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Chaitra 29, 1907 (Saka)

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(English Version)

Second Session
(Eighth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday April 19, 1985/Chaitra 29, 1907
(SAKA)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Losses In N.T.C. (WBABO) Ltd.

+

*507. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI MUKUL WASNIK :

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Textile Corporation (WBABO) Ltd., Calcutta, has been incurring a loss of about rupees 2.5 crores per month and the management has failed to arrest the trend of such increasing losses in its all the eighteen units ;

(b) whether modernisation of mills as per envisaged plan of five years ago or so has not yet been completed ; if so, the reasons thereof ;

(c) the details of modernisation done in each unit and the names of mills where new machines are yet to be installed under the envisaged programme ; and

(d) the action being proposed to arrest the trend of losses in each mill and for completion of proposed modernisation programmes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) NTC (WBABO) has been incurring losses due to inadequate supply of cotton, sluggish off-take of stocks, shutdown of power supply, excess labour force, increase in input costs viz. wages/salaries, dyes and

chemicals, power, fuel) etc. During 1984-85, NTC (WBABO) has incurred a loss of Rs. 2.40 crores approximately per month. There has, however, been an improvement in the performance of the Corporation during January-March, 1985.

(b) The implementation of the approved plan of modernisation for units under NTC (WBABO) is by and large progressing in a phased manner. The original outlay for modernisation programme was Rs. 36.19 crores, which has since been revised to Rs. 39.86 crores. The value of work done and machinery installed upto 31.3.1985 is about Rs. 31.44 crores. The process of modernisation is also being continued during the 7th Plan.

(c) A statement showing the expenditure incurred on modernisation/renovation and also the value of orders placed for new machines, under the modernisation programme, in respect of each mill under this subsidiary is enclosed.

(d) Some of the important steps taken or being taken, to improve the performance of the mills are as under :—

(i) arrangements are being made for timely procurement of cotton from different available channels ;

(ii) working capital has been replenished to make up for cash losses ;

(iii) to overcome the power shortage, self-generating capacity has been provided ;

(iv) cost control methods have been introduced for reduction in costs at all levels ;

(v) management at the subsidiary level is being strengthened for better management of available resources.

(vi) workers' participation scheme in the management of the mills is being encouraged.

Statement

National Textile Corporation (WBABO) Limited

	(Rupees in lakhs)	
	Expenditure incurred on modernisation renovation	Value of orders placed for new machines
1. Bengal Textiles	143.06	149.85
2. Manindra	42.71	19.57
3. Central Cotton	81.94	—
4. Bengal Fine No.1	203.18	18.17
5. Bengal Fine No. 2	130.18	160.03
6. Shree Mahalakshmi	164.63	5.00
7. Rampooria	316.76	37.57
8. Laxmi Narayanan	219.02	17.02
9. Arti	240.51	68.66
10. Bangasri	207.00	136.05
11. Bengal Laxmi	340.56	31.53
12. Kannoria	75.87	3.10
13. Jyoti	53.17	11.61
14. Sodepur	181.70	—
15. Associated Industries	173.57	41.15
16. Gaya Cotton	210.35	32.98
17. Bihar Co-op.	68.81	48.57
18. Orissa Cotton Central Testing Laboratory	290.37 0.85	9.32 —
Total	3144.24	790.18

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : The hon. Minister has made it clear in his reply that the NTC has incurred a loss of Rs. 2.40 crores approximately per month. Subsequently, the Minister says there is, however, an improvement in the performance of the Corporation during January-March 1985. It is not correct that there has been an improvement in the performance of the Corporation during January-March 1985. In 1985 there was a cash loss of Rs. 2 crores and 67 lakhs. Further its losses are increasing every month. It incurred a great loss during 1984-85 due to mismanagement alone. So, my question is whether the losses during 1984-85 have increased manifold as compared to the previous years? And is it due to the in-

fighting, corruption and inefficiency of the three persons—viz. the Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Director (Personnel) and the Director and Managing Director (Technical)?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: The hon. Member has expressed his doubts about the improvement that has occurred in the performance of this subsidiary company of the NTC during January-March 1985. The fact is that the losses have been reduced to Rs.2.10 crores per month.

As far as the question of infighting among the top officers of the NTC is concerned, I am particularly not aware of the situation. If the Member has anything to

convey to me, I shall be glad to welcome the information and the suggestions.

