that in order to make an improvement in the above situation and to provide more employment avenues to the people engaged in this profession and with a view to moulding the industry in accordance with the need of the hour-

1. the existing textile policy may be amended with reference to handloom industry;

2. Printing and processing plants be set up with a view to popularising the handloom clothes and steps be taken to provide yarn at fair and fixed prices at major handloom centres of the country;
3. Training centres for weavers be opened and training be imparted to weavers by skilled instructors;
4. Market potentialities of handloom products be ascertained inside as well as outside the country.

[English]

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna): I suggest that the following items may be included in the Agenda of next week:-

1. November 25 is th birthday of Sadhu Vasvani, a great saint, religious divine and philanthropist. All through his life, he preached and dedicated his life against violence of every kind, including the "food from violence". The Government of India may kindly initiate action and declare 25th November as "Meatless Day", which would be a real tribute to this great saint.
2. Satna in Madhya Pradesh has not been sanctioned an electronic telephone exchange, while other unimportant places have been given the same. This has resulted in great hardships for the people particularly the business community. The working of local telephone exchange also needs drastic improvement.

The Government may immediately sanction an electronic exchange for Satna and improve the working of local telephone exchange.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following matter may please be included in the next week's list of business.

Unemployment has assumed the most serious dimension in the country and no effective steps are being taken by the Government to deal with this situation. The educated unemployed as well as the uneducated unemployed are prepared to do any type of work, but no work is available for them in the country.

I demand from the Government that it should formulate schemes which provide employment to the educated unemployed persons in the industry, agriculture, business and Government offices etc. If it is not done, they may be given unemployment allowance and other facilities.

[English]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopargaon): The following item may be included in the next week's agenda:

Farmers have always been victims of natural calamities. Monsoon has been good in current year but due to excessive rains and floods, crops have been totally damaged. It is, therefore, necessary that recovery of loans is rescheduled with equal instalments spread over a period of ten years of all loans and interest exceeding the principal amount should not be charged, so that farmers can repay the loan in easy instalments. These farmers must be treated to sick industry, may be given to farmers affected by natural calamities. So, rescheduling of loans is the only way out to boost the morale of the farmers for increasing the production of foodgrains.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): I request that the following may be included in the next week's agenda:

There is no ordnance factory in Bihar. Despite several promises, Government has not set up such factory. It is requested that one such factory be set up either in the Mithila Region or Bhagalpur region of Bihar.

Mithila paintings were depicted in the compartments or Jayanti Janta Express running between New Delhi and Samastipur. The train has been renamed as Vaishali Ex-

press and all the paintings have been removed. It is requested that the paintings be restored immediately and the train renamed as Vaidehi-Vaishali Express.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): I request that the following may be included in the next week's agenda:

Maharashtra-Karnataka border issue is still awaiting solution. Re-organisation of the States under the States Re-organisation Act left considerable Marathi-speaking areas in Karnataka. The Mahajan Commission set up to draw boundaries could not achieve the objective of linguistic homogeneity. The Commission should have accepted village as a unit, geographical contiguity, relative majority of one language over the other and wishes of the people.

Several attempts to bring the two Chief Ministers of Maharashtra and Karnataka on the Table to settle the matter have failed.

I, therefore, suggest that this issue may be discussed.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following matter may please be included in the next week's list of business.

Work on the Sakari-Hasanpur new railway line, Darbhanga-Samastipur broad gauge line and Bagaha-Chitone rail bridge already started after the completion of survey work on them. These works were placed at 1st and 7th position in the priority list for starting work on priority basis in the Railway Budget for 1986-87. But it is astonished that in spite of placing them at 1st and 7th position in the priority list, the work so started was stopped. Traffic has come to a grinding halt due to disruption of connecting facilities of trains running on narrow gauge with the broad gauge which is putting on adverse effect on business, agriculture and industry.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to make immediate arrangements

to construct Sakari-Hasanpur railway line and Darbhanga-Samastipur broad gauge line and undertake repairs of the roads damaged by the recent floods.

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following matter may please be included in the next week's list of business.

The Central Government are considering to give voting rights to youths of 18 year old. I am of the view that reorganisation of the States should also be taken up and a discussion should be held on it. It is because a demand for reorganisation of the States has been coming up for some obvious reasons. Demands of re-organisation of districts in the States is also being made as in the case of Rajasthan where a demand is being made to create Boran district. Under the above circumstances, it is very essential to consider the re-organisation of the States.

It is my request to the Central Government to include the above matter in the next week's list of business.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): I will bring the observations of the hon. Members to the notice of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.36 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[English]

Rise in Prices of Essential Commodities - Contd.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will now take up the discussion under Rule 193 on the rise in prices of essential commodities. Shri Chavan please.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have had very useful discussion on the price situation prevailing in the country. The discussion was initiated in 1987 and unfortunately the hon. member who had initiated the discussion resigned thereafter, for reasons best known to him. But the factors which in fact were responsible for bringing this kind of a motion have totally changed in the present day's situation. If the hon. members were to look at the price situation, I am sure everyone of them will agree that the price increase during 1988-89 is one of the lowest for the whole decade. In spite of that, if the hon. members do have the feeling that there is a phenomenal increase in prices and something radical will have to be attempted in order to see that prices are arrested and we are able to achieve the goal of laying a very firm foundation for starting our 8th Plan, then resources will have to be raised of a particular order. That is why it becomes all the more necessary that we do not read this debate in a lighter vein. That is why, yesterday I was very attentive.

Before me, my hon. colleague from the Civil Supplies Department also intervened in the debate and he gave some kind of an explanation as to why in certain areas there has been some type of a temporary aberration. Yesterday, hon. Member Shri Indrajit Gupta -- who is not present now -- did make a very fervent appeal. He has said that there are certain items which in fact are very important from the poor man's point of view and for a common man, at least pulses must be made available at a reasonable price, because pulses can provide the required protein to them.

Everybody was under the impression that prices are on the increase and even the pulses and oilseeds are also on the increase. First of all, let me make the position absolutely clear that we do not collect the figures itemwise in respect of consumers prices for the whole country. For the country as a whole, we have the wholesale price index which later on gets reflected into the consumer price index also. If the hon. members refer to the 'Economic Survey-1987-88' provided to them at the time of the Budget, on Page 45, they can find the behaviour of

the wholesale price index and how much time lag there has been between the wholesale price index and the consumer price index. This is right from the year 1971-72 to 1987-88. If you see the graph, you will find that there is some amount of time-lag between the wholesale price index and the consumer price index. But there has not been much of a change, barring 1 or 2 years where we find that it has taken us a slightly more time. So, if the hon. Members are interested in finding out as to how the wholesale price index and the CPI have behaved, I think it takes a certain time lag for getting adjusted. That is the only thing.

I would like first to take up the points which the hon. Member Shri Indrajit Gupta had taken up here. May I inform the House specially about the pulses? I have information about 8 or 9 types of pulse, and how the prices have behaved on 28.10.1988 upto which the figures are available with us. In the case of Urad it is a variation of minus 1%. In Urad Dal, there has been a change of minus 3%. In Moong, it is plus 4%, and in Dal Moong Dhuli it is minus 8%. In Masor it is plus 4%; in Moth, minus 2%; in Arhar minus 7%; in Dal Arhar minus 9%; in Rajma Chitra it is zero, and in Gram Dal it is minus 2%. If you have to look into all these variation, I am sure the hon. Members will be convinced that even in the case of Dal for which we have to import pulses from outside also, since we had made a pointed reference that even pulses are not available at reasonable prices, I think these figures are convincing enough. If he has any other doubts still left in his mind, I am prepared to discuss with him and convince him that these figures are authentic. These are wholesale price index figures which I am giving. I do not have consumer price index figures, for these particular pulses.

If the cumulative increase during the first 14 weeks of the financial years right from 1979-80 to 1988-89 are taken, for each year the position is this: in 1979-80 it was 9.6; in 1980-81 9.4; in 1981-82 4.4; in 1982-83 4.8; in 1983-84 5.1; in 1984-85 5.8; in 1985-86 3.8; in 1986-87 5.1; in 1987-88 5.2 and in 1988-89 upto this point, for these 14 weeks it is 3.6.

[Shri S.B. Chavan]

So, this is the lowest price increase that you will find in any of the years for the first 14 weeks when there is normally a price rise before the crops are harvested and the grains come into the market. So, if these things are looked into, I am sure the hon. Members will be convinced that in fact, what they have debated, and which might have been relevant in 1987, has lost all its relevance; and now we find that things which are being discussed, are not exactly relevant. Things are totally different in 1988.

At the same time, I would like to refer to some of the points, because I do take these matters very seriously, because these are issues in which, in fact as some of the hon. Members have made a reference, there should be no political consideration which should weigh with any of the hon. Members. Ultimately, it is by the people at large that things are being consumed. If the prices go beyond their reach, things would then become very difficult. That is why I would like to refer to some of the basic issues which were raised by some of the hon. Members.

The first point which was made, was about the problem of inflation, and how inflation is mainly responsible for the price rise that we find. First of all, let me also remove any kind of misunderstanding the hon. Members may be having in their minds. The rate of inflation in 1988-89, as things stand today, is not beyond about 5% or so. Even if it was 5.9% or 5.8%, it was 10.9% at the beginning of the year, which has come down to 5.8% or so. This is also one of the lowest rise for the entire decade. So to say that inflation has increased, and that inflation is mainly responsible for the price rise is not correct; but to some extent I will not deny that even if this kind of an inflation is there it is bound to have some kind of an adverse effect on prices, and it is a matter on which there can be no dispute. But to say that there has been a phenomenal increase even in the case of the rate of inflation is also not borne out by facts. As far as possible, we should try to arrest even

this kind of rise in the inflationary rate. It is well taken. I do not deny and say that there has been no inflation at all. Inflation is there, and inflation with deficit financing definitely adds to the worries which the common man has to face. That is why these are the two main areas on which we have to concentrate, and see that we are able to do justice and see that the wholesale price index is kept at a reasonable level, and the rate of inflation does not increase beyond a limit, and that deficit financing is also being tackled in such a manner that we are very near the figure which was quoted in the Budget, as far as possible.

I am not quite sure whether we are going to maintain exactly the same figure as we had quoted at the time of the presentation of the Budget, inspite of the fact that we have been trying our level best to see that non-Plan, non-developmental expenditure is being reduced to the barest minimum. It all depends on the kind of cooperation that I expect from all the administrative Ministries, both in the Centre as well as in the States. In the States also, a number of devices are being utilised in order to see that inspite of the kind of ban on overdrafts, different devices are being used by some of the State Governments in order to see that they go beyond their resources and try to finance their Plan, for which there are no resources available with the State Governments.

I quite see the point that in the Centre, we will have to see that we also try to live within the resources which are available with us. Everyone of them here has been after me, expecting that though the resources are not there, I have to see that somehow I make it and try to assist them. I must say that in spite of all the efforts that are made, it has not been possible for the Finance Ministry to assist all the administrative Ministries to the extent they have been expecting.

I know that the demands of the different Ministries are very reasonable. I cannot possibly say that what they are asking for is unreasonable and that, in fact, they should not have asked for the same. I will say that

I agree that their demands are legitimate and reasonable; but at the same time, we have to live within the resources which are available with us. If we try to go beyond them, of course it then creates a kind of cascading effect on the total economy; and that is why I have been requesting all the administrative Ministries to see that their non-Plan expenditure is reduced to the barest minimum. We started with 2.5% cut that they have to apply. Thereafter, it was increased to 5%; and I have left it to all the administrative Ministries to decide as to which is the area where they should apply this cut.

Normally, my experience has been that in very useful schemes, they apply the cut and then present it as if the Finance Ministry is almost forcing us to apply the cut. But we have left the discretion to the Administrative Ministries and requested them that you have to make a cut in order to see that we are able to keep our resource within the limit, which was announced at the time of presentation of the budget.

The next point on which I would like to enlighten the House is about the administered prices. This has been a common subject and every time this is being discussed. I do not know as to what exactly do the hon. members expect from the government. In fact, our expectation is that the public sector undertakings should be able to contribute to the general revenue so that the plan as a whole gets the benefit of having these public sector undertakings. Now there is a very peculiar phenomenon that we find. Instead of contributing anything, their contribution is minus and they are expecting some kind of a budgetary support. I am also aware of the fact that there are certain public sector undertakings where there is a tremendous amount of scope for economy and increase in efficiency. I thought, in fact, this has to be reduced. Instead of reducing it, we find that the tendency is to increase the same. I think this is a proper forum where I can make an appeal not only to the Central Government public sector undertakings but also to the State public sector undertakings that they have to see that they are being run efficiently; they are able to contribute something for the general

budget so that we can show that this is an example of efficiency. So, the efficiency has to be increased. But if they do not increase their efficiency, then what is the option left; the only option left is - if they do not reduce the number of people to be employed; if they do not show any increase in efficiency you provide them from the budget and see that their efficiency is being paid up by the budgetary resource. Are we in a position to do this is the main point which ultimately we will have to consider. I am facing a deficit. In spite of deficit, if you feel that there should be no retrenchment, there should be no increase in efficiency, there should be no increase in the administered prices, then the only option left will be to increase the deficit. If I am facing a deficit of about Rs. 8000/-, another Rs. 2000/- I must increase and see that these public sector undertakings are also paid out from the budgetary resources. It is a very difficult choice.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Is it their fault and therefore they should be retrenched? They are the victims of circumstances.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Don't put burden on the workers.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: I am not pleading that you retrench the workers. I am saying that there are certain norms if everybody is convinced that instead of employing 100 people if you have employed 200 people, on the face of it for another 100, there is no work, but for years together, they have been there, so the choice is that you have to make is that if because of this a public sector is going into loss, what is the choice for the public sector undertaking; either you retrench these people or show the greater efficiency. In spite of this also if you are not succeeding in making both ends meet, then you are bound to approach the government for a budgetary support.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): Should you not first find out what the losses are due to? Are the losses due only to the workers? Why do you not have a proper inquiry?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: I quite appreciate hon. Member, Shri Indrajit Gupta's point that there should be an objective analysis as to why the losses are due to.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What about proper management? When there is no proper management for months and years, what happens? This is a matter concerning the people very seriously.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Yes, Yes. In fact, I was not prepared to intervene in the debate. I thought let the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies reply to the debate. But having heard Shri Gupta and other hon. Members I thought that there are certain basic issue on which we have to explain. I am prepared to accept this proposition, that we should go deep into the matter objectively and objectively if the expert committee were to come to this conclusion that there is surplus staff, which in fact, is not warranted by any norms, whatsoever, are you prepared to accept this? If the objective analysis done by an expert committee comes to this conclusion that retrenchment of the staff seems to be inevitable, there is no work or not enough work to provide for, what is to be done?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Again, you are using the word "retrenchment". One minute ago you said that you do not want to retrench the workers.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: I do not think you can have it both ways. The hon. Members have stated that if there is an objective analysis, objective reasoning as to what are the causes and one of the causes, if the expert committee were to recommend, that in certain areas we find that there is hundred per cent surplus labour which has been employed, are we not prepared to accept this proposition? That is one point.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Recently two months ago I happened to be on a delegation to China. They told us that 20 million workers have been identified as surplus there in the jobs where they were working at present, 20 million workers are surplus. When I asked them what they were going

to do with them, they said that nobody would be retrenched, slowly slowly they have to retrain them and shift them to new jobs, alternative jobs. "It will be a slow progress. You knew, human nature, Nobody want to go easily." But you have got such plan, you have no progressive plan at all.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: If the study shows that because of accumulated years of mismanagement and mechanisation etc., the company has become sick, now will the only solution be to get rid of the staff as much as possible to reduce the losses as much as possible? But you do not consider the effect of the number of years where there has been lack of management, total lack of efficiency in the matter of running the unit. This is how people's faith in public sector is lost because of the rampant corruption prevailing and no action is being taken.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: They are travelling in aeroplanes and staying in five star hotels.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Therefore, you have to have that commitment in the public sector and then try to find how to keep these people at the same time and improve their functioning.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: We have full commitment in the public sector. Let me make it absolutely clear. We are not against public sector being maintained by the Government of India and by the State Governments. It is only the first factor that I was discussing and you got perturbed with it. In full agreement with you, if you are talking about China, if there were 90 people who were declared as surplus, and in due course of time we will see that they are gradually being reduced.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: But they will not be retrenched.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Are the hon. Members, who are trade union leaders supposed to accept this proposition? In spite of that, I should not give any indirect commitment

to you, but at the same time, in fact, I am interested in improving the position of these public sector undertakings.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: So are we.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: That is exactly what I say, and that is why I am just making an appeal. You may respond to it, because the kind of reply that I get from the trade union leader is that not only these people should not be retrenched but thereafter also we are not prepared to accept this position that nobody will be recruited on the vacancies which will be caused by these surplus people. That means, in perpetuity you would like to have this surplus labour re-employed in an undertaking. One of the reasons as to why the undertakings are sick is because of the large number of people who in fact should not have been employed.