SHRI SREENIVASA PRASAD : In reply to part (a) of the question the Minister says that one of the reasons why the NTC has been incurring losses was due to the excess labour force. I would like to know whether it is not a fact that in spite of l sses and ban on recruitment by Central Government, about 600 persons have been taken on irregular jobs at a higher salary without their having to attend office regularly during the period June 1984 to November 1984 on certain forged documents.

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SINGH : I am not aware of this fact. If the Member has any information, he may kindly pass it on to me. The information is that regarding recruitment of show-room employees, there was something about irregular appointments and the matter has been referred to the CBI for inquiry.

DR. V. VENKATESH : Sir, corruption is rampant in N.T.C. It is more a temple of corruption and illegal job racketeering is going on there. Actually there are four people involved in this. They are **Chairman-cum-Managing Director, **Director (Technical), General Manager (Technical), and **Director (Personnel). They are all involved in this. Therefore, there must be a thorough investigation by the CBI because it is already declared as a sick industry and a ban on recruitment is imposed. In spite of this, as the hon. Member has put it, there are 600 people taken on jobs irregularly and they have taken illegal gratification from them, about Rs. 5000 to Rs. 10,000 from each person, without assigning any work to them.

MR. SPEAKER : That has been referred to the CBI.

DR. V. VENKATESH : Therefore, half-an-hour is required for discussing all this. We have got enough material with regard to this. Kindly permit half-an hour discussion for this because the common man's money is drained away in the Hooghly river, particularly the Chairman-cum-Managing Director is just not having his residence in Calcutta, his family is only in

Bombay and he is not concentrating on the development of the industry.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: I share the anxiety of the hon. Member. I shall look into it and if there anything specifically which the hon. Member would like to convey to me, I will certainly welcome it.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the quality of cloth produced by N.T.C. is very inferior and even the public sector does not want to purchase it. The cloth produced for the poor is not available in the open market and thus the poor are unable to purchase it.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: There is the complaint about the quality of the cloth, but her question about the Janta Cloth or the controlled cloth is a separate question.

[English]

Cotton Export From Maharashtra

***508 SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI :** Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of cotton exported from Maharashtra during each of the last three years; and

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to find out new markets for export of cotton ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) The quantities of cotton allocated for exports in favour of the Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation during the last three Cotton years (Sept. to August) are as follows :

Year	Quantity released for export
1981-82	2.67 lakh bales
1982-83	4.21 lakh bales
1983-84	1.00 lakh bales

(b) The exporting agencies try to

secure the best price for export sales and have been able to sell in a large number of countries.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said in his reply that Government wants to encourage the cotton export trade by prescribing a fixed price, but according to the reply, only one lakh bales have been exported from Maharashtra in 1983-84 which is far less as compared to the number of bales exported in 1981-82 and 1982-83. I would like to know the reasons therefor. Was the Maharashtra Federation not interested in it or did the Central Government not grant the permission in time? In addition, I would like to know the date when the Federation had sought the permission and the date when the Government of India had given the permission. I would also like to know the number of bales for which permission was sought as also that for which permission was granted.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member should bear in mind that here the export of cotton is not the aim. Only the cotton which remains surplus after meeting the requirements of the domestic industry is exported. Recently, Maharashtra Federation had submitted a demand for more export of cotton, but the quantity for export is fixed not on the basis of the interest of one state, but the interest of the entire country is kept in view. The total production, the total requirements and price trends are taken into consideration and keeping all these things in view, Maharashtra has been allowed to export the quantity mentioned in the reply. One of the main reasons for less export from Maharashtra is that generally H-4 variety of cotton is produced in Maharashtra and extra long staple is the exportable variety which is produced more in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu than in Maharashtra. Keeping this factor in view, other States are allowed to export more. As I have said earlier, the cotton Corporation of India works at a national level, but the Maharashtra Federation works only in Maharashtra. That is why the Maharashtra Federation has been allowed to export only one lakh bales. This year two lakh bales have been

released for export, out of which one lakh bales were allowed on 31-1-1985 and 95,000 bales were released for export on 23-3-85. Out of these bales, Maharashtra was allowed to export 65,000 bales.

SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree that no state can have precedence over the country. The hon. Minister has mentioned about the extra long staple variety of cotton, but its production is increasing in other states also. Its production is increasing in Punjab also and as you have said there is considerable increase in Andhra also. Therefore, there is a demand for its export. Cotton is produced in Maharashtra on a large scale and the economy of Maharashtra depends on it. I would like to know what steps are proposed to be taken by you to improve the quantity of cotton grower in Maharashtra. Besides, under the Cotton Monopolist Scheme, the farmers have been encouraged to increase the production of cotton. Hence, I would like to know the number of cotton-growing States, which had made a demand for purchasing cotton through monopoly purchase scheme or co-operatives and what your policy is in this regard. Do Government propose to extend this scheme to other States also?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this scheme is in force in Maharashtra only and not in other States. In other States C.C.I.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : There is only one ideal State.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : The Cotton Corporation of India ensures that the farmers do not get less than the support price. They should get remunerative price.

SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI : How many States had sent their demand to you?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : No such request has been received by us from the other States.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Apparently, the Question appears to be

innocent as put by an innocent lady member of the House. But it has a lot of potentialities and a lot of mischief also. I would like to know whether the Government will take a comprehensive view of the entire problem related to prices, import and export. Is it not a fact that while the question is related to export, it arises out of the fact that from various peasants organisations and cooperatives, firstly, there has been a demand for a better hike in the prices of cotton and, secondly, because they are not getting an adequate price, they are also demanding an increase in the export of cotton? It is also not a fact that they have demanded that there should be a 3-year ban on the import of man made fibres? Will the Government take a comprehensive view of all these three elements and evolve a comprehensive policy.

Will you, Sir, allow a Half-An-Hour Discussion on this subject?

MR. SPEAKER : We can.

SARI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : Sir, I perfectly agree with the hon. Member that this question cannot be looked at from one angle. A comprehensive overall view has to be taken of the requirements of industry and we have also to take steps to see that the growers get remunerative prices. The present policy, as the hon. Member also indicated, has been to see whether cotton production plus carryover stocks plus imports are adequate for the industry. We have also to watch the price trends. If the price is going down, we have to take recourse to imports. If the prices go beyond a certain level, we take recourse to import of cotton. So, a comprehensive view is taken and only from that angle we take certain decisions in this regard.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He has not replied to the last part of my supplementary. What is the view of the Government regarding the demand for a 3-year ban on the import of manmade fibres?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : The question of import of manmade fibre is at the moment under the consideration of the Government. We are evolving a textile policy which, I hope, the Govern-

ment will be able to announce in the current session of Parliament. A 3-year view cannot be taken because year-to-year assessment has to be made of how much cotton is available within the country and how much is the requirement of industry and other requirements. That is the view taken. At the moment, we take a yearly view of the situation and take certain decisions about it.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the farmer is quite capable of producing much needed quantity. So, we must take a pragmatic view of this and, by that, the country will save and also the farmer will benefit.

Next Question; there is nothing more in it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will you be allowing a Half-An-Hour Discussion on this? You are only nodding. Sir, if you just nod, it does not go on record. Please say, yes.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Sir,

Streamlining of Gramin Banks

+

*509 PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR :

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1919 on 3 August, 1984 regarding review of structure and functioning of Regional Rural Bank vis-a-vis Nationalised Banks and state :

(a) whether Government have considered and formulated proposals for streamlining the functioning, structure and organisation of Gramin Banks as envisaged under the Regional Rural Banks Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof and likely date by which these would be announced and implemented;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government are aware of deficiencies and inadequacies in functioning of these banks as these are even unable to advance loans under the differential rate of interest;

(e) The remedial steps taken by Government; and

(f) the spheres in which the newly constituted NABARD would be associated with the working of rural banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

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

Statement

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has proposed some amendments to Regional Rural Banks Act with a view to further streamline the functioning and organisational structure of regional rural banks. Government has not yet taken any final decision in the matter.

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development had entrusted a study mainly relating to the viability of regional rural banks to Agricultural Finance Corporation. The AFC is likely to submit its final report shortly.

The Government has also set up a Working Group to review the various aspects of regional rural banks so as to identify appropriate measures for strengthening their organisational structure and for improving their overall capabilities. The Working Group has not yet submitted its report.