If there is any corruption, the hon. Member Shri Chatterjee can pass on the information to me and to the extent possible by me, I would certainly look into the matter... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Very good. I will send it. You must do something... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: I am prepared to agree that there is a tremendous scope for increasing the efficiency of the undertaking. Efficiency is at the lowest ebb. It is absolutely essential. You cannot penalise the workers; you have to show efficiency, increase the efficiency so that both the factors are taken into account. Ultimately, all of us are interested in showing that the public sector undertakings are run properly and with profit, and show to the people that public sector undertakings does not mean inefficiency. It is efficiency which in fact is very vital for all those public sector undertakings.

Every where we are required to give budgetary support to the public sector undertakings. This is a matter which perpetually I do not think that any Government for that matter can possibly be afford.

Sir, another reason as to why the deficit is increasing to some extent is because of the natural calamities. The State Governments have to be provided for when there is a natural calamity. When there is flood or scarcity or cyclone, I cannot take the stand that since I am facing deficit, I would not be able to help you. We have to have the deficit and at the same time go to the reasons of the people and see that they are helped in time. That is exactly what we have been doing.

These are the different factors, in spite of our efforts to contain the deficit within a reasonable limit do come in our way due to which it is sometimes very difficult for us to contain the deficit. But I am quite aware that we cannot go on like this with such a huge amount of deficit. The deficit will have to be kept at the level or near about the level so that for the next year at least, we will not face the same kind of situation that we are having today.

The rate of growth of the economy has also to be achieved as soon as possible and a very sure foundation is being laid in our Eighth Plan.

I think there were some minor points which were mentioned by some other Members. I do not think that this is the time to go into the details. I have taken note of all the points. At the same time I can assure the House that we are fully aware that the prices will have to be kept under check in order to see that, though it increases at a particular rate or pace, the people at large are not made to suffer. This is all what I want to say.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will you at least stop increasing all the administered prices just before the Budget? Please do not raise the administered prices just before the Budget, which you have been doing.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we adjourn for Lunch and reassemble at 14.05 hours.

13.04 hrs

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till Five Minutes past Fourteen of the clock.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at
Thirteen Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF
INDIA BILL -- *Contd.*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Basudeb Acharya may continue.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I was pointing out that the bad maintenance is only due to inadequate allocation of funds and as a result of bad maintenance the road standards have also deteriorated, and the bad roads not only lead to some optimal utilisation of road system, but also add to vehicle operation cost. Yesterday I told that Rs. 300 crores could be spent if the roads are brought to the standard. By spending Rs. 500 crores, some of the roads could be brought to standard, at least some important roads; where the traffic is very much there, those rail-roads can be brought to the standard. Also the accidents are increasing. 36,000 lives are lost every year due to road accidents because of the bad condition of roads.

(*Interruptions*)

Another important aspect is being neglected by the Research and Development (R&D). There is one Institute attached to the Ministry of Surface Transport. But this is quite inadequate. Most of the States do not have any laboratories. So, there is a necessity of decentralisation of research system. There should be some zonal laboratories, say 5 or 6 zonal laboratories, one each for Eastern zone, Southern zone, Northern zone, Western zone, Northeastern zone etc. These research laboratories can help in technical upgradation for better utilisation of local materials and for improving the standard of the roads and the capacity of the roads. Enough funds should be allocated for research and development and they should be decentralised.

Most of the bridges have crossed their life time and these bridges were constructed

long back when there was no so much of traffic. So, bridges need immediate repair and some of the bridges should be brought to the standard where vehicular traffic is too much. So, the aspect of condition of bridges, repair of bridges, bringing these bridges to the standard should also be looked into and financial allocation should be made for repair of bridges.

Though the maintenance of national highway should get top priority, construction of new highways should not be neglected, as National Transport Policy Committee have identified 37 routes. So, the Minister should tell this House, out of 37 routes, how many routes so far have been taken over or the scheme has been approved and construction has been started. It is to the length of 13,000 kms. There are a number of areas, where there are no railway lines. Yesterday, I had told, some parts of Northeastern States, parts of Madhya Pradesh, parts of Orissa are not connected by roads or rail and some new schemes, new national highway should be taken up to connect the inaccessible areas, hilly areas and forest areas. In my State, the National Transport Policy Committee recommended two roads, Asansol-Kharagpur and another from Kharagpur-Balasore between West Bengal and border of Orissa. This will connect Kharagpur with Orissa. So, please tell us whether these roads as recommended by NTPC for West Bengal have been taken up. There is another important route, in my State which will connect the headquarters of the backward district Bankura with Durgapur which is an industrial town. This route is also recommended by the State Government to take over as a national highway, considering increase in the traffic and the importance of the area which connects backward district with industrial town, which will help develop that area in industrialisation. In our country, road traffic is very much important because new railway lines are not being constructed because of the constraint of funds. There are a number of pending projects and new railway lines are not being constructed. Even the State capitals are not connected with railway lines, particularly, in Northeastern region where most of the State capitals are not connected by rail.

Most of the District Headquarters in other areas are not connected with railway lines. This road transport is very vital and important. It is an infrastructure. It will help to develop the backward areas. It will help for industrialisation of that area. Economic activities will be increased. So, this sector should not be neglected. Again I reiterate that the present system is working well. None of the Committees has said anything against the present agency system. The only bottleneck is the constraint of funds and the allocation of finance. This present system should continue and this Ministry should approach the Planning Commission to allocate more funds, if necessary, during the Eighth Five Year Plan. If it is necessary, they can have Finance Corporation to collect money, to issue bonds and that money because we also supported it when a resolution was moved in this particular House. We were assured that 5% of the cess money will be utilised for the development, maintenance, modernisation, widening and construction of new national highways.

With these words, I conclude and I oppose this Bill.

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SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI (Bellary): I support the National Highway Authority of India Bill, 1988. This Authority has been constituted to maintain the existing highways and to construct new highways. As on today, these have been constructed and maintained by the State Government. Communications as on today play an important role in the all-round development and the economy of this country. This Authority has been constituted to borrow money to receive grants and also to find money to take up such huge functions and duties as laid down in this Bill.

At the time of constituting this Authority, I would like to make a few suggestions to the hon. Minister. Care should be taken to find persons from the Land Army Department. Land Army is doing very good work. They are not profit-oriented. Moreover, their work is not sub-standard and if encouragement is given, I think they will come forward to take up this huge work. Persons from the Land Army,

Housing Engineering Association, Automobile Association and the Forest Department should be placed on the Board.

My suggestion would be to have shady trees on either side of the road. Our forefathers have taken care to plant shady trees on the roads. You can still find shady trees on the roads. At the time of travel, you find the difference on a road which is having shady trees and the lonely road. Therefore, hereafter whenever we take up this highway, we must take it up as a duty to plant trees on either side of the road and the trees should be protected and grown. They should be grown so as to provide shade to the passengers and in that event it would be a pleasure to travel by such roads. Therefore, I would suggest that persons from the Land Army, Engineering Association, Automobile Association and also the Engineering Experts along with the Forest Officer should constitute the Board.

Sir, many hon. Members have spoken about the condition of the roads. After heavy rainfall, due to breach of tanks & nallas, in many parts of our country most of the highways or State roads need repair work. They are not at all in good condition. How have we to repair the roads? The State Governments do not have sufficient money even to fill up the pot-holes. The National Highways are also in worst conditions. I hope the present Authority is going to do some good service by collecting money. I hope that they will maintain the road in a good condition, as they have stated.

Sir, I have gone through the Statement of Objects and Reasons and also the functions of the Board. They are very much appreciable. At the time of taking up its function, I would request the hon. Minister that care should be taken to put up hotels, motels, restaurants, bath-rooms and telephone etc. Even, I would suggest that first-aid should also be provided. Further, whenever it is necessary we should have clearing equipment also. So many times, accidents take place. Sometimes, the old trees fall on the roads because of natural vagaries. It takes weeks together to clear

[Shrimati Basavarajeswari]

such trees and in some cases, due to accidents, longer time is taken to clear the vehicles involved in the accidents. Therefore, there should be emergency equipment so as to clear the blocked roads. As I have stated earlier, first-aid equipment should also be provided in the accident sites to attend to the injured persons immediately. In most of the cases, the people injured in accidents die before they are brought to the hospitals. If they reach in time, such people's life can be saved. So, we should have such equipments wherever they are necessary and whenever we find such facilities we can provide for helping the passengers who travel by these roads.

Sir, there are various types of Cesses which are being collected. I come from an area where mining activities are going on in a large scale. I came to know very recently that the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation are collecting some welfare cess and the same money again goes to the State Governments. But, if you look into the roads where such mining activities are going on, you can find not even a single improvement. I mean, the entire amount is meant for the welfare of the mining labourers who are working in such mines. But the money which has been earmarked and collected is not being utilised properly. You take it as a welfare cess. But these Cesses are not being used for the purpose for which they have been collected.

So, at the time of collection of the Cess, care must be taken to see that the amount which is collected through this process should be spent exclusively for the purpose for which it has been collected. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to see that instead of transferring the entire amount to the State Governments, the Authority should take care of such a Cess wherever the Central Government is entitled to collect and see that proper maintenance is done. This is one suggestion which I would like to make in this House.

Another thing is that - whether you find it here or not, I think the hon. Deputy

Speaker knows about this very recently I am seeing that harvesting work is being done on the roads. It gives room to accidents.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes, it is very dangerous.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Several vehicles pass through the roads. At the same time, even thresher machines are being put on the roads; tractors are put on the roads. Such equipments are very often used by the farmers and the whole national highways are being utilised for the harvesting purpose. I do not know where we stand? How can we maintain the roads, if such things are happening? How long we can continue to do this? Therefore, I request the hon. Minister that this aspect has to be considered. I think he is going to regulate such things. The hon. Minister has to take into consideration all such things. When I mention about this aspect, I am not against farmers. They are making use of these roads in order to preserve the land from being used for this purpose. They are finding it difficult to provide the land for harvesting purpose.

Especially some grains like Safflower or other plants are harvested, you can see the amount of dust which the passenger is to swallow. Therefore, sometimes, so many accidents also take place. While running the vehicle, if there is any fuel-mix smoke or some other flame is there, the whole hay gets burnt and the vehicle also gets burnt. Therefore, this has to be taken care of at the time of regulating the highway traffic. This is one of the major points that I would like to emphasise.

Another thing is, the Hon. Minister had laid down the foundation stone for the construction of Hougari Bridge in my constituency three years back. Till now, I have not heard from the Hon. Minister anything. That is a bridge which connects the district headquarter with other parts of the city. But if that is not being completed - already it is in a bad shape - motor vehicles cannot move. Everyday people are quarrelling about who is to go first and who is to go second. In that way, things are

going in a very bad shape. I hope, the Hon. Minister has finalised the whole thing. I think, he is going to commence the work as early as possible.

Secondly, I came to know that the national highway is going to be constructed between Sholapur in Maharashtra and Karwar in Kamataka via Bellary. I do not know when the Minister is going to start such a highway as this is going to be economically very viable highway. I hope the Minister will certainly take steps.

Another thing is, I have been seeing in the Assembly that taxes are being collected at the time of construction of bridges at the rate of Rs. 5 for heavy vehicles and Rs. 2 for small vehicles. Whenever a new bridge is constructed, I think, the State Government has been empowered to collect such fees until the entire amount which they have spent is remitted. Therefore, if you can take this into consideration and see that wherever such bridges are constructed you also collect tax, you can also recover that amount. I think, people will not hesitate to pay that amount because instead of being put into lot of inconvenience at the time of heavy rainfall and so on and so forth, you can put a bridge over these nalas and you can collect such taxes, if necessary. Already, State Governments are doing that. In our State also, we have enacted that Act for small vehicles, they are collecting at the rate of Rs. 2 per day and for heavy vehicles at the rate of Rs. 5 per day and the whole amount which they have spent is re-imbursed. Now they have withdrawn collecting taxes also.

As you are aware, the standard of road very much deteriorating and corruption is mounting. We do not have any proper method to check this sub-standard work. Hereafter, whenever you spend crores of rupees for the construction such highways, you should have proper vigilant squad at least in district or divisional headquarters so that at the time of construction, care can be taken to see that the work is of standard and no corruption is taking place. When we have witnessed that a bridge in Goa has collapsed. I am very much convinced. If such things are going to continue, I do not know where we will stand. Taking that

experience into consideration, we should try to have some vigilant squad to check and supervise these things.

Whenever we come across people, they will grumble and say: "look here, they have not done anything and still they have drawn money. At the time of farming they have to put some mud but now they are denying it." All these complaints are coming. When we take up such work, such complaints should also be heard by the competent authority. You should not neglect the public. They know very well what is going on at the grassroot level or at the site level. If such complaints are not taken care of, the same thing which has been going on will repeat itself.

With these words I appreciate this step and hope the Hon. Minister is going to involve himself for creating many facilities for the all round development of the country and the passengers who are paying taxes will get the benefit.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support and welcome this very important Bill. I should say that this is a historic step. During the last four decades, the Central Government and also the entire travelling public had experienced different grades of performance on the national highway sector. I don't think it is reasonable that some Members should feel or some State Governments get offended or hurt by this Bill.

There are different conditions, situations and climates in different regions. The cost of construction material, the quality of soil, the ecology, the cost of labour and the standard of efficiency, all these differ from State to State and it must be a problem for the Government of India to keep a uniform construction and maintenance standard in so far as national highways are concerned. The public has been expecting that some such historic step should be taken. So, it is a welcome step.

While supporting this Bill I have a few suggestions to make. As the Minister has in the last session while replying to a question admitted that the present length of the

[Shri N. Tombi Singh]

national highways is not sufficient, the number of national highways should be increased and the existing highways should be widened. The construction should be made of a higher standard. The increase in the number of vehicles in the whole country today is posing a problem to the existing length and breadth of the State highways as well as the National highways. In order to match up with the demand posed by such increasing number of vehicles, we should see that not only highways are increased but also the existing highways are widened.

As far as accidents are concerned, in some of the highways, particularly in the hilly areas, we have seen that a number of blind corners are causing the major accidents. In the hilly areas beginning from Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh upto the rest of the Sub Himalayan States in the north east the highways run in a very zig-zag way and the drivers have to manipulate too much and have to operate with difficulty to overcome the number of blind curves. In order to remove these blind corners, the roads have to be not only widened but also to be extended. The extension should be done once and for all. It is not to be done every year. There are blind corners in the hilly areas from Guwahati to Shillong; Dimapur to Imphal in Manipur; Silchar to Imphal and then to Mizoram; similarly the highways in the Himalayan areas. These blind corners will have to be removed. There may be some extra cost; but these costs will not have to be met every year. We have to do it once and for all.

14.39 hrs.