The regional rural banks do provide loan under differential rate of interest scheme to eligible borrowers and they get refinance from the sponsor banks against the amount lent under the DRI scheme. The sponsor banks are entitled to take into account, the amount made available to Regional Rural Banks for the purpose of their target of lendings under the DRI Scheme.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development is now being increasingly associated with the working of regional rural banks. The supervision over the functioning of regional rural banks is now done by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development. Similarly, inspection functions relating to regional rural banks, hitherto performed by Reserve Bank of India, have also been

transferred to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : From the statement it appears that NABARD had proposed some specific amendments to the Regional Rural Banks Act for streamlining its functioning and operation.

May I know what are the specific amendments and when were they proposed and why is there a delay on the part of the Government to take action on them ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : The changes proposed by NABARD are :-

(a) Bifurcation and amalgamation of existing Regional Rural Banks ;

(b) To give legal backing to the role of NABARD with respect to RRBs ;

(c) The role of NABARD with respect to RRB which consists of carrying out the statutory inspection, providing financial support by way of refinance, over-all supervision and coordination on the working of the bank.

The legal backing is proposed for NABARD for the supervision and coordination.

At present, the sponsored banks are expected to give managerial assistance to RRB for a period of five years. Now it is proposed by NABARD that there could be a provision for giving managerial assistance beyond five years. So far, it is restricted up to five years only.

Regarding the appointment of the deputationist Chairman of the RRB's he could be reverted back with a notice of three months. It is proposed to make a provision that he could be reverted back without the provision of any notice.

The issued share capital of RRB is Rs. 25 lakhs. Now it is proposed that the issued share capital could be more than Rs. 25 lakhs.

These are some of the recommendations of NABARD for implementation. The Government has not yet taken a decision. It is under consideration. A decision will be taken as early as possible.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : The hon. Minister has not give

me the date when these amendments were received by the Government of enable me to know whether there is delay or not. That is the first supplementary that I have put. What is the date of the receipt of these amendments ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :

The information regarding the date is not available with me at present. I will furnish the date to the hon. Member later.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:

It has been stated in the last paragraph of the statement that the supervision over the functioning of regional rural banks is now done by national Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.

May I know if the sanction for licences for opening new branches of the RRB's has also been transferred to NABARD or it is still under RBI ? If it is still under RBI, what are the steps to be taken to remove this duality ? At present, half of the functions are with the RBI and the other half are with NABARD. Will the same position be allowed to continue by the Government in regard to its licensing policy for the current year ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :

About the opening of RRB's the target of the sixth Five Year Plan is to open 170 Regional Rural Banks covering 270 districts. This target has been reached. On the contrary, we have opened 183 Regional Rural Banks which exceed the target and we have covered 319 districts.

The target of the 170 RRB's was to open 8,200 Branches. This target has been reached now. They have opened 10,132 Branches throughout the country.

[Traslation]

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA :

Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the Regional Rural Banks came into existence in 1975-76, thousands of their branches have been opened in the rural areas, because of which the economy of the villages has definitely improved and the poor people have been able to get assistance. This step of our Government is certainly commendable. But keeping in view the present-day changing needs, I would like to point out to the hon. Minister that when the Regional Rural Banks came into existence, there was

no Financial Apex Body for this purpose. As a result, the commercial banks were given directives to sponsor these rural banks. They had been entrusted with this responsibility. Now that the National Bank for Agricultural & Rural Development has been set up, it should be its entire responsibility to run the RRBs. Are Government considering something in this regard ? It should be the responsibility of NABARD to open new branches in the country. The hon. Minister has stated that under the D.R.I. Scheme, small traders and small farmers are given loans by the Regional Rural Banks. In this regard, I have got the information that the Commercial Banks have to refinance the RRBs to the tune of one per cent of the total credit plan but the Bank utilises the amount in its own financial advances and that amount is not made available to the Regional Rural Banks and generally R.R.Bs. give negative reply in the matter. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, why Government do not fix one per cent target of the total credit plan for R.R.Bs, as is done in the case of commercial banks ?

[English]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :

It is true that, when RRBs came into existence, there was no apex body. The NABARD came into existence only after that. For that purpose, the main question was relevant. That is why, recommendations have been submitted by the NABARD. Also the Working Group set up by the Government is going into all aspects ; the structural organization, capacities, capabilities, all these aspects will be looked into by the Working Group and the recommendations will definitely be considered by the Government. That is why, I have said that we are waiting for the recommendations of this Working Group set up by the Government.

So far as the Differential Rate of Interest scheme is concerned, I can tell the hon. Member that the sponsor banks are implementing the scheme and they have fixed a target also. So far as the banking sector is concerned, the hon. Member is correct in his submission that the minimum that would be given, the assistance to be given under the

Differential Rate of Interest, is one per cent; but the all India average which had reached 1.2 as at December end 1983, has now crossed 1.17. Regarding DRI scheme, the amount that is outstanding is Rs. 368 crores. The Banks have given assistance to more than 37 lakhs of people. Out of that, about 18.5 lakh beneficiaries belong to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This is the position, and wherever there is any scope for improvement, definitely that will be looked into. That is why, we have set up a Working Group; after receiving the report of the Working Group definitely we will make some improvement in the entire system.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr Poojary, after listening to his plea I need some clarification. Does NABARD differentiate between farmers—big or small—while sanctioning loans ?

[English]

Do they differentiate between farmers—who is big and who is small ? When we have put a ceiling of 12 acres and 17 acres, who is big and who is small ? Do they differentiate between them ? Why should they do it ? Everywhere there is a ceiling in India. How can they differentiate between farmers ? Why this discrimination to-day ? Can you explain ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : About your suggestion, I will definitely ask them to look into it.

MR. SPEAKER : People have to go to the court and bifurcate and get the 12 acres distributed among 3 sons spending money unnecessarily because they cannot get the loan otherwise. This is an unnecessary burden on them. This is too terrible a thing. I have seen the people. I go to them and ask them.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I will look into that aspect, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : This does not concern this but they do it in getting electric connections. between those who have got

12 acres and who have got 6 acres, they do not give it to the 12 acre farmer. You please look into it.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY

So far as the role of RRB is concerned, it is to give assistance to small and marginal farmers and also to rural artisans and poor people whose income does not exceed Rs. 6500 per year.

(Translation)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : The working of banks should be discussed. Mr. SPEAKER : We shall see.

(English)

Survey of Mineral Deposits in Maharashtra

*510. SARI HUSSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which the survey of mineral deposits in Maharashtra has been made ;

(b) the district-wise results of such surveys ; and

(c) whether there is any proposal before the Union Government to make an intensive survey of rich mineral resources available in Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Upto 1984, about 55% area of Maharashtra state has been covered by systematic geological mapping and the work is still continuing on a more detailed scale. Based on these surveys, sizeable important minerals located so far, include, coal, iron ore, vendiferous magnetite, manganese ore, chromite, limestone, bauxite, dolomite, zinc ore, copper ore, tungston etc.

(b) In the course of surveys, GSI and State Government have located sizeable deposits of minerals, the district-wise details of which are as follows :—

Name of district	Minerals	Reserves
Ahmednagar	Limestone	5,40,000 tonnes
Amravati	Chinaclay	5,36,000 tonnes
	Fireclay	17,26,000 tonnes
Bhandara	Chromite	54,000 tonnes
	Corundum (Industrial)	7,937 tonnes
	Kyanite	22,29,000 tonnes
	Manganese	1,08,00,000 tonnes
	Silimanite	2,35,000 tonnes
	Talc/Steatite/Soapstone	26,000 tonnes
	Vanadium Ore	62,00,000 tonnes
	Zinc (metal)	2,75,000 tonnes
	(Total for Bhandara and Nagpur)	
Chandrapur	Barytes	44,000 tonnes
	Copper (métal)	2,45,000 tonnes
	Dolomite	8,40,00,000 tonnes
	Fireclay	10,26,000 tonnes
	Iron Ore	16,23,00,000 tonnes
	Quartz/Silica Sand	6,89,000 tonnes
	Limestone	1,74,55,00,000 tonnes
	Tungston	Not estimated
Dhulia	Limestone	4,01,00,000 tonnes
Kolhapur	Bauxite	6,54,00,000 tonnes
	Quartz/Silica Sand	5,49,000 tonnes
Kolaba	Bauxite	2,14,00,000 tonnes
Nagpur	Copper (metal)	38,000 tonnes
	Dolomite	13,86,00,000 tonnes
	Fireclay	5,51,000 tonnes
	Limestone	3,17,00,000 tonnes
	Manganese ore	54,00,000 tonnes
	Tungston (WO ₃ content)	1,860 tonnes
Nanded	Limestone	21,20,000 tonnes
Ratnagiri	Bauxite	52,00,000 tonnes
	Chinaclay	20,39,000 tonnes
	Felspar	1,750 tonnes
	Ilmenite sand	41,29,000 tonnes
	Quartz/Silica Sand	5,80,94,000 tonnes
	Talc/Stontite/Soapstone	79,70,000 tonnes
	Chromite	1,32,000 tonnes
	Iron ore	6,32,00,000 tonnes
Sangli	Limestone	15,00,000 tonnes
Satara	Bauxite	92,00,000 tonnes
Thana	Bauxite	9,00,000 tonnes
	Chinaclay	66,000 tonnes
Yavatmal	Dolomite	3,75,00,000 tonnes
	Limestone	1,66,33,00,000 tonnes
Chandrapur and Yavatmal	Coal	22,077.8 lakh tonnes
Nagpur and Chandrapur	Coal	883.8 lakh tonnes
Chandrapur	Coal	900.6 lakh tonnes
Nagpur and part of Chhindwara district of MP of Kamphos Coalfields	Coal	7,972.1 lakh tonnes