[SHRI YAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN in the Chair]

When I took part in the debate during the last session on the Vehicles Bill, I had made a few suggestions for the construction and maintenance of highways, particularly in the eastern sector of the country. The Siliguri portion of the highway which connects the mainstream and the eastern part of the country including Assam is a very

heavy traffic area and we should provide alternate road to it. The present road is very badly damaged due to repeated floods. Progress in the movement of vehicles is very slow. In order to remove this bottleneck this should be attended to.

The other point I would like to make is that the North-Eastern State capitals are not linked up by the railways. The roadways are the life-line of these areas. Naturally the pressure on the national highways is very heavy. So I suggest in respect of the national high-ways connecting the mainland with the State capitals there should be a fresh look to the number and the condition of the national highways of the hilly States particularly that of Manipur. I had earlier suggested for Manipur there should be another national highway linking Imphal from some part of Assam. Similar consideration may be made for the State of Mizoram too.

Another suggestion I would like to make is that national highways in the hilly areas suffer in most of the cases from frequent land-slides. In order to avoid land-slides when we construct national highways we should see that upper portion of the highways should have a firm policy of afforestation. National highways have been constructed since British days. Lot of jungles were cleared from time to time to meet the temporary needs and now there is absolutely barren land. This enhances the chances of number of land slides. In order to stop land slides on the national highways we should have firm policy of afforestation of the upper portions of the national highways on the hilly areas. It does not require extra funds but there would be annual expenditure in respect of maintenance of afforestation areas. In order to maintain certain level of safety on highways the national highways may be provided with afforestation.

The other aspect is that National Highways Authority is being constituted with two categories of members -- permanent members and part-time members. I do not know. This is only a loud thinking. Government seems to take over the responsibility of construction and

maintenance of national highways from the State Governments. I think the State Governments should be somehow represented may be once a year when the annual financial estimates are passed for the authority. The State Government representatives should be associated with the passing of the budget because the national highways run through the States. They have all along been taking care of it in some States, I should say, not very satisfactorily and in some States, very satisfactorily. But in any case, the States have been associated. They have gained experience. They have all the information. Naturally, in the constitution of the National Highways Authority, the representation of the State Government should be considered. Because we don't have many Members even in the part-time category, it would not be possible to accept the representation of all the State Governments. We may suggest that the National Highways Authority should associate at least in the annual meeting to pass the financial estimates of the Authority. This is one consideration.

When particularly a national highway runs straight and wide for a long distance, the safety measures have to be enhanced. We have seen that the number of accidents is increasing every day on the national highways.

In my north-eastern areas, very small bridges — either due to the inefficiency of the agencies there or through basic or good reasons — have taken so many years for implementation and completion. I would mention on a national highway running from Dimapur to Morey, Imphal-Burma road and, similarly, some bridges on the Silchar-Imphal road. I will also mention that Lilong, Thonbal, Senapati, Karong are very small river bridges on the National Highways in Manipur. But the construction of these bridges has taken more than eight years. Now the National Highways Authority will take over. I feel that the construction of these bridges will be hastened.

Even the taking over will be in phases. This again is something which is intriguing.

I hope the Minister will kindly spell out taking over in phases means what. In how many phases? Then, which regions will be covered in the first phase, which regions in the second phase and so on? How quickly the take-over will be complete? As I have mentioned, the North-Eastern area should be taken in the first phase. It should be given priority because the weaknesses of the State Governments' executing agencies are already too well known.

I support this Bill. With these few words, I conclude.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I regard the Bill as a welcome step forward because the national highways, are like railways, the arteries of the nation, of its economic life. They are a national responsibility. They have been a national responsibility from the financial angle.

Now, it is proposed that they should also become the administrative and the executive responsibility of the Central Government. For a national institution like the national highways, this step does not constitute, in my view, an encroachment on the rights of the States. The agency system has functioned well sometimes, very badly sometimes, depending upon the situation, the personnel, the interest of the State Government and so on. The fact of inadequacy of a location has also been there. Lack of technical expertise at the State level sometimes, frequency of transfers, have also been mentioned.

It is always difficult to run a diarchal system. Dual control requires a very special finesse to operate and I think this experiment has not been very successful at least from the limited experience that we have of the maintenance of national highways in Bihar.

Sir, I would like to inform you the National Highways which were damaged in the floods in July-August, 1987 are still lying unrepaired and I do not hold the Central Government responsible for it because when I asked the question to the Hon. Minister in the last Session I was informed

[Shri Syed Shahabuddin]

that the State Government, the State PWD, was yet to submit estimates for it. Sir, obviously this state of affair cannot be permitted to go on. National Highways are far too important for this lackadaisical and non-uniform approach. Therefore, Sir, I basically support the Bill and I feel that the construction of new highways and the maintenance, repair, upgradation, renovation of the existing highways must come under a uniform control so that there can be full accountability and we can hold the Hon. Minister responsible for the state of affairs right here in this House.

Sir, I would like to raise a question about the criterion for declaration of particular road as a National Highway. I know that is the subject of the 1956 National Highways Act. Unfortunately the Act does not lay down any particular criterion. Over the years, of course, we have developed certain conventions about which roads are to be considered important enough to be regarded as National Highways and to be taken over as National Highways. There have been frequent wranglings in this House and many complaints have been voiced here about this or that road proposed by various States not having been taken up as expeditiously as they should have been. I, therefore, suggest, Sir, that the Hon. Minister should clearly lay down the purpose and the scope of the national highways. For example, it can be said that all metropolitan cities, all centres of burgeoning economic activities, all State Capitals Cities with Municipal Corporation must be brought on the map of the National Highway. Once this is done, then I would suggest that the Hon. Minister should put before us and before the country a perspective plan for the development of national highway, say, for the year 2000 A.D. then whenever any request will come in from the State then his task would be much easier. He has just to see as to whether the particular request fits into the national perspective plan for the development of national highways.

Sir, at any given time you would naturally be faced with the paucity of resources. A

question still remains as to which highways are taken up first and which should be taken up later. If I may suggest a criterion for the consideration of the Hon. Minister, the states which in the light of the perspective plan has a lower ratio of the actual to the desirable must receive priority.

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS (Tezpur): Would you please repeat this?

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: What I suggested was that once we have got a national perspective plan, then we know precisely by the year 2000 how many miles or how many KMs will there be in a given area. Obviously, the areas which as of today have a lower ratio of actual to this target must receive priority because one of the objectives of planning is always to reduce disparity in every sphere of economic activity.

Sir, I come to the question of management. I feel that the time will come when for the protection of the national highways you would require to institute something of the type what is called in USA a Highway Patrol System, just as the Railways have finally developed a system of protection force which is called GRPF exactly in the same manner I think you must apply your mind to the question of constitution of a Highway Patrol. That patrolling system will naturally look into not only the vigilance and security aspects, but also the points made by the hon. members about clearing up the debris of accident, about taking note of any corrective steps that are required and so on.

In Section 16 (2) (d), the Bill speaks of regulation and control of vehicle movement. I imagine that this means only the introduction of some sort of a toll system, which is welcome, and I hope this does not amount to creating a separate and additional licensing or permit system. I hope the hon. Minister will clarify this point.

Sir, there are a large number of proposals pending for construction of by-passes and railway flyovers. Sometimes we are told that the State Governments have

Authority

not done their homework, or they have not signed the necessary agreements, or they have not fulfilled the necessary pre-conditions, etc. And there, we are lost in these wranglings between the Railway Ministry and the Department of Surface Transport and the State Government. I feel that if it is a question of a railway flyover in order to provide expeditious passage to the vehicles on the national highways, it is a matter exclusively and only between the Railways and the Ministry of Surface Transport. It has nothing to do at all with the State Government. You want the traffic on the national highway to move faster and there is the Railway line which comes as an impediment. It is a matter to be sorted between the Railways and Highway Authority now. It has nothing to do with the State Government.

Similarly, if you feel that in a particular section of the national highway, you need a by-pass in order to expedite the traffic, after all the *raison d'être* for a national highway is to have rapid movement, is to accelerate the economic movement, then if you are creating a by-pass for making the highway more useful, more effective, then in that case again, where does the State Government come in? It only comes in for peripheral purposes to help you and cooperate with you in terms of acquiring land and so on and so forth. Otherwise, the entire construction, the entire engineering, the entire supervision is exclusively the responsibility rather should be exclusively the responsibility of the Ministry of transport and now of this Highway Authority. Therefore, I hope that with this clarification, we should be able to improve our performance in the field of construction of by-passes and flyovers and thus speed up traffic.

I would only like to quote the hon. Minister when he said that while the highways constitute only 2 percent of the mileage, they serve 33 percent of the traffic. These simple data are adequate to explain the importance of expediting the movement system.

Sir, I have one or two more points where I feel that the Bill is slightly deficient. On

the question of composition of the Authority, I agree with the hon. member who preceded me that there should be some State representation. Maybe, all the States cannot be represented at the same time and obviously they cannot be. Then perhaps, they can take turns and one State at least for each region of the country can be represented as a part-time member on this National Highway Authority because I think we need their advice and cooperation.

Also, the Bill is absolutely silent about the qualifications of the members. I feel that the Highway Authority which is conceived as a technical body should have people with special expertise on it, people who have professional as well as legal expertise, who are expert engineers, who are financial wizards and who have got some commercial experience.

AN HON. MEMBER: No politicians?

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Well, I cannot tell this Government. Because I know, even if my party comes to power, they will put some politicians on it.

So, I cannot argue against politicians -- one politician or two perhaps; but basically it should be a technical body.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): If your Government is going to have them, you can tell us about that also. No problem.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: People with financial, legal, commercial and obviously technological expertise should be placed there.

Finally, I come to this question of resources, the all-important question of resources, many plans that we have, and how many dreams that we have, finally flounder on shoals of inadequacy of resources. It is indeed pathetic that while the hon. Minister tells us that simply to bring the existing system to the desired standard, merely for this upgradation he requires at least Rs. 500 crores if not more, I find that in the entire current five-year Plan,

[Shri Syed Shahabuddin]

the allocation for the national highways is of the order of about Rs.1250 crores. I think this is terribly inadequate, particularly with the costs giving up. I wish we could have some cut-back in many other areas of optional activity which are not of immediate consequence to the economy of the nation. And sometimes they are wasteful, and sometimes they cater to the interests of the elite only. Let us cut back on those expenditures, and let us invest in this economic lifeline of the country.

Therefore, I plead through you with the Government, in aid and support of my friend Mr. Rajesh Pilot for a higher allocation for the national highways systems. With these words, I support the Bill.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore): Sir, I am very grateful to you for allowing me to participate in this very useful debate on the National Highways Authority of India Bill, 1988. Before participating in the debate and presenting my views on this issue, I must congratulate the hon. Minister that he, with his great wisdom, has brought this Bill which was much awaited.

This Bill will abolish the dual system and also the agency system. What we have seen is that the national highways nowadays have become a nobody's land. Whenever we demand here for improvement of this patch of road, or that patch of road, the Union Government replies that it is under the administrative control and execution of the State Governments. Whenever we approach the State Governments, they say we should ask the Union Government to allocate more funds. So, this is going on.

In this connection, I must congratulate the hon. Minister who has realized the difficulties of the road communications system in our country, specially the national highways which should be of the highest standard. But unfortunately, the Vohra Committee in 1983 had pointed out that the present system was permitting a complete lack of financial accountability on the part of the States. Similarly, this dual system is

never seen in any part of the world. We are unique in this respect.

So, this is a very useful Bill. Whatever the hon. Members from the Opposition might say, maybe for the sake of opposition.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: They are also supporting the Bill.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Everybody will realize that this dual system and the agency system should be abolished. After this National Highways Authority of India Bill is passed and enacted, I think road safety must be given top priority. Besides, what is happening due to the deteriorating condition of these national highways? Fuel consumption is increasing.

Side-by-side, we are a developing country. When the fuel consumption is more, it means it is a great loss to the national exchequer.

Fortunately, the hon. Finance Minister is here. Today, in the morning, while he was replying to the debate on the price rise, he had given some aspects of the problems. The bad condition of these roads is also contributing much to the price rise as most of the commodities are transported through roads. I would request the hon. Minister of Finance to liberalise his purse while financing for road construction or development of roads, because a major portion of the essential commodities is transported through roads.

While speaking on the Bill, Mr. Madhav Reddi told that the Centre was not exercising its right for the improvement of the roads. How can they exercise their right when the execution is with the State Government and also they are the persons who are to maintain the roads? We have experimented this system in the last 40 years. But in spite of their improvement, we are seeing that the roads, specially the National Highways are going from bad to worse. So, should we wait for another century or so? (Interruptions) So, we should not wait. The provision is there that the National Highways Authority will look to the road safety. It is seen that about 40,500

people were killed in 1.25 lakh accidents in the last four decades; and 70 percent of these accidents are due to human failure, which the hon. Minister will agree with me. But when we passed the Motor Vehicles Bill, we thought that there would be some improvement while issuing licences. etc. But it is with the State Government and they do not pay their due attention to it with the result that the persons of my calibre or my son will get licences because the latter is my son and has applied for issuing driving licences.

So, this is going on. But what we have seen in USSR is this. There even if there is no fault of the driver, whenever he meets with an accident, his licence would be cancelled. Then he will be given a training of six months for driving and two months trial in the field. Then only another licence will be issued to him. But in our country, we do not have so many motor training institutions specially managed either by the State Government or the Centre. So, generally, we issue licences only after giving a few trials for driving a vehicle. I suggest the National Highways Authority should look into these aspects and the Motor Vehicles Act should be rigidly followed while issuing licences.

Some hon. members spoke earlier on the funds to be made available to the National Highways Authority. It is seen that this Authority will get five percent of the cost of diesel, petrol diesel, motor spirit etc., from which 66 percent will go to the States and the remaining 34 percentage might be with the National Highway Authority. It is quite inadequate. The Additional Director General of Roads has just said that about Rs.16000 crores would be required for the improvement of the present system of national highways. So, this is a very meagre amount which will be placed with the Authority, and they cannot do any work with it. There are some provisions in the Bill that they may float loans Bonds etc. But I doubt whether they can collect the required funds through these loans, Bonds etc.

Besides, I note from the statement of objects and reasons, that they will take a

stretch of the roads or the National Highways for development. I do not know which portion or which will be the category of such a stretch of road by the National Highways Authority.

Shri Basudeb Acharia was saying that road communication in his State was very good. In my State of Orissa and many other States road communication system is the worst. So, I must say that, while taking a stretch of road for improvement of the national highway, at least some criteria should be fixed. In this connection, I would suggest that States which are exposed to floods and natural calamities should be given priority. Mr. Tombi Singh was mentioning about the North-Eastern region. Similarly in Orissa and other States also where flood is a regular phenomenon, they should be taken into consideration while taking the first stretch of road for improvement by the National Highway Authority.

Shri Basudeb Acharia was telling about the road from Kharagpur to Balasore. That road, I must say, for the information of the hon. Members, is a portion of the road, which is called as Jagannath Trunk road. It was constructed in East India Company's time and it was improved in the time of then Queen Victoria. But some portion of it has been converted into National Highway No. 5, and unfortunately the rest of the portion remained neglected after the construction of a bridge over river Subernarekha. which was of course, financed by the Centre by loans. It is being repaired by the State of Orissa and West Bengal. Both of them are maintaining the road. But after the completion of that bridge the entire vehicular traffic is passing through that road and as the specifications of that road are much less than that of a National Highway. So, definitely the condition of that road is deteriorating day by day. I would request the hon. Minister to kindly ensure that portion of the road is taken up as a national highway. This portion of the road is known as MDR 74 in Orissa.

While participating in the debate, Shrimati Basavarajeswari was talking about

[Shri Chintamani Jena]

the passing of tractors and other vehicles through the national highways which spoil the road condition. In this connection, I humbly submit that we should provide more funds. There should be four channel roads; one portion of that road may be left for vehicular traffic used for agricultural purposes and the rest three may be used for other vehicular traffic. I am happy that National Highways Authority is going to take up the work of improving the roads.