(c) Survey and exploration of minerals is a continuous process and is being continued in Maharashtra also. During the field season 1984-85, investigation for tungsten, placer gold and base metal ore in Nagpur, Bhandara and Chandrapur districts; zinc ore in Nagpur district; coal resources below the cover of Deccan Trap in Nagpur district and for industrial minerals in Ratnagiri (Sindh-Durg) district have been proposed and are continued.

SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : I want to know whether a private agency has surveyed the coastal belt of Ratnagiri district and found rich deposits of minerals from which uranium can be produced and it approached the Government of Maharashtra as also the Government of India to allow it to explore the minerals but permission was denied on the ground that the Government of India itself would take up the matter. So far no action has been taken by the Government in this matter. As a matter of fact we are finding great difficulty to run our atomic reactors for want of enriched uranium. When such rich deposits are available, why is the Government of India delaying taking a decision?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : As far as atomic minerals are concerned, their exploration does not come under our Ministry. I am not aware of any application made. Probably because it does not come under my Ministry, therefore, it is not addressed to my Ministry. But if the hon. Member addresses it to the Ministry dealing with atomic energy, probably they would have full information about this mineral being explored, I will not be able to answer that.

SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : I would like to ask the hon. Minister when there were rich deposits of bauxites in Maharashtra and on the basis of which in the Fifth Five Year Plan an aluminium factory was proposed to be established at Ratnagiri after getting the assent from the Planning Commission as well as financial sanction from the Government of India and it was continued in the Sixth Five Year Plan also and so far 2 crores have been spent both by the Government of India and the Maharashtra Government on this project but nothing has been done except acquiring the land from the farmers. This is a very

serious question of accountability. When the Planning Commission and this House also sanctioned the scheme which was carried in two plans, why was no action taken and no actual results achieved? This is a serious matter and the Government of India should explain what is the position and why they are not exploiting such rich minerals.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : It is true than in the western region and particularly in Ratnagiri district and also in the Kolhapur district rich bauxite deposits have been found. But these bauxite deposits are not useful for producing aluminium. It can produce a certain type of alumina. This is what I learnt. I myself had asked this question as to what happened to that aluminium plant that was sanctioned.....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Like Saraswati river it has disappeared.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : My good friend, Mr. Dandavate, comes from that region. I thought at least with his incarnation in the government probably something might have been done about that but I made an inquiry and I was told that the aluminium plant is not being found feasible. If for production of alumina the State government or any private party also is interested we will be having an open mind. I am willing to consider any proposal coming from the State Government and whatever assistance is possible we will give to set up the plant to use the type of bauxite available there.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, the Government has said because adequate power supply is not available the aluminium plant is not feasible but in case of alumina plant the power requirement will be considerably less. Will you consider setting up an alumina plant?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : That is what I have said. Let the government come forward.

[Translation]

SHRI DAMODAR PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are rich coal deposits in Wardha. The production target fixed so far is meant to feed the power plants only. Other coal-based industries can also be set up. I would like to know what

objection Government have in setting up other coal-based industries at places where there are rich deposits of coal.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : It is true that there are rich coal deposits in the Wardha Valley and these have been exploited also. In this respect a big scheme has been incorporated in the Seventh Five Year Plan. So far as coal-based industries are concerned, the best use to which coal can be put is power generation. Our coal is good for power generation. In several countries, coal-based minerals are used for fertilizer production. If people want to set up these industries in the private sector, we are ready to give them full encouragement.