I wish and hope that through this Authority, our road system would be improved.

With these words, I support the Bill.

[Translation]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say a few things about this Bill. I congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing forward such a good Bill. Since the day I became the Member of this House. I have all along been in favour of the point that all the on going central projects in the States should be executed under the supervision of the Central Government only irrespective of the party to which the Government of the State concerned belongs and these should not be left on the States. I am not against the rights of the States, but the Engineers in the State grab all the funds and we can do nothing except raising the issue in the Parliament. I still say that the working of the Government at the Centre is far better as compared to that of the States and the Engineers working under the Central Government hardly dare to corner all the funds. In several States the P.W.D. men corner 10 percent of the funds. I am not talking of my own state. I am telling about other States. In some States, engineers corner as much as 50 to 60 percent of the funds. As soon as an Engineer enters into Government service, he becomes a 'Maharaja'. The P.W.D. Engineers become modern Maharaja. They indulge in pocketing money with no sense of dishonesty as percentage is fixed for officials

from top to bottom i.e. from Overseer to Superintending Engineer. Even 50 percent of the funds is not spent on Government work.

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda): You have the experience of Bihar.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: I did not say so. It is a fact that people take it granted that in P.W.D. work 50 percent of the funds is to be cornered and there are instances where 70 percent of the funds has been cornered. The construction of road is under taken with the remaining amount. You may please do only one thing which will cause a lot of welfare for the country. You may please provide a network of roads throughout the country. It will serve many purpose at a stretch. People will get employment on large scale from it. It is a very old theory that if employment is to be generated anywhere, a net work of roads should be provided. As a result There of, many ancillary industries will spring up, stone chips, coaltar factories will come up and consumption of cement will also go up. This will create more employment opportunity to the people. As it is a theory of economics that growth of employment has multiplier effect. If a family gets Rs. 100, the amount will be spent on buying bread, etc. Thus, bakeries will flourish. More people will get employment in it and consequently there will be more money with them which will enable them to purchase other things and it will lead to further productive activities. These activities will provide people still more employment. This will have accelerated effect. Due to this, employment opportunity will be created on large scale.

I urge that a net work of roads be constructed all over the country, leaving other things aside. This will be a great achievement. So far as national highways are concerned, their condition is very bad in Bihar. Just now Prabhawatiji was stating that conditions of roads in her area is extremely bad. There are some other areas too where the condition of national highways is bad. There are many bridges on these roads. Lakhs and crores of rupees are spent in the name of repairs of these

Authority

bridges every year. Where does this all money go. There is no one to look into it. No one has been assigned this responsibility? Money is advanced by the Centre and it is spent by the Engineers of Bihar. It is a good thing that you are going to set up a central authority which will do the entire work.

To my view, the fund sought for this authority is quite inadequate. It should be provided more funds. Your purpose will not be served with this amount. N.T.P.C., Energy Corporation and other corporations have issued debentures or bonds which invoked good response from the public, you should also issue debentures and bonds which may invoke good public response.

But we are facing extreme difficulties due to lack of roads. I urge upon the Government that the amount given to states under 20 point programme for construction of roads should be spent by the centre, it should not be left on State Governments. Many people talk about State Governments. I say it with full confidence that no work is done by the States. If the whole amount is given by the Centre for doing something, the work should be executed and implemented by the Centre. Supervision work should be in the hands of the Centre. How does it sound that money is given by the Centre whereas the work is executed by the State Governments. I have stated this earlier also that crores of rupees have been spent on Kosi Project in Bihar as against its initial estimated amount of Rs. 50-60 crores only. Thousands of crores of rupees have since been spent on it. If a civil work involving an amount of Rs. 10 lakh is to be executed, an amount not more than Rs. 1 lakh or Rs.50 thousand is spent on it and the rest of the sum is pocketed by Engineers and Contractors.

I am of the opinion that if Centre provides funds for a work, then it should supervise the spending also. Powers should be vested in the Centre and not in the States. I do not take it as an intervention in the jurisdiction of States. I do not find any bad thing in it.

15.22 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

When you construct national highways, you should also see that it does not lead to rail-road competition. In the field of transport economy, rail-road competition is a very big thing. You have to see that neither uneconomic buses nor uneconomic trains are allowed to run. Fruitless expenditure should be avoided. There must be co-ordination between the two when the entire responsibility of national highways will rest with you, you will be able to avoid this competition.

There is one more thing. Motels should be constructed at different places along national highways. People travelling on national highways at present face a lot of difficulties in respect of eatables. Therefore, small motels should be constructed along highways. This will also encourage tourism.

In the end, I will say that people do not get full protection on national highways. I agree that this is the responsibility of State Governments. But there should be coordination between Centre and the State Governments so as to provide full security to the people.

[*English*]

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam): Sir, as far as this Bill is concerned, it is not in the right direction. It is not a justified action on the part of the Central Government to encroach upon the powers of the State Governments. For National Highways, even though an agency system is prevailing between the Centre and the States, but the actual control is with the States. I do agree that the funds are being given by the Central Government but they must be under the control of the States. All of a sudden it should not be taken away by the Centre from the hands of the States by creating an Authority like this. Dual control always leads to cordial relationship between the Centre and the States. Unified control will not have that much of relationship between the States and the Centre. The policy adopted by the

[Shri P. Kolandaivelu]

Central Government is to have better relationship with the States, but by creating an Authority like this, you are taking over almost all the rights of the 32,000 kilometres of roads all over the country under one unified action. I humbly submit that this will lead to a lot of confusion because for constructing a road, you have to acquire the land, and when you approach the State Government for that, they may not yield to your action. This will lead to delay in the construction of new roads. So, instead of having an Authority like this, we should continue to have the agency system under which roads are being constructed. That is a good system. You are paying only nine percent of the work costs to the State Governments as 'Agency Charges'. Nine percent does not mean that it is a commission; you are paying nine percent to meet the expenditure on the overheads. That is all. And each and every single pie is being accounted for to the Central Government. One cannot take away the funds of the Central Government by misusing them for the State Plans. That cannot be done. When such is the case, then why do you come with the proposal for creating of a National Highway Authority of India. I do not know.

Formerly, you were not giving enough funds for the roads. You were giving funds on the basis of the number of kilometres of National Highways that the State was maintaining. How much amount of funds is given by the Central Government for each kilometre, there is no account for it.

As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, the funds have been utilised very well. I was the Minister for Highways in my State - both State Highways and National Highways - and I know fully well that as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, not even a single kilometre of new road has been constructed as National Highway. You have not allotted any funds.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): You can tell us the facts now.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: But recently, with the World Bank aid, we have taken up the work on about 100 kilometres of N.H. 45. For that, the World Bank is giving an aid of nearly Rs. 100 crores for widening it, for having four-lane traffic. I would suggest that the standard of National Highways should be of the level of the standard in foreign countries. Our National Highways are of the standard of State Highways. Only two-lane traffic is being allowed. Because of the intensity of traffic, because of more traffic flowing everyday, we have to have four-lane traffic instead of two-lane traffic.

As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, we have already suggested the upgradation of more than sixteen State Highways into National Highways. Not even a single road has been taken up so far. I request the hon. Minister to go into this matter and at least in a phased manner some of the road should be taken up for upgradation. Actually by this policy you are making an inroad into the powers of the State Governments. So, I think this National Highways Authority of India Bill would not be of much help either to the States or to the centre... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have to take up the Private Members' Business now...

SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN (Barpeta): What about this discussion?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It can be taken up on Monday.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA (Motihari): We want to speak on it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On Monday we will take it up again. We cannot do it now.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): On Monday you won't get time because there may be a motion on Bofors!

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Still we may have some time. Don't worry.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will now take up Private Members' Business. Bills for Introduction. Shri V. S. Krishna Iyer.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of articles 102 and 191)

[English]

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER: I introduce the Bill.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of article 80)

[English]

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER: I introduce the Bill.

15.32 hrs.

CINEMATOGGRAPH (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of Section 513)

[Translation]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM (Nagarkurnool): I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952."

The Motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: I introduce the Bill.

15.32 1/2 hrs.

CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION BILL*

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of the Crop Insurance Corporation for the purpose of undertaking the business of crop insurance so as to protect the interests of farmers from loss due to unavoidable causes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of the Crop Insurance Corporation for the purpose of undertaking the business of crop insurance so as to protect the interests of farmers from loss due to unavoidable causes."

The motion was adopted.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I
introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

15.33 hrs.

OIL-SEEDS AND EDIBLE OILS
PRODUCTION BILL*

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER: I introduce the Bill.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for measures to assist rapid expansion of production of oil-seeds and to facilities a more effective extraction of edible oils and other oils from different seeds both for direct human consumption as well as for the manufacture of vanaspati, soaps and other products.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for measures to assist rapid expansion of production of oil-seeds and to facilitate a more effective extraction of edible oils and other oils from different seeds both for direct human consumption as well as for the manufacture of vanaspati, soaps and other products."

The motion was adopted.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I
introduce the Bill.

15.34 hrs.

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS (REGULATION
OF EMPLOYMENT AND CONDITIONS OF
SERVICE) BILL*

[English]

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate the employment of construction workers and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to regulate the employment of construction workers and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER: I introduce the Bill.

15.34 1/2 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of Eighth Schedule)

INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT)
BILL*
(Substitution of new sections for section 500
etc.)

[English]

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: I introduce the Bill.

15.35 hrs.

TEXTILE INDUSTRY (TAKING OVER OF MANAGEMENT) BILL*

[English]

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA (Ahmedabad): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the taking over, in the public interest, of the management of textile units, pending nationalisation of such units, with a view to restoring the health of the textile industry and ensuring rational and coordinated development of textile production and for promoting optimum utilisation of the installed capacity of the industry and taking effective steps for modernisation of the industry and with a view to protecting textile workmen from unemployment and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the taking over, in the public interest, of the management of textile units, pending nationalisation of such units, with a view to restoring the health of the textile industry and ensuring rational and coordinated development of textile production and for promoting optimum utilisation of the installed capacity of the industry and taking effective steps for modernisation of the industry and with a view to protecting textile workmen from unemployment and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.36 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL -
Contd.

(Amendment of Article 311)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before further consideration on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill moved by Shri Suresh Kurup is resumed, I would like to mention that on the last occasion, the Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram intervened in the debate on the Bill. The mover of the Bill, Shri Suresh Kurup who was asked to reply to the debate has written that he will not be present in the House to exercise his right of reply.

So, I shall now put the Motion for Consideration of the Bill to vote of the House. This being a Constitution (Amendment) Bill, voting has to be by division.

Let the Lobbies be cleared. Lobbies are cleared. We are having quorum. The question is:

"That the bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken in to consideration."

The Lok Sabha divided:

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Subject to the correction, the result of the division is:

Ayes 20, Noes 26...

(Interruptions)

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur): There is no quorum.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Physically I am counting. Somebody may not have pressed the button.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur): How can you call this Division unless there is quorum.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): The founding father of the Indian Constitution is correct... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want to make an announcement. I want to verify whether the machine is correct. Once again we will

have a Division and find out. There is a discrepancy. Some of the Members may be absenting. In that case, what can we do?

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend that Constitution of India be taken into consideration."

The Lok Sabha divided:

Division No.2]

A Y E S

[12.32 hrs.

Acharia, Shri Basudeb

Misra, Shri Satyagopal

Atau-ur-Rahman, Shri

Ratnam, Shri N. Venkata

Basu, Shri Anil

Reddi, Shri C. Madhav

Chatterjee, Shri Somnath

Saha, Shri Gadadhar

Dandavate, Prof. Madhu

Sambu, Shri C.

Dora, Shri H. A.

Shahabuddin, Shri Syed

Hannan Mollah, Shri

Tulsiram, Shri V.

Iyer, Shri V. S. Krishna

Yadav, Shri Vijoy Kumar

Jhansi Lakshmi, Shrimati N. P.

Zainal Abedin, Shri

Masudal Hossain, Shri Syed

N O E S

Baghel, Shri Pratapsinh

Dighe, Shri Sharad

Banerjee, Kumari Mamata

Dikshit, Shrimati Sheila

Basheer, Shri T.

Ghosal, Shri Debi

Bhagat, Shri H. K. L.

Ghosh, Shri Bimal Kanti

Bhumij, Shri Haren

Gupta, Shrimati Prabhawati

Dalbir Singh, Shri

Jain, Shri Virdhi Chander

Dalwai, Shri Hussain

Khan, Shri Mohd. Ayub

Das, Shri R. P.

Kujur, Shri Maurice

Das, Shri Sudarsan

Mehta, Shri Haroobhai

Dev, Shri Sontosh Mohan

Motilal Singh, Shri

Pandey, Shri Manoj

Sethi, Shri Ananta Prasad

Panika, Shri Ram Pyare

Sharma, Shri Nawal Kishore

Patil, Shri Balasaheb Vikhe

Sodi, Shri Mankuram

Pradhani, Shri K.

Soz, Prof. Saifuddin

Qureshi, Shri Aziz

Tomar, Shrimati Usha Rani

*Ramashray Prasad Singh, Shri

Tripathi, Dr. Chandra Shekhar

Ranga, Prof. N. G.

Vanakar, Shri Punam Chand Mithabhai

Rathod, Shri Uttam

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Subjection to correction, the result**of the Division is:

Ayes ... 19

Noes ... 35

The motion is not carried in accordance with Rule 157 of the Rules of Procedure and in accordance with the provisions of Article 368 of the Constitution of India.

The motion was negatived.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next item on the agenda is the motion for consideration of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 1985 (Amendment of Article 311) by Prof. Madhu Dandavate.

Rule 338 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha provides that a "motion shall not raise a question substantially identical with one on which the House has given a decision in the same session." I find that provisions of the Bill by Prof. Madhu Dandavate are substantially identical to the Bill of Shri Suresh Kurup

which has just been negatived by the House. Consideration of this Bill is, therefore, barred under the above rule.

The next item on the Agenda is...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Sir, Mr. Kurup, the hon. Member who had moved the original Bill - the first Bill - has already informed you in writing that he is withdrawing the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have not received... He has to be present here physically. We cannot allow that.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramullah): He has to be present here physically. How can he withdraw like that?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): When there can be two Divisions on the same proposal, then he can be deemed to be present here. You are innovating all sorts of procedure.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Regarding Quorum only, I wanted to clarify. It happens sometimes that Members will not Press the button. Some Members may be in the Lobby. We cannot take it that all the

*He voted by mistake from a wrong seat and later informed the Speaker accordingly.

**The following members also recorded their votes:

AYES: Shri Sukh Ram

NOES: Shri Brajamohan Mohanty and Shrimati Basavarajeswari

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

Members would have pressed the button. That is why physical counting is required. That is why I asked for Division once again.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): Mr. Deputy Speaker proves to be correct about the voting machines.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next item on the Agenda i.e. the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 1985 (Insertion of new Articles 31, etc.) by Shri Saifuddin Chowdhary can now be taken up for consideration.

Shri Saifuddin Chowdhary may move the motion for consideration of the Bill.

I see that Shri Saifuddin Chowdhary is not here.

The House will now take up the next item.

15.50 hrs.

UNORGANISED LABOUR WELFARE FUND BILL

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up the Unorganised Labour Welfare Fund Bill.

Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil to move the Bill for the consideration of the House.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopargaon): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for setting up a fund for the welfare of unorganised labour, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Unorganised Labour Welfare Fund Bill, 1985

which was brought forward in this House, the facilities provided to labourers could not satisfy us and we have also observed that desired assistance is not available to the unorganised labourers. It is my view that if those who are interested to form unions of unorganised labourers to assist them should contribute at the rate of 1% or give some donations to create a separate fund for the welfare of unorganised labourers. Along with this, Centre and State Governments each should also contribute to this fund at the rate of 25%, thus this sum can reach upto 50 percent. Thereafter, if this sum is utilised for the welfare of unorganised labourers, this can do a lot of good for them. Even otherwise, you have provided for constitution of an advisory committee under this Bill to look after their welfare work.