[English]

Income Tax Raids in Bangalore City

*511. **SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Income Tax raids conducted from January 1985 to the end of February 1985 in Bangalore city; and

(b) the amount realised out of these raids ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) and (b) Income Tax Department conducted 8 searches during January and February, 1985 in Bangalore City resulting in seizure of prima facie unaccounted assets valued at Rs. 9.04 lakhs approximately.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : May I know the follow-up action taken in each case and has anyone been found guilty ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : The documents seized are being scrutinised. The investigation is in progress and the hon. Member knows whenever the seizure takes place there is seizure in respect of documents. The incriminating evidence will be found out. The will lead to further disclosures also. It takes time. Here also when the investigation progresses so many things will come to light. It will lead to further disclosure.

So, this investigation is in progress.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : My question is very simple. I want to elicit from the Government—particularly from the present Government—one important information. That is why I asked for the specific period January-February, 1985, because, the Prime Minister has said that he is determined and his Government is determined to unearth black money. My experience is that in the previous cases where seizures have been made, afterwards nobody knows what has happened. Many have become more respectable citizens afterwards ! This is what has happened. So, Sir, I want to know from the Government as to what action has been taken in this regard. If a person commits a theft of Rs. 10 he will be jailed; and if he is in service, he will be dismissed.

MR. SPEAKER : That has been answered.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : I want to know what follow-up action has been taken. They should take the matter to its logical conclusion. Tax evasion is a national crime. To avoid payment of tax is national crime.

MR. SPEAKER : Can he give any more answer than what he has given ?

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : They are not taking it to its logical conclusion. There are number of cases.....

MR. SPEAKER : What is the fun in it ? You are only taking the time of the House.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Sir, I only want the Government to take necessary follow-up action in the matter in accordance with law, however V.V.I.P. he may be.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I can assure the hon. Member that action is being taken. Government will spare no efforts whoever the person may be, to award the necessary punishment.

Mineral Survey in Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh

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*512. **SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :**

SHRI HARISH RAWAT :

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the names of districts in Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh where mineral survey has been conducted so far by Geological Survey of India, Mineral Exploration Corporation and other agencies;

(b) the extent of success achieved thereby ;

(c) whether Government propose to extend geological activities to the desert and hill areas of Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh which are rich in minerals;

(d) whether Government also propose to extend geological activities to the border and backward areas of Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Pali and Sirohi districts which are rich in minerals; and

(e) if so, when and the method thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) : Exploration of minerals is a continuous process and is carried out mainly by the Geological Survey of India and the Mineral Exploration Corporation—a Central Government Undertaking. Directorate of Geology and Mining of the State Governments also undertake mineral exploration in their respective States.

Surveys for a number of minerals in Rajasthan has been undertaken by the Geological Survey of India in the districts of Jhunjhunu, Alwar, Bhilwara, Sikar, Sirohi, Udaipur, Dungarpur, Bharatpur, Ajmer, Kota, Nagaur and Sirohi etc. In Haryana, Geological Survey of India has conducted mineral surveys in the districts of Bhiwani, Mahendragarh, Ambala, Hissar, Gurgaon and Faridabad. GSI has carried out mineral surveys in Uttar Pradesh in the districts of Pithoragarh, Nainital, Dehradun, Tehri, Pauri, Almora, Chamoli, Uttarakashi, Mirzapur, Rae Bareilly, Varanasi, Banda, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Allahabad, Jalaun, Hamirpur, Sitapur and Badaun. Mineral Exploration Corporation carried out mineral surveys in Jhunjhunu, Bhilwara, Udaipur, Banswara, Sirohi, Nagaur, Dungarpur and Barmer districts of Rajasthan; in the Bhiwani district of Haryana and in Almora, Pithoragarh and Mirzapur districts of Uttar Pradesh.

The Directorate of Mines and Geology of Rajasthan has carried out mineral surveys in Banswara, Dungarpur, Sirohi, Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Pali, Nagaur and Bikaner. The Directorate of Geology and Mines, Uttar Pradesh Government has conducted exploration work in a number of districts of Uttar Pradesh including the hilly districts of Uttarkhand. The Directorate of Geology and Mining, Haryana Government has similarly covered many districts for mineral surveys in Haryana.