Public workers, leaders and scholars have been feeling for a long time that organised labourers get their demands accepted in one way or the other but the unorganised labourers which includes much of the labour class feel themselves helpless to get even their legitimate demands accepted. Therefore, it becomes a duty of all members of organised labour unions, citizens, Centre and State Governments that they should extend their cooperation for the welfare of unorganised labourers. Keeping this in view, I have brought forward this Bill. I have observed that problems faced by unorganised labourers are very serious and they are exploited continuously. These labourers are unable to present their demands firmly and they do not get even minimum wages. Farm labourers, bidi workers and contract labourers do not get even minimum wages. If they demand for it, they are removed from the service. These labourers now sought for improvement of their condition stoppage of their exploitation. Welfare fund facility provided in this Bill is not for only welfare activities, it is also aimed at enhancing their bargaining power in respect of their demands.

There exist already many laws for the welfare of unorganised labourers but they are not implemented properly as they come within the jurisdiction of the State

Governments. Justice is not provided in spite of labour inspectors and labour officers. They are also unable to go to the courts due to poverty. In addition to it, they do not possess sufficient funds. After creation of the fund, there will be no financial problem and they will be in a position to go to courts and justice will be done to them. To my view, minimum wages must be paid to them. Minimum wages should also be increased. Labourers and workers employed in mines, construction of roads, small shops and bidi manufacturing are exploited. As a matter of fact, watchmen are employed by the agencies in Delhi, Calcutta and Madras on contract basis. They are paid very less wages. This has not affected much in respect of contract labour. Supreme court has also constituted a panel comprising three members which has issued directives. This panel has commented as under :

[English]

"We consider that all the evils of exploitation of the workers arise out of the contract system" it said and added that "sooner this system of contract is abolished the better would be the conditions of life and work of the people working in the couple."

[Translation]

The Commission had Mr. Justice Pav, Mr. Justice Shekheran and Mr. Justice Bacha as its members, and they also tried to do some work in this direction. After this, Government constituted a Rural Labour Commission also. But two years have passed since the commission was constituted, Jinna Bhai Darzi is its Chairman. This Commission has not submitted its report as yet. Report should have received earlier, it is not known why it is delaying its report.

It is observed that a large number of people are migrating to the cities from the villages at present. Why are they migrating to the cities? Because there is not water, no means of livelihood, no house to live in. Though these things are not available in

cities also. Inferior foodgrains are supplied to them. They are paid low wages. Even the people are migrating to cities, because they will get some or the other work to sustain their lives. What is the plight of unorganised labourers in cities? They are lacking basic facilities such as health, education for their children and housing. Slums are increasing in the cities and due to this they are falling prey to diseases whereas Government is busy in formulating rural health programme and slum implement programme. New housing policy is still under finalisation, there is some talk about it, housing is the fundamental right. A campaign is already on but the desired improvement in the condition is not being achieved. Their families live in such horrible conditions that their state is somewhat like bonded labour. Just see the bonded labour, the Hon. Minister for Labour has himself said that there were nearly 2.5 lakhs bonded labourers. Only 12 States were surveyed which include Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Gujarat and Haryana.

There are bonded labourers in other States also. Till today, more than one lakh people have been rehabilitated but the work of their rehabilitation still remains incomplete with the amount allocated for the purpose. Consequently, they fall a prey to exploitation as they do not get any job and remain unemployed and ultimately go to the contractors for employment. Most of the agricultural labourers and the forest labourers belong to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. We are taking up a number of programmes for the welfare of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Today we are advancing towards the 21st century but the question is that whether we will be able to pay our attention to the plight of the unorganised labour who have been facing exploitation for last many decades? We talk of socialism and equality which have been enshrined in the constitution also but today the Unorganised Labour and Beedi workers are being meted out with injustice. Minimum wages have been laid down by law for the beedi

[Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil]

workers, agricultural labour and the contract labour working in a sugar mill, cotton mill, or a cloth mill or those engaged in road and building construction work but as these laws are not implemented, the labourers are not paid full wages by their employers who get their signatures for the full amount. In this regard he can neither approach anybody nor lodge a complaint with any authority and in case he writes to an authority, the very next day he is terminated from the service by the Managers. The root cause of this problem is unemployment and until the due attention is paid to the removal of unemployment, their condition will turn adverse. At present, the Government have introduced a number of schemes like N.R.E.P. and R.L.E.G.P. etc. but the Government is thinking to drop all these schemes and introduce an Employment Guarantee Scheme alone and provide productive jobs to the needy persons in villages and thus improve the condition of villages. Today more than 11 percent people are migrating from their villages to the cities daily.

16.00 hrs.

I would like to say that several small schemes are being operated by the Government with an increase in the number of man days but there is a lot of bungling and corruption even in it. More figures do not make the real progress. Have the big statistics furnished in regard to R.L.E.G.P. and the claims made in regard to the increase in man days and bringing 37 to 45 percent of people above the poverty line, mitigated their grievances in the real sense of the term with the resultant increase in production and employment opportunities? Though we talk a lot about the villages, and give many suggestions for the improvement of villages but when the question of visiting the remote rural areas comes, they say that there are no aeroplane, train or any other transport facility for these villages. On one hand we talk so much about villages but when nobody will go to the villages, how the things can be improved there? Pt. Nehru had visited Ahmednagar twice- first in 1954 and secondly in 1962. He travelled

thousands of miles by car. He did not avail any heli-copter facility because he wanted to see with his own eyes as to how the people live in villages. Improvement in the condition of villages is associated with the question of unorganised labour inclusive of the poor Beedi workers who work for 16 hours a day but are paid only for 8 hours and in case of any price-rise, the amount of minimum wages is not increased. The Government of Maharashtra had appointed a committee on agricultural labour and I was the chairman of that committee. I had recommended increase in their wages if there was an increase in prices. The labourers in the organised sector, however, are able to get it compensated because their union can negotiate and enter into an agreement with the employers within the framework of law.

If I present before you some comparative figures to mark the extent of difference in the wages and salaries in the organised public sector and the private sector. In public sector, the annual average income is Rs. 10600 whereas in the private sector it is Rs. 11200. These figures are for the year 1971. Uptil now these might have increased a lot. Now they are having more facilities. Similarly the agricultural labourers in the unorganised sector are getting quite a meagre salary. They are getting only Rs. 1700 per year against the amount of Rs. 10000 which their counterparts are getting in other sectors and non-agricultural worker gets only Rs. 4800/- per year. So also, the self-employed people and cultivators are getting quite a small amount instead of Rs. ten or eleven thousand. The cultivators' annual income is Rs. three thousand and that of the non-cultivators' Rs. 5 thousand and odd per year. This is amply indicative of the condition of these labourers. This has also been mentioned in the highlights of the report of economic survey wherein it is stated that :

[English]

"Even though the organised sector accounts for only one-tenth of our labour force, it accounts for one-fourth of the nation's total wages and incomes. In a certain sense, the work force in the

organised sector constitutes a powerful exploitative chunk of the Indian society.

The unorganised sector of the work force, including the self-employed people, constituting nine-tenths of the labour force accounts only for three-fourths of the total incomes and wages."

[Translation]

Such is the situation in this country. It will reveal the extent of attention the unorganised labour requires to be paid to them. Unemployment is also there. Therefore I request every worker in the organised sector, who has the bargaining capacity be it the public sector or the private sector or the semi-private or the joint sector or the corporate sector, and is getting a salary of more than Rs. 1000/-, p.m. to pay one percent of his income as his contribution with the matching contribution of the Government to the fund to be formed and utilised for the provision of facilities for the labourers of the unorganised sector. (Interruptions).

You will also be surprised to know the extent of contribution of rural sector they are making in the field of production. These are the figures for the year 1970-71. The figures for 1980-81 are not yet available. As per the available figures, the net domestic product of rural sector in the field of agriculture was Rs. 15849 crore and that of the urban sector Rs. 505 crore. Similarly, in forestry and logging, it was Rs. 350 crore in the rural sector and Rs. 47 crore in the urban sector. It was Rs. 175 crore and Rs. 54 crore respectively in fishing. So also in mining and manufacturing, this amount is Rs. 199 crore and Rs. 128 crore in rural and urban sectors respectively. But in the field of transport, communications and trade, urban contribution was on the higher side as compared to that of the rural sector. In all other fields, rural sector has taken the lead. Similarly, urban income is more than the rural income in the field of finance and Real estate. Community and Personnel services are no exception to it. In this connection, one thing is clear that...

[English]

"Everyone agrees that relative level of rural incomes should be increased. But, when in practice it transpires that this means a relatively lower rate of increase of urban incomes, every urban group is up in arms."

[Translation]

They cannot fight out their cause in rural areas due to their poverty. That is why they come to cities from villages for employment. From all corners of India, these people come to Madras, Bombay and Delhi for earning their livelihood. How this situation can be improved? There are 24 million labourers in the organised sector in India and total number of labour including those working in the unorganised sector is 292 million and 80 percent of them belong to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. In 1987, in this House, the then Labour Minister had declared that 1987 will be celebrated as the year of improvement in the conditions of unorganised labour. I would like to know the extent of improvement brought about in the condition of unorganised labour and the extent of increase effected in their income. I request you to conduct a survey in regard to the per-capita income in urban and rural areas. In 1980-81, it was Rs. 499 in rural areas and Rs. 1201 in the urban areas. There is a great difference between them and the ratio is 1:2:4. We have been talking about the villages, unorganised labour, unemployment and social-security but we do not talk about these people. At the same time, I also do not agree with this that nothing has been done in this field. Though a lot of it has been done for them but not that much and in the manner as it should have been. In fact, the organised workers whether they are in the industrial sector or in the Labour sector or in any other sector, get higher salaries due to the faulty policies of the Central Government and in spite of that they work against the Government. We lay down the policies but the benefit of it goes to the big industrialists. Moreover, they use the press media to propagate that the situation is deteriorating due to the

[Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil]

policies of the Government. This needs to be considered seriously because on one hand, they are taking the benefits of the Government policies, on the other they are creating a very difficult situation for us.

It has been stated that Government would provide social security to the rural labour and they will be paid insurance money. May I know how much money has been spent for this purpose in each of the States and Union Territories and how many labourers have been benefited so that people may know that so much work is being done by the Centre to provide social security but the State Governments are not making use of it. These State Governments should be exposed. The Centre should direct the authorities of Union Territories to take steps in this direction and a time-bound programme should be chalked out. Targets should be fixed for this programme so that in future we could say that we provided facilities for the enforcement of laws and ending the exploitation of unorganised labour. The Result of its implementation was that 1.5 lakh of the 2.5 lakh bonded labour could be rehabilitated by the Government. This will show people the direction in which we are proceeding. There are 92.5 million such labourers and 66.69% of them is farm labour. The plight of their families is pitiable. There are 7.7 million household labour in the country. When labour exists in such large numbers in this country I feel that they should get social security benefits alongwith the Employment Guarantee Scheme.

16.09 hrs.

[SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI in the Chair]

The labourer comes alone from the village leaving his family behind. There are no health or education facilities for his children. So when the Employment Guarantee Scheme is introduced in this country, the social security scheme should also be implemented and it should be enforced strictly. The Government should do something about the Commission on

Rural Labour. In Maharashtra alone there are 68 lakh farm labourers and 64 lakh farmers. Farm labour is increasing in numbers because of distribution of land, family holdings of small farmers being rendered uneconomic and migration of children of farmers to cities in search of livelihood. As a result thereof, there is an increase in total working force. In 1981 the country's working force constituted 59.62% of the population. Of this only 24% were in the organised sector whereas the remaining 80% (approx) were in the unorganised sector.

I shall not express my views on tobacco. But the exploitation done by contractors cannot escape our attention. The Government may claim that contractors have been removed from the scene but they are very much evident everywhere. The Supreme Court has clearly stated that the contract system exists everywhere. The plight of 'beedi' workers is pitiable. The workers and their families slog hard but their wages have not increased. Workers develop diseases like T.B and cancer in the unhygienic working conditions of the factories. As they get very low wages, they are forced to starve. Will the Government do something for them or not?

The organised labour can earn more because they have bargaining power. They are in a position to demand more wages and facilities from their employer. If we compare a worker in a textile mill and a peon in a bank, the latter earns Rs. 3000/- per month. If a farmer or labourer in a village gets the salary of a bank peon he would be satisfied. This is my demand for farmers of this area.

How will the Government do this? In my opinion the organised labour should consider all other labourers as their brethren.

The organised labour should collect funds for the welfare of labourers in the unorganised sector. There should not be any question party affiliations. I appeal for a joint effort to provide assistance to the unorganised labour.

Recently a seminar was held in which the chairman of the Law Commission Justice Desai observed that "our law making process should be changed." Our present law making process is legacy of the British. The laws which were really applicable to those times, are being followed today. Many loopholes are left in the laws in this manner. The poor do not get any relief because "employer is more powerful than the employee". The poor cannot afford to go to the court. Then how can we provide social security to farmers and labourers?

When the price for the produce of farmers is fixed, the minimum wages fixed for farm labour should be added to it so that the farmer may give him full wages. He cannot pay more. If he pays more, then he is put to less. His profit is also reduced. As a result of less wages, production is also reduced. Therefore, at the time of fixation of prices for farmers' produce by Agricultural Prices Commission, the minimum wages for farm labourers will be able to fight for their dues because their minimum wage has been added while fixing support prices. I once again appeal to trade union and organised labour to help the unorganised labour. Fifty percent assistance, shared equally, should be extended by the Centre and the States. This will improve the lot of unorganised labour. The Government should definitely work towards the welfare of these labourers whose condition is miserable even 40 years after Independence. Today the Government talks of women's equality and moving into the 21st century. Along with this, Government should talk of giving equal rights to labour in the unorganised sector also. Every Party declares in its manifesto that poverty would be eradicated. Instead the gap between the rich and the poor widens further. The organised labour or corporator fight for their rights and get them too. I request them to donate to help the unorganised labour so that he could also lead a respectable life. With these words I introduce this Bill for consideration of this House and I request all hon. Members to support it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for setting up a

fund for the welfare of unorganised labour, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda): Mr. Chairman Sir, this Bill has a very noble objective. Similar issues have been discussed in this House many times in the past. I do not think collecting donations to improve the lot of unorganised labour is an effective way to solve the problem. If such methods had been effective we would have already seen an improvement in the situation through the 'dharamshalas' and free meals provided by the rich. But poverty and unemployment cannot be removed through such methods.

Today unorganised and farm labour constitute the biggest class in the country and a majority of these people are Harijans. These are the people whose lot the Government wants to improve. Since the time India became independent and even during the freedom struggle the congress and other political parties declared in their manifestos that they wanted to improve the condition of these people.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsgang): Which were the other parties involved in the freedom struggle? Only Congress party took part in it. Everyone knows about the other parties.

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: India would never have attained Independence if the Congress alone had taken part in the freedom struggle. Barring landlords, every Indian participated in the freedom struggle only then India became independent and Britishers left our country. I do not want to get into this argument (*Interruptions*).

Exploitation of farm labour is due to the economic, social and feudal structure existing today. We can stop this exploitation only through changes in the basic economic and social structure.

For a long time communist and other parties have been demanding a Central law to uplift farm labour. The Centre has to take this responsibility State Governments

[Shri Vijoy Kumar Yadav]

do not have the capacity to handle a problem as big as that of farm labour.

It is not possible to help farm labour unless they are granted facilities available to industrial workers and agriculture is given the status of an industry. There is a large number of farm labour in the country. Wages for these people are different in States like Punjab, Bihar and Orissa. Their condition is worst in Bihar, the State where I hail from. Every year lakhs of labourers leave Bihar for Punjab, Haryana and other States in the hope of better wages they are treated like animals. The educated youth of today are fighting for their rights. They cannot tolerate a situation in which they are denied their right. If this problem is taken lightly we shall not be able to find a solution. The time has come for the Centre to take on this responsibility and a comprehensive legislation should be made. The States have been entrusted the responsibility of execution of laws formulated by the centre. We can see what happens to central laws at the State level. The execution machinery should be efficient enough to enforce the law regardless of the socio-economic structure.

Another serious problem is that of 'beedi' workers. Beedi workers work in large numbers in the country. There are 4 lakh beedi workers in Bihar. If we include their families the total comes to 20 lakh what is their plight?

The Government and the Labour Department agree that there should be equal pay for equal work. The wage rate in Bihar differs from that existing in Orissa, Maharashtra, Kerala and Bengal. Beedi making work is done in all States except two or three. At some places the contract system is followed, at others this work is done in houses. Wages in most of the States is Rs. 11/- to Rs. 12/- per day. There are one or two States where the rate is higher than the hon. Member who initiated discussion on this Bill has given certain figures. According to them, the annual income of beedi workers could be true in respect of his own State. He quoted a figure of over Rs. 3000/- p.a. Bidi workers

in Bihar do not get that much. A mere 20-21 days' work is available in Bihar. The daily wage is Rs. 11/- and women get even less than that. The income on 20-21 days of work comes to Rs. 2000/- Their income does not exceed this.

What I mean to say is that I have been continuously raising the question regarding the problems of Beedi workers since the year 1980 when I was a member of Lok Sabha. Nobody has raised these problems ever before. There are a good number of Beedi workers in my constituency but they are unorganised and exploited. What to talk of wages, Beedi factory owners do not give recognition as workers. Even after such a long period of independence, factory-owners do not give them recognition as workers and no service cards have been issued to them. According to the central law, every individual having the service card would be eligible to get the full benefits. The Government claims to bring socialism in the country. But Beedi factory owners are defying the law and are making millions of rupees. The money which is required to go to the central exchequer is being pocketed as personal profits. Such industrialists who are defrauding the nation, the Government and are earning huge profits do not give recognition to their workers. Agricultural labourers are awakening now and they have started organising themselves. But so far as the Beedi workers are concerned, inspite of their being unorganised, they are strong. They require just the help from the Government. They would themselves manage to get the law implemented. If the Central Government takes the initiative to penalise a few industrialists in every State who violate the law, nobody would dare repeat the same. The factory Act is enforced where there are 20 or more workers employed. But the factory owners manage to employ just 19 workers in order to escape the provisions of the Factory Act. If the workers try to get the employment, they ask them to take the leaf from the factory and make beedies at home. Agitations have started against them at national level. The Government should extend these provisions so that each worker may have the benefit

and facilities provided to him. Why does the Government not taking action against those who try to defraud the Government, evade taxes and earn undue profits. The Government claims to have taken various steps for the welfare of the women. But everybody is aware of the fact that women are the worst exploited in every field. Exploitation and rape of women is a common practice in the field of agriculture. No where else women are exploited so much. It is a matter of shame for us that we have not been able to provide protection to the women even after a long period of independence. It is quite difficult for the women working in Beedi factories to get organised. Even the State Government extends its cooperation to the Beedi factory owners. The corruption is increasing speedily while the workers remain deprived of justice. The Government should make a provision to pay equal wages to the beedi workers. They should be paid at least Rs. 25/- per thousand beedies throughout the country. These norms of wages should be applicable everywhere in cities, villages or municipal areas. They should get service card bonus and gratuity as well as weekly holiday with full pay. A law should be made to facilitate planning of welfare scheme for them. These things will certainly improve the condition of the workers.

Then comes the weavers. I do not have any idea about the condition of weavers in other states. But the way, they are being exploited by the cooperative societies in Bihar, we cannot find any example of this kind anywhere in the country. They have become a source of earning for a few people, who have got their say in these cooperative societies. Our Minister of Labour is from the labour fields of Bihar and has been a trade union leader. He is very well aware of the problems the weavers and the labourers are facing. When he assumed the change of his office, we had a hope that the conditions will improve and steps will be taken in the interest of the workers. Our hon. Minister is well aware of the problems relating to all the workers. He has been deeply associated with the workers and trade union movements. So there is nothing new to him, he knows everything. hope

that he will take the initiative to stop the exploitation of the weavers by the cooperative societies in Bihar. No doubt, the Central Government allocate adequate amount for the welfare schemes of the workers. But nobody bothers to see the extent of the benefit accruing to them out of it. Secretaries and other officials of the cooperative societies corner these funds. The State of Bihar leads in this regard. I would like to urge the Government to depute an independent team for Bihar to find out the progress of development projects and welfare schemes meant for the welfare of the workers and the extent of the funds misused by the officials. My hon. colleague, Shri Rajhans has just pointed out that 50 percent of the total amount is cornered by the contractors and the rest 50 percent is invested in the schemes, but the actual position is entirely different. If 50 percent of the works are completed in Bihar, things would be very good and the people of Bihar will go prosperous and happy. Hardly 10-12 percent of the total amount is invested in the State of Bihar and the remaining amount is grabbed by the officials. This is the actual position in Bihar. The intention of this Bill is worth appreciating. Provisions have been made for the welfare of the workers in this Bill. But I believe that these provisions would prove inadequate to solve the problems of the workers. The Central Government should bring a comprehensive legislation to ameliorate the conditions of the workers and to protect the unorganised labour from exploitation.

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA (Motihari): Madam Chairman, I heartily welcome the Bill regarding the provision of the welfare fund for the unorganised labour introduced by Shri Patil in the House. Bill on such issues is essential. Besides, I would also like to submit that the provisions in the Bill are inadequate to solve the problems of unorganised labourers in the country. India is an independent country since last 40 years and even today it has been observed that 90 percent of the people working in different sectors are unorganised. So far as the organised labourers are concerned, they get their demands fulfilled by means of

[Shrimati Prabhawati Gupta]

strikes and pressures but there is no medium to put the demands of unorganised labourers before the Government. The representatives in Legislative Assemblies and Lok Sabha try to raise the demands of these labourers through Questions and various other proposals.

It is not correct to say that the Central Government and the State Governments have been totally inactive regarding the welfare of the labourers. A number of Bills have been passed in the House after independence. These Bills have not been implemented properly. Section 3 of this Bill provides for a welfare fund for the labourers. Hon. Member, Shri Yadav has rightly pointed out that only the demands for adequate funds wouldn't solve the problems of unorganised labour. This is a private Bill. The Government should introduce a comprehensive Bill in this regard. No doubt the Government have made provisions worth appreciating, there is a proposal to set up an Advisory Committee. It has also been provided that the labourers working in organised fields having income more than Rs. 1000/- per month, would pay one percent of their pay in the welfare fund. It would reduce the burden of the Government. Our Government is a welfare Government where comes the question of burden then. It is the duty of the Government to undertake welfare schemes for the labourers. Maternity facilities provided by the Government would be utilized by the women working in organised field and industrial units, but the women workers engaged in agriculture or in construction works, who lead miserable lives, would be deprived of such benefits. Women from all age groups and who are generally weak and helpless are engaged in construction works. They have to perform hard task. They have to carry bricks on their heads up to 9, 10 storeys. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how this class of women is going to get the maternity benefits.

Madam, Shri Yadav has invited the attention of the Members towards the

women working in agriculture farms. Agriculture is the main occupation in our country, and 80 percent of the total population lives on agriculture. Our financial position depends upon it. It is the backbone of our country. Some of our trade union leaders have raised the voice to organise the farm labourers. But the Government have turned a deaf ear. Our Late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi introduced 20 point programme. Our present Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi started a new 20 point economic programme in order to uplift the poor and helpless people and to improve the economic structure of the country. The programme includes eradication of the bonded labour and a provision for the payment of minimum wages. I would like to know as to how many labourers get the minimum wages. I would like to submit in plain words that the farm labourers are deprived of the minimum wages. Is the Government unaware of the fact that the labour inspectors and officers who look after the agriculture sector are in collusion with the farm owners and level fake charges against the farm workers. You have to find ways to solve this problem. It can only be solved through negotiations between the officials of the Ministry of Labour and the representatives of unorganised labourers of the country who constitute 90 percent of the total working force.

Madam, whatever Shri Yadav said about the beedi workers of Bihar is correct. Bihar is the State where there is a large number of agricultural labourers and beedi workers and where the women are the most exploited and neglected lot. They have no security in their life. I am reciting a poem to give you a view of life lead by the women of Bihar.

*"Kheton ki medon par dekho majdurin
kajali gati hai,
din dhan lagane mein bita aa gaya yaad
man manmita,
woh kaise gaon ki ore jaye balam pardesi
ghar rita,
isliye akeli beth yahin geeton se man
bahlati hai,
kheton ki medon par dekho majdurin
kajali gati hai."*

I would like to submit that a Bill has been passed for ensuring payment of equal wages to women. But when the hon. Minister was the Chairman of the Federation of trade unions in the country, a committee was constituted to provide equal wages. At that time, it was decided to hold meetings of that committee from time to time. When I became the Minister of Labour in Bihar, I enquired about it and came to know that no meeting was held for a long time. Then, I said that the Central and State Governments want that women should be given wages equal to men in order to ensure their welfare. I told them that they should at least hold meetings. When I asked the committee members, they replied that no meeting was held. I called two meetings during my tenure. Government must consider how to uplift them.

From time to time, I have raised voice for the unorganised women working in homes. They should be given household allowance. On the 4th death-anniversary of late Shrimati Indira Gandhi on 31st October, our hon. Prime Minister announced that the Government was bringing a special perspective plan for women. This is a commendable step. We hope that through this plan, upliftment of women, particularly women labourers, will take place and the country will also march forward towards progress.

Women are the backbone of development of this country and their contribution in this field is immense. I would request that the housewives should be provided employment in their homes itself.

I would like to draw your attention to child labour. Even today, small children can be seen working in the fields, on the roads and doing other jobs. Many laws were enacted for this purpose, but they could not be implemented properly. Nothing worthwhile has been done in this field even after 40 years of independence.

The condition of women in our country is very bad today. You go to the villages and

see their condition. Shri Maithilisharan Gupta has rightly said:-

*"Nari janam ki durdasha hum se kahi jati nahin,
Lajja bachane ko aah ve vastra bhi pati nahin
janani pari hai aur shishu uske badan par mukh dhare,
dekha gaya hai kintu wah maan putra dono hi mare."*

This often happens with the women working in the houses. Out of 4 lakh beedi workers in Bihar, 2 lakh are child labour. Our Government has set up a literacy mission under the new education policy and the Government proposes to provide compulsory education to every child in the age group of 11-14 years by the year 1995. How paradoxical it is! You should at least fix the working hours for the child labourers working in organised or unorganised sectors. Whether you go to hill areas or Assam, Punjab and Bengal, everywhere you will find half naked and bare footed small children working. Has any such survey been conducted by the Ministry of Labour? It is seen that they work under compulsion.

The Bill brought forward by Shri Patil is very important one. Therefore, the House must consider it. A legislation for the welfare of unorganised labour should be brought forward with the consent of all. Child labourers work hard to weave the carpets in Mirzapur. But they do not get wages commensurate to their hard work. You should pay attention to it also.

Government has started many welfare schemes which has accelerated the pace of progress in the country. Our hon. Prime Minister is very sympathetic towards the poor and women and is keen for their upliftment. Women working in fields or tea gardens have to carry their children on their backs. Our hon. Madam Chairman belongs to the constituency where coffee is grown extensively. The women in that area are also facing the same problems. Our Hon. Prime Minister had strongly emphasized the need for the upliftment of unorganised labour while speaking in the International

[Shrimati Prabhawati Gupta]

Labour Organisation. We should also accept this fact unanimously and work for the upliftment of the unorganised labour. It will lead to development of the country as well as the women. They will also see us as human beings and then only humanity can be saved.

With these words, I conclude.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): Madam, Chairman, the points that have been raised are quite serious and should not be taken in lighter vein. Whatever Shrimati Prabhavati has said is really worth consideration. One hon. Member from opposition also said something about Bihar which he has attributed to me.

The issue is not related to Bihar alone; it concerns the whole country, particularly the Hindi belt. The Bill brought forward by Shri Patil is really commendable. It has many aspects. There is no doubt that unorganised labour constitutes the largest segment of the total labour force in the country. We talk about them day and night, make promises at the time of elections and thereafter just forget them. The matter ends there. I can say from my personal experience that if a non-matric person gets employment in organised sector, he earns Rs. 2000 to Rs. 4000 per month in cities like Delhi. I have brought many non-matric people from my village and got them employed in organised sector. They are earning Rs.4000 here but their brothers living in the village are not getting even Rs. 40 per month as wages. This is a very desperate situation. How to solve this problem is a matter of great concern. I am not criticizing anybody but the trade unionism in organised sector is so strong that it gets its demands accepted by the owners. Since the owners fear loss of production, they have to accept their demands. It results in the price-hike of products, as the whole wage bill is added to the cost of production. Owners also get an opportunity to raise the prices on the pretext that they have to give more wages to the employees. This is a vicious circle that results in price-rise and ultimately the consumer has to bear the impact. In the

unorganised sector the problem is multifaceted. It is a fact that scheduled castes and scheduled tribes among the agricultural labourers are exploited most, but there is one group which can neither be called agricultural labour nor marginal farmers. For instance, a person who owns only two acres of land, does not gets remunerative price for his produce and as such, he is unable to pay more to the labour working in his field. The labourers have no other place to go. As they are helpless, they have to accept whatever is offered to them for sustenance. This is also right that there are lakhs of such people in the Hindi heartland who possess benami land 100 times more than the ceiling which was fixed. These people have purchased the land in the name of other persons and exploit the labour working on their farms. They make hundreds of excuses that they are employing the workers only to enable them to make their both ends meet and have no profit as such and the workers are always threatened that they can be removed from their job. The poor labourers are helpless and have to work under them. The saddest aspect is that I belong to Bihar and daily 200-250 such people meet me who have to migrate to Punjab, Haryana and especially in this area in search of their livelihood because they get higher wages here. But to what extent are they exploited? Some people do pay them reasonable wages in the beginning while others engage middlemen. Moreover this is also a fact that many people serve opium mixed tea to their labourers so that they may not feel tired. A labourer has to work for 15 to 18 hours. The result is that when they return home after working for 3-4 months, they have to meet me - if for nothing else then for their Railway reservation - and I find that they have become extremely weak. All the money earned by them is wasted in their treatment etc. either in Punjab and Haryana itself or when they return to Bihar they remain sick for a long time and their family members have to spend money for their treatment. This is worst exploitation towards which people have not paid their attention.

People from the Hindi heartland go to Assam and Bengal too and other places also

where the industrial establishment exist. All these places have prospered by virtue of hard labour put in by them but what have they got in return? There is no change in their condition and ultimately they die a painful death. My suggestion is that the States where labourers come for work from other States have a duty to create a welfare fund. It would not be proper that the fund should be created out of one percent contribution of a person earning Rs. one thousand. It is the responsibility of the State Government. which is directly benefited to provide money for the creation of this fund. And then if some labourer falls ill, entire expenditure of his treatment should be met from this fund. It is not difficult to trace such labourers because thousands of labourers from one village or one panchayat go to Punjab. The Government can easily do this task by conducting a survey at present because at present President's rule is there. Therefore such a fund should be created and a labourer who has worked in another State for 3 months, should get at least Rs. 6 hundred out of this fund so that he may be compensated to some extent from this fund. Out of that amount Rs. 600, Zamindar under whom the labourer was employed should pay Rs. 300 and another Rs. 300 should be paid by the concerned State Government because the State Government too is ultimately benefited. Therefore this may be examined and a fund may be created which will help in eliminating exploitation of such labourers who leave everything of their own and work for others prosperity but return to their own State after falling ill.

16.55 hrs

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

My submission is that a provision of compulsory insurance should be made for them. A provision of compulsory insurance should be made for the unorganised labour irrespective of whether they are working in their own State or in another State. The premium of this insurance should be paid by the Central Government. I have myself seen it and it was a hair-raising sight when snakes in lakhs managed to creep into our territory during flood days. You cannot

imagine the condition here particularly at night. People have no clothing, no shoes, ration or oil and have to return home after the days work in such a condition only. I have myself seen hundreds of labourers dying of snake-bite. There is no one to take care of them. The insurance scheme exists merely on paper but is not implemented anywhere and no one pays money for the same. When the victim approaches the Collector for assistance, he is told that he should have reported about the snake bite earlier. The collector is acting as a ruler in the district. Who dares to tell him at that time that someone has been bitten by the snake and should be treated. How many workers whose hand is cut by the crusher get compensation or how many of the patients dying of tuberculosis get compensation. Same is the case with the beedi workers who die of silicosis, tuberculosis or cancer. Therefore my submission is that the Government should introduce blanket insurance scheme for the unorganised sector and any person employed in that sector should get compensation from the Government if he is involved in some accident or he dies. Ours is a Welfare State and we can do it. If the development money which is wasted, is utilised for this task, it will prove extremely beneficial.

Shri Patil has introduced an excellent bill and in spite of practical problems in it, I would say that a beginning should be made from some point so that it may prove that the Government did such a task in 1988 which will be remembered in history and the future generations will also remember that such a thing was done by the Government for the unorganised labour.

I want to submit something regarding my constituency viz. North Bihar, which is the most backward area in the country. If you want to have a glimpse of poverty you should accompany me there and see how people shiver in the months of December and January in the tarai region of Nepal. After seeing all that you will yourself say that all the development proposals are useless and will feel ashamed on seeing their condition. We ourselves feel ashamed because we are wearing warm clothes while

[Dr. G. S. Rajhans]

those people are shivering in cold and dying of pneumonia. My submission is that some sort of assistance should be provided to the boys who come here to serve in the hotels or as domestic workers. The Government should start this at some point. In the construction industry the women of our region come to work and carry bricks from long distances but do not get any facilities or maternity benefits. After some time they are to change their name from Rama to Radha or something else and are exploited in this manner.

There is a lot to say on this subject and if you allow, I can go on speaking for hours. But the fact remains that the picture of the unorganised labour is extremely miserable and there is no one to take care of them. Therefore my submission is that the Government should make some efforts in this direction and provide them with facilities so that we can prove that our country is a Welfare State in the real sense of the term.

With these words I conclude.

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): Sir, I congratulate my dear friend Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil for two things. One, he was a lucky person that the ballot has thrown up his Bill. It is not a joke to introduce a Bill of this sort and organise a discussion on this.

Secondly, I congratulate him for the subject that he has chosen, a very important subject. It is a very neglected sector. But, it is very unfortunate that there are not so many Members to participate in the discussion. I had the privilege of getting the House adjourned in the 8th Lok Sabha on a day like this for want of quorum and that too when a Private Member's Bill was being debated. These are important subjects. Where are the Members? Anyway, now a Senior Minister is here, who has lot of experience, Shri Bindeshwari Dubeyji. Therefore, I would like to say a few points. We speak out of our own experience and we want that something should be done.

Private Members Bill should not be treated in a casual manner. The subjects are very important.

The unorganised sector of labour has many problems and these problems will have to be identified and solutions will have to be found. In this Bill, Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil Saheb wants to two important things. One is that the Central Government shall by notification in the Gazette, create a Fund to be known as "Unorganised Labour Welfare Fund" which shall be administered in such manner as the Central Government may prescribe. This is Clause 3 of the Bill.

Clause 5 says:-

"The Central Government shall contribute to the Welfare Fund to the extent of 25% of the total amount of the annual contribution, collected from the organized labour while every State and Union Territory shall contribute to the extent of 25% of the total contributions collected in the respective State or Union Territory."

I support these two Clauses, rather the whole Bill, wholeheartedly.

17.00 hrs.

But, many more things are required for this sector. In the Seventh Plan, we were told that attention would be paid to this sector, particularly to the landless labour. But I do not think that any concrete measures have been taken. The hon. Minister for Labour would tell us as to what the Government has done for the unorganized landless labour. The problems of working women are different from those of workmen. Then there is the question of children. I feel that nothing has been done so far for the children. The problems of children have not even been recognized. I do not know how the hon. Minister will react. At least, the hon. Minister should say "we shall recognise the problem." There are some written documents available with the hon. Minister. The Ministry may continue to work. But we are the elected representatives of the public. We work at

the grass root level. I am not against the bureaucrats who boast of having knowledge. Sometimes they cook up stories. But, they do not deliberately mislead the Ministers. What they do is they see the problems in their own perspective sitting in their air-conditioned rooms. I remember a book written by a Russian writer, Mr. M. Ilin. He wrote a wonderful book in which he wrote 1,00,000 whys. That means, you can raise one lakh questions about the things you see in your own room. It is a wonderful book on General Science. I translated it into Kashmiri and got Soviet Land Nehru Award for that. That book is a wonderful book. So vast is his knowledge that in his room where he sits, he could raise 1,00,000 questions. Therefore, the Secretaries and their staff sit in a room which is a very big world and they cook information. I raised a question. I would like to say that the Seventh Plan has aimed at doing something for the landless and unorganised. I want to know the concrete facts. What has the Government done for the landless labour and what has the Government done for the unorganised labour in the small industries and in the serfdom. I remember how Mr. Maurice Dobb explained in a very important book: "Studies in the Development of Capitalism." Sir, India is modernised. But it is sometimes half-modernised and half feudal. There is a kisan who has three landless labours helping him. They have no rights; they have only duties to perform. They have no time-scale to work there, not to speak of big zamindars. There is no land-reform in this country. So, the problem is gigantic. The hon. Minister would have prepared the reply. I do not know about it whether he will change his reply or not. But he must change because I raised a question about the Seventh Plan which outlined to do something for these people. Are you going to do something for them? I felt that the problem was recognised. But today I feel, when I rise to speak in great sympathy with Mr. Patil, that it was not. Actually, I had to go to an important job. Today is Private Members Business. But the subject is very important. Then, I came here. My question is: if the Seventh Plan laid down a policy, has anything been done? I want a definite answer to that.

What pains me is that in Parliament and outside Parliament, there are lobbies for the big industrialists, Zamindars and even lobby for the kisans. The other day we were discussing about the farmers landless labour and their plight. All the speeches were made for the kisans that they should get fertilisers, electricity etc. Then I was provoked and asked: Why don't you talk about the landless labour? The landless labour has nothing. When you call kisan, he can be a big kisan or a small kisan but he gets all the benefit. He has already got the benefits, got electricity etc. Please go to Haryana and Punjab and see. But the landless labour has not got anything. There is a lobby for the kisan, for the landlord, for the zamindar and the big business people in the Parliament and outside Parliament. But there is no lobby for this class of unfortunate people, in the unorganised sector. Therefore, it is the duty of the Ministers who are here to see that they get something. There is a neglected section of society. These are the people, who in their faith in reform and change in their life vote for us. But we do not do anything for them.

Mr. Chairman, through you, I want to ask the hon. Minister certain questions. One question is about the Seventh Plan: whether something has been done. The second is that we do not know even the status of unorganised labour. There is no survey. At All-India level, there should be survey as to what is their condition - State-wise and even District-wise. We must know about that. What are they doing? What is their status? Therefore, if there is no survey so far, the Minister must say that there is no survey. If there is going to be a survey, we request that the Minister should come forward to say that there will be an All-India survey to determine the status of these people, to get to know and tell the nation as to what is the position of these unorganised labour class.

Sir, in this unorganised class, there are two classes. One was - Mrs. Gupta also said - about the women. Their plight is very grave. There should be a system. Sir, the decision-makers are the bureaucrats. They take a lot of decisions. There is tremendous power in their hands and they exercise this

[Prof. Saifuddin Soz]

power on theoretical knowledge. There must be a system. Through you, I inform this House and the entire country - it could go to the country because it is a Private Members' Bill - that it was for the first time in the Jammu and Kashmir State that the Chief Minister three months ago took the Planning Commissioner to the interior areas, far-flung areas of Currej, Tulel, Keran Karrah where we were sitting together in a helicopter. The Planning Commissioner said that for the first time he was there and for the first time, he saw Chief Minister and MPs talking to the people. He saw the plight of the people. They were asking for so many things. They were telling that things were sanctioned in the air and they never get to know whether the building was there, whether the things were done for animal husbandry. He saw an area and said that this was happening throughout India and not only Jammu & Kashmir. There must be a system whereby our bureaucrats who enjoy great powers, should go to the rural India and understand the situation. They get this LTC facility for going to various places. I do not grudge about that. They go to Dalhousies, or to Darjeeling or to Kashmir. But it must be made compulsory for them to go to rural India and spend some time and understand the problem because behind the scene when they see us talking, they laugh. This laughter is not correct. Nobody laughs here. But I have seen that they pity us because they feel that we cannot bring about a change. So, it is the responsibility of the Minister. Why I raise this question is because I feel that nothing moves, nothing changes, yet we go on speaking. The Indian Express said something about the Bill which was discussed yesterday. It was introduced four months ago. It was on price rise. Unfortunately, perhaps, it could not be completed. This discussion was spread over for three sessions and the price index has gone high. Nothing stirs. Nothing moves. I want the Minister to make a meaningful speech in response to our points that we have raised. I remind the Hon. Minister that we are ourselves fed up with the system. We shall fight. We come here with the popular mandate of the

people. Now the design of bureaucracy has to change.

I saw an article only two days back. It is a journal which I don't read and I should not quote its name. But somebody telephoned to me last night saying that it was an interview of Sam Pitroda by Talveen Singh. Only four days ago he told me to read this journal. This is from Sheila Barse of Bombay. She has described the plight of the children who are in jails in Bihar, U.P., Maharashtra. Nobody cares. Those are the children of an unorganised labour class. Her figures are that 100,000 children are in jail and she fought a battle in the Supreme Court. Do you know what the Supreme Court did? The Supreme Court got fed up because bureaucrats never replied to its letters. Even contempt proceedings failed to get response from the so called Chief Secretaries. And when she wanted to investigate herself at the state level, Supreme Court got fed up and threw Mrs. Barse away and said that their legal aids committee would do. Then she passed strictures against the Supreme Court. She is a very bold lady. She said: "this functional Supreme Court has no authority to make bureaucrats behave with the judiciary. Judiciary has failed to do justice." It is on record. This is published in a magazine. And I feel tempted to commit contempt of this court. We did not take care that Mrs. Barse was travelling from Bombay in ill health. She never missed an attendance in the court except once when she was ill. She had no money to travel. Yet the State Government's respondents never appeared before the court. Even contempt of the Supreme Court was committed. Do you know why is this? It is Shiela Barse saying in this article. It is because their sons, daughters and relatives are in IAS and IPS and they cannot do anything against the bureaucrats.

I have already moved a motion for reform in the judiciary and may be the Government will come forward in that regard. In Supreme Court one lakh thirty three thousand cases are pending with no justice being done. For twelve years this case has been going on there. The Supreme Court has not been able to liberate these

one hundred thousand children who are behind the bars in various courts in the country.

It is because of that the bureaucracy has not been able to function in the way Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru wanted the bureaucracy to function. It is a very heart-rendering story.

At the end I only say that Mr. Dubey - though he may not come forward with a blanket assurance - has his conscience stirred and he would do something. Today he is in this Ministry; tomorrow he may be shifted to another Ministry. So, he should not have a feeling that he left this Ministry without having contributed anything. Here is an occasion for him to respond to the urges and expectations that we have of him.

With these words I strongly support Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil's Bill on this subject.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): I support the Bill introduced by Shri Bala Saheb Vikhe Patil for the unorganised sector. Shri Soz has said that it is a very good Bill and maximum number of Members should participate in its discussion. But it is sorry state of affairs that when we are discussing this Bill, not even a single Member of the Opposition is present here. These people pretend to be working for the welfare of labourers but in reality they can only speak on Bofors and have nothing else in their mind. They could also give their suggestions when such an important Bill is being discussed. I am asking to record this. I support clause 3 and 5 of this Bill. Shri Bala Saheb Vikhe Patil has said in clause 5 that the people of organised sector should contribute in this and help the labourers of unorganised sector. But first of all, we should also see as to what is their view lest this Bill itself should be dropped and if this happens then the people of organised sector will give no contribution in it. The employees of the organised sector get all the benefits of

safety, absent benefit etc. and the Government has even introduced the Equal Remuneration Act for them and the Equal Wages for Women Act had also been ratified in the House when Shrimati Indira Gandhi was in power. But the National Survey Centre does not publish the information in the data brought out by it regarding the number of employed and unemployed people and the number of people in agriculture sector, in the organised sector and in the unorganised sector. The National Survey Centre is making efforts for it but it has not been compiled so far and this is quite shameful. It is 40 years since we achieved independence but the master roll has not been prepared yet. Today the condition of the unorganised sector labour is quite miserable in our country. This is right that the Government of India has ratified a number of I.L.O. conventions like Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951, Discrimination Convention 1958, Equality of Treatment Convention, 1962, Minimum Age Convention, 1965 and Rural Workers Organisation, 1975. But I.L.O. has also held other conventions and in the conference of Labour Ministers held in Delhi in 1987, which included a number of recommendations made by the Labour Ministers and Secretaries from different States for the benefit of the unorganised sector labourers. Those recommendations also included that:

[English]

- (1) Removing lack of awareness among labour, particularly unorganised labour, through a sustained publicity campaign both by the Central and the State Government.
- (2) Upgrading the enforcement machinery by the State Governments with the assistance of Central Government as may be required. Assistance of other departments of the State Government like the Revenue and Welfare also to be taken, wherever necessary.

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

- (3) Claims authorities and prosecuting authorities should be appointed at the Block level.
- (4) Regular review of implementation of legislation by State Level Advisory Boards and Tripartite Bodies.
- (5) State Governments should make efforts to accelerate anti-poverty programmes, employment generation programmes and enforcement of minimum wages.
- (6) Identification and rehabilitation of bonded labour to be integrated with other anti-poverty programme so that bonded labour do not slip back into bondage.

[Translation]

Besides a Labour Conference was held in Geneva under the auspices of I.L.O. which was attended by the then Labour Minister Shri Sangama and a few recommendations were made for the labourers of unorganised sector. Two main recommendations were made in Geneva. (1) Employment and Social Security and (2) Safety in Construction. But it is regretting that the Government accepted neither the recommendations made by I.L.O. nor those made by the Conference of labour Ministers held in Delhi in 1987. There is no such data bank in our country till date through which we may know the number of labourers in the unorganised sector and the organised sector. The hon. labour Minister has worked as the President of INTUC and has good experience. The unorganised sector consists of mostly workers in the agricultural field and they are badly exploited by the land lords or the contractors. The effort made by Shri Bala Saheb Vikhe Patil in introducing the Bill to highlight the sufferings of the unorganised sector and for stopping the exploitation is commendable but it is sad that the Government will not accept his Bill. In this regard, I would request the hon. Minister that while he has brought a number of Bills

for the welfare of the labourers, he should also bring another Bill for the welfare, security and safety of the unorganised sector labourers so that they may also get protection. It is the duty of the Government to bring such a legislation and I want that the Government should bring it. You should invite the leaders of all parties unions connected with the Labourers' like INTUC, CITU, AITUC and hold a meeting in which a representative of the Central Government should also be included to decide as to what steps can be taken for the welfare of the unorganised labour and to improve their condition. Today we are discussing a Private Member's Bill in the House and we know that this will remain a mere discussion since the Government is not going to accept it. There is no point in holding such a discussion. I think that the Government should bring a comprehensive Bills in Consultation with the State Government, Central Government and the unions of all the Parties. It will prove to be a better step for the benefit of labourers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Rajhans has suggested that there should be an insurance scheme for the agriculture labour. The Government formulated a scheme according to which an accident victim will get Rs. one thousand immediately at the time of accident and Rs. 3 thousand later on. But the fact is that a scheme which is approved by the Government later goes into the hands of politicians or political parties. In my State, this scheme has been entrusted to Life Insurance Corporation, but what happened is that the corporation handed over this scheme to the local bodies, the Panchayat Committees. There is so much politics in my State that even the benefits of the scheme are given on political considerations. It is seen as to which farmers in the Panchayat belong to C.P.M. and which to the Congress and on that basis they are given these benefits. Is such a discrimination proper? The farmers as a class are one. Therefore the Government should see as to how the problems of the agriculture labour may be solved and then the steps should be taken accordingly. The Central Government should not transfer its responsibilities to other institutions. The Central Government should also share the

responsibility; its responsibility is not over by merely handing over the scheme for implementation to others. The scheme should be monitored by the Central Government and attention should also be paid to it. The Government should not confine its duty merely to the passing of the laws but it should also look that the laws passed are properly implemented. In this regard the Government should get a sample survey conducted and appoint local officers for the purpose. If such an action is taken, then that local officer may also give you the report from time to time. We are not against the bureaucracy. We can neither afford to do so. The fact is that there is some communication gap between the grass root level and upper level bureaucracy. The Government does not get the kind of information it should receive. Therefore the communication gap in our bureaucracy should be removed.

Madam Chairman, our Government has made a lot of efforts for the development of labour. Legislations adopted in this regard bear a testimony to this fact. I support the proposal made by Shri Bala Saheb Vikhe Patil that the Central Government should arrange 25 percent funds from the Consolidated Fund of India. The Government can create a fund for the unorganised labour by contributing from the Prime Minister Fund and President Fund and in this way the unorganised labour will be benefited. Once when I asked a Question from the Minister of Industries in the House and suggested to take some steps for the labourers who are starving due to the closure of so many industries, he replied that he is helpless regarding the private sector and can take steps for the public sector. I am afraid that you too may say that steps can be taken only for the organised sector and not for the unorganised sector. When the I.L.O., the Ministry and the whole nation is paying attention towards this issue, the Government should also pay attention in this regard. Arrangements should at least be made so that the unorganised labour may get medical facility, maternity benefit and the facility for their children's education. Besides, they should also not be exploited any more. The Monitoring

committee should be constituted in consultation with the State Governments. The Government can succeed in doing something for the unorganised labour if such steps are taken. The Government should either accept this Bill or bring a comprehensive Bill in this regard. The Labour Ministry will succeed only when such a Bill for the welfare of agricultural labour is adopted here.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Bill presented by Shri Bala Saheb Vikhe Patil. Our Constitution makers favoured the idea of democracy, socialism, secularism, social and economic justice. After achieving political independence, we abolished the princely States, jagirdari and thereafter we enacted Land Reforms Act. In pursuance of the Land Reforms Act we abolished zamindari system. The Land Reforms Act was not progressive enough and was not in favour of the poor. Very few people could be given land under this law. Therefore the Land Reforms Act should now be so amended that more land may be given to the agriculture labourers. It is only then the condition of agriculture labour can be strengthened.

The question regarding solving the problems of the agriculture labour is before us. The need of the hour is to unite them and then fight for their rights. Today's discussion is also related to this subject. Various hon. Members have expressed their views in this regard. You know that we have formulated various programmes. Under the 20 point programme, various decisions were taken as well as implemented. The most important programme is I.R.D.P. under which the agriculture labour was identified and both the small as well as marginal farmers were included in the programme. However we could not uplift them to the extent we wanted. Under this programme, the people from tribal areas were given 50 percent subsidy the Schedule Caste 33 percent and others 25 percent. The funds were not utilized for the purpose they were granted. This is the reason their economic condition of those who utilised this amount properly has improved.

[Shri Virdhi Chander Jain]

It has generally been noticed that the grants provided by the Government were pocketed by the officials. The Surpunch, the district officials and the doctors swindled that money. As regards I.R.D.P. programme, which is an important programme and on which crores of rupees have also been spent, my suggestion is that in the Eighth Five Year Plan assistance should be given for employing its people in productive jobs. Under the Trysem system we should provide them training through the experts so that they may learn such works and be self-sufficient through these productive jobs and strengthen their economic condition. In order to create such a situation it is essential to stop such grants. We may utilize this amount for giving interest free loans to the selected families of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. We should not charge any interest on these loans for 5-6 years. In case of continuous drought or flood situation, instalments should not be recovered. They should be given productive goods which may strengthen their financial position. Then alone will the condition of agriculture labour improve otherwise their lot is not going to improve. Today if an agricultural labour works under a zamindar, he will surely be exploited and the Government cannot stop this exploitation. You may make any number of laws, you are not going to stop it. It is right that if the landlord is generous and humane, he may treat his labourers well and the condition of his labourers improve but people with such tendency are very few. The Government made various efforts and announced Rs. 11, Rs. 14, and Rs. 20 in Haryana and Punjab as the minimum wages but these wages are not being paid and the labourers are not getting the required relief. The question is how to implement the law and how to unite the unorganised labourers?

We shall not be able to attain our objective until dedicated, sympathetic and committed workers come forward to organise the unorganised labourers and work for their progress and development.

Another difficulty is that few people are prepared to work among the poor. We make tall claims but in reality, we are not able to work for them and strengthen their financial position by ensuring even the minimum wages to them. This is a problem before us and we must prepare a concrete programme to solve it. We have the R.L.E.G.P. scheme under which agricultural labourers are provided employment. This scheme has brought the contract system to an end. But in reality it is not so. Contract system is still thriving and the representatives of the people, the 'Sarpanchs' the 'Pradhans' of the Panchayat Samiti and the Development officers are responsible for it. The Central Government has issued clear directions against the contract system. In our constituency, we have made constant efforts to ensure that the labourers get minimum wages and a Central Minister also visited our area to monitor the progress. He was satisfied that the law is being actually implemented there. Previously, our workers used to get Rs. 11 per day as wages which was increased to Rs. 14 subsequently. A Minister of State of the Central Government said why this law has not been implemented. The State Governments implemented it. What I mean to say is that by ensuring minimum wages to the workers under the RLEGP scheme, their financial position can be improved. By enhancing the allocations for I.R.D.P., R.L.E.G.P. and N.R.E.P., their financial position can be strengthened. They are getting necessary assistance. Besides, wheat has also been made available to them at subsidised rates which is a source of great relief for them. They have got substantial relief during the drought. Similarly, some concrete programmes have to be prepared under the N.R.E.P., R.L.E.G.P. and I.R.D.P. schemes. The labourers should not be dependent on the landlords. I want that we should create such a situation where in the landlords do not find any agricultural labourers. They should not work for the land lords under any circumstance. We are capable of creating such a situation. They should be able to protest against the exploitation of the land lords. A situation can be created when they need not go to the land lord for work. Today farm labourers are migrating from Bihar in large

numbers. They are moving to Punjab and Haryana because of exploitation. They have decided to seek employment anywhere else rather than tolerating humiliation and insult. It is with this intention that they are migrating to other States. Today the situation in the country is that no worker can tolerate exploitation. He cannot withstand any sort of humiliation. Therefore, we have to think of giving alternative employment to those labourers who are engaged by these land lords. We shall have to create circumstances where in land lords are forced to till their lands. We shall have to frame a law which could provide land to the tiller. Those who do not till the land should be deprived of land ownership. We shall have to take such steps for land reforms. Until such measures are taken, real progress cannot take place nor will this problem be solved.

The All India Congress Committee has stated in its economic resolution that at least one member of every family consisting of 5 members should be provided with gainful employment. As regards the select families, it has been observed in the rural areas that some families have been included in this category although they do not belong to it as a result of their influence in the Gram Sabha. They should be excluded from the list of beneficiaries and the families which belong to this category in reality and who are living below the poverty line should get the benefits. This programme should be implemented strictly and one member of every such family consisting of 5 members, should be provided with respectable employment either in Government service or in factories. Immediate steps should be taken in this direction. Whatever concrete steps are taken, they should benefit those who are living below the poverty line. Necessary direction should be issued to every State in this regard so that the State Governments can frame laws for the upliftment of these deprived sections of society.

Now the question is whether women workers get wages equal to their male counterpart? Under the famine relief schemes women workers are paid less than their male counterparts. We protested

against this practice in Rajasthan and equal wages were granted to women. Clear direction should be issued to all the States in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): There are laws in this regard. The State Governments are not implementing them.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: If the State Governments are not implementing them, then a meeting of the State Chief Ministers should be called and told to implement. They also uphold the dignity of humanity and democracy and they will accept this suggestion.

SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY: A meeting of the State Labour Ministers was convened.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: You should make a beginning somewhere. We can make them understand by reminding them the principles laid by Mahatma Gandhi, particularly, non-violence, so that the women workers are not exploited and discriminated and they get wages equal to men. A Commission has been constituted for the unorganised labourers under the Chairmanship of Shri Jina Darzi and several hon. Members of the House including Shri Panika are its members. I want that its report should be presented during the next Budget Session so that some decisions could be taken in that matter and the position of the labourers could be strengthened. Besides, there should be further improvement in the labour laws so that the workers lot could be improved.

I want to submit a few points regarding bonded labour. The Bonded Labour Act is laudable and is well-intentioned but even today bonded labourers have not been identified in many States. They do not come into the open because they are afraid that by doing so their position may become even more weak. Therefore, I want to submit that they should be identified in every State. In this connection, the Central Government should issue special directions to the States and the Collectors should be directed to identify bonded labourers at the district level and make efforts to rehabilitate

[Shri Virdhi Chander Jain]

them thereafter. The rehabilitation work done for them is laudable and their condition has improved. We want that their condition should improve further. We have attained political freedom but we have yet to achieve full economic freedom and in order to do so, we should not have a single bonded labour in the country by 2000 A.D. Everyone should get employment and their financial position should be strong. For social and economic progress there should not be a single land less labourer or poor person in this country. We want to banish poverty from this land. To achieve all this, the problem of unorganised labour has to be solved.

With these words, I thank you.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the time for this Bill has expired. How much more time do the hon. Members want for this Bill?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Two more hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the sense of the House that two more hours should be extended for this Bill?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR CHAIRMAN: So, the House has extended two more hours for this Bill.

Before I call upon the next speaker to speak, the hon. Minister, Ajit Panja wants to lay papers on the Table of the House.

17.52 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE - *Contd.*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the

following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 150 of the Customs Act, 1962:-

(1) Notification No. 307/88-Customs published in Gazette of India dated the 25th November, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing the basic customs duty rates for certain categories of iron or steel products.

(2) Notification No. 308/88-Customs published in Gazette of India dated the 25th November, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum excluding certain categories of iron or steel products from the purview of Notification No. 61/86-Cus. dated the 17th February, 1986.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6785/88]

17.52 hrs.

UNORGANISED LABOUR WELFARE FUND
BILL - *Contd.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now Shri Ram Pyare Panika.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my thanks to my hon. colleague, Shri Patil who, by introducing a Bill on the unorganised labour, provided us an opportunity to have a discussion in this august House on the problems of labourers.

It is a matter of satisfaction that the hon. Minister, who has been rendering yeoman service to the cause of Labour Welfare, is present here. I think that hardly will there be any labour aspect with which our present hon. Minister is not acquainted. He worked for the welfare of labourers both in organised as well as in unorganised sectors. After independence, a lot of work has been done for the welfare of the labourers in this country and that is why the country is

gradually making progress in the agriculture as well as industrial fields. Development is taking place in agriculture as well as industry rapidly.

Sir, keeping the plight of labourers in the unorganised sector in view. Our Government, our Hon. Prime Minister had made an announcement in the Budget that some concrete steps would be taken for the welfare of the labourers, as a result of which National Labour Commission for Rural Labour was constituted. It is also a matter of chance that I happen to be one of its members of that Commission. I have been benefited from the views expressed here. There is no doubt about the fact that the Commission has not been able to go into the details of labour problems since it started working a year ago.

One thing I would like to say that the problems of unorganised labour is very acute. In my constituency, there is factory where four different categories of labourers have been doing the same type of job. These labourers are contract labour, casual labour and muster roll labour and their rates of wages are different. While one category draws at the rate of Rs. 28 per day, the other category Rs. 40 and the third only Rs. 12, though they do the same type of job. Though the nature of their work is the same, their rates of wages differ widely. It is, therefore, necessary that the labourers in this unorganised sector should be saved from exploitation.

A large number of labour laws have been enacted in this country during the last 40 years. But very few laws have been made for the welfare of labourers in unorganised sector. It has not yet been possible to provide free legal aid to agricultural labourers. No one has ever taken up the case of agricultural labourers in any court of law. Besides, there are agricultural labourer in my area and carpet weavers in Mirzapur and eastern region. The carpet industry has been declared an hazardous industry. Even then, children work in it. The Government has made a lot of efforts to ensure that the labourers are meted good treatment, but there has been no improvement in the situation. Despite all

efforts to prescribe the minimum wages, the labourers have to work there for 12 hours daily from dawn to dusk and they are not paid more than Rs. 14 a day as their wages. The minimum wages so fixed donot have any scientific basis. This is telling upon their health. Their living standard is going down. The Government of India gives 30 percent incentive for export of carpets, but the weavers do not get any share out of it. I would like that some steps should be taken to ensure that these labourers, who are very industrious and whose number runs in lakhs, get their due share out of this 30 percent incentive amount. The Government of India introduced a scheme for their welfare, for the improvement in their health and for their social welfare and with a view to implementing the scheme, the Government of India has provided a sum of Rs. 42 crore for this. This scheme is not being implemented. It should be seen as to why this scheme is not being implemented.

So far as the question of implementing the schemes in respect of agricultural labourers is concerned, the schemes have not been implemented for want of sufficient machinery in the country. 80 to 85 posts of Inspector are lying vacant in Uttar Pradesh and there is none to look into it. The wages of agricultural labourer should be fixed keeping in view the local conditions, otherwise the farmers and labourers will clash among themselves. The wages should be fixed in the light of income accruing to the farmers. Subsidy should be given to farmers in those places where their condition is not good. It is all right that minimum wages have been fixed and payment should be made on that basis, but the farmers should be provided some source of income. This is a very important thing. Apart from it, there are labourers working in the brick kilns and bidi workers are also there. All of them are in the unorganised sector. Our Commission is going into their problems comprehensively. But the Government has already enacted a number of laws earlier. The Ministry of labour had convened a meeting and I was invited to that. But I was not able to participate in the meeting due to Panchayat elections. When this matter is taken up with the State Governments or officers, they talk of extending all co-

[Shri Ram Pyare Panika]

operation and making improvements in the situation, but when we make an on the spot visit, everything is found to be in a disarray. The Centre and State should do a co-ordinated efforts in this regard. The laws are made with the consent of both of them. As such, both of them should possess power of implementation. Rules should be made strict so as to ensure that these laws are duly implemented.

As the hon. Minister said that Minimum Wages Act has since been enacted. But some of the departments in Uttar Pradesh have taken exemption. The Departments of Forest and P.W.D have taken exemption, because they were subjected to legal action when an F.I.R was lodged against them. Such complaints are very common in the private sector, but as far as the exemption taken by the Government Departments is concerned, there is a need to review the whole issue. Despite so many directives of the Government, discrimination is made in disbursement of wages. While women

workers are paid at one rate, the men are paid at a different rate. This also causes discontentment among them. Funds are allocated for various development works. Funds are allocated for N.R.E.P and R.L.E.G.P. It should be ensured that minimum wages are paid to the labourers engaged in schemes run under those programmes. But the Governments in various states exploit the labourers in this regard.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may continue next time. The House stands adjourned to meet again on Monday at 11.00 A.M.

18.00 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, November 28, 1988/Agrahayana 7, 1910 (Saka)