Based on these, the estimated reserves of major minerals in these States are given below :—

(Reserves in lakh tonnes)

Name of the Mineral	Reserves in Rajasthan	Reserves in Haryana	Reserves in Uttar Pradesh
Coal	Nil	Nil	6,856.5
Lignite	1,049.8	—	—
Iron ore (Hematite)	158.4	—	—
Magnetite (Low grade ore)	0.84	80.84	—
Manganese ore	3.2	—	—
Limestone	53,196.9	519.6	13,667.8
Dolomite	901.5	63.7	752.5
Copper Ore	1,085.7	150.0	7.7

Lead-zinc ore	3,349.8	—	10.3
Bauxite	10.7	—	140.2
Phosphorite	830.7	—	298.8
Larytes	10.93	—	0.25
Kyanite	0.10	—	—
Gypsum	10,708.2	—	3.9
Magnesite	2.6	—	1,736.8
Tungsten ore	62.0	—	Search for Tungsten Ore (Scheelite) is in progress.
Tin ore	—	80	—
Bentonite	1,012.4	—	—
Pyrite/Pyrrhotite	1,239.9	—	—
Graphite	4.95	—	—
Fluorite	29.8	—	—
Rock Salt (Holite)	Huge quantity (1438 billion tonnes)	—	—

(c) to (e) During 1984-85 field season, a number of mineral investigations are being carried out by Geological Survey of India in the desert and hilly areas of Rajasthan and Haryana and in the hill districts of Uttar Pradesh. The methods adopted for carrying out geological activities mainly include geological mapping, geophysical test, geo-chemical sampling, detailed mapping, pitting-trenching and drilling where felt necessary.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Is it a fact that the Mineral Exploration Corporation has carried out exploration work in the border district of Barmer in Rajasthan and found rich deposits of lignite and the Geological Survey of India and the Directorate of Geology and Mines, Rajasthan have carried out a survey in Jaisalmer and found rich deposits of limestone there? I would like to know the quality, quantity and utility of the lignite deposits found in Kapooradi village of Barmer district and of the limestone deposits found in Jaisalmer. I request the hon. Minister to give this information.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Investigations are going on. Lignite is used for power production in Neyveli. Similarly, investigations are in progress to ascertain the utility

of lignite and other minerals for other purposes also.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : I had asked about the quantity and quality of lignite and limestone deposits found there. No reply has been given to this question.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I have stated that investigations are going on in regard to the quality, quantity and utility, of these things. Investigations are being carried out at Government level. What more can I tell you ? You say that no reply has been given.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : You say that investigations are in progress. How is it that we have got the information whereas you do not have ? Secondly, I would like to know whether the Geological Survey of India and the Mineral Exploration Corporation propose to expand their geological activities in the remaining districts, i.e. Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur. etc. ? What progress has been made in this regard ? Please give information in this regard.

[English]

SHRI VASANT SATHE : There are places like Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Jalore, Nagore, Pali and Serohi where systematic geological mapping and environmental studies in pollution prone areas are

being done. In Barmer a systematic mapping is being done.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

What is the use of it ? I have also got the information that systematic mapping and study are in progress. How will it satisfy you ? I am not satisfied by it. I do not have more information with me.....(Interruptions)

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Expedite the investigations.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VASANT SATHE : As soon as we know something more than the systematic mapping, I will be able to give full information.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The hon. Minister is not supposed to refer to the officers' box.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I had the right to get information from my Assistants. I believe you don't at least deny that. I am saying that intensive survey of all our mineral resources in this country must be made and whichever resources are found, are capable of commercial exploitation, we must use them for our national use. I am very keen to do that. I can assure, through you, Sir, the House that we shall do this.

[Translation]

MR- SPEAKER : I feel that Shri Virdhi Chander had been dominating till now.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Till now, Mr. Jain was dominating. The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that investigations are going on in respect of some mineral deposits about their quality. There are large reserves of magnesite and limestone in U.P. also. Mining work is going on thereunder the open cast mining system. Miners do not undertake the work of reclaiming the land left out after the mining. It is adversely affecting the eco-system there. In order to control it, there should not be open cast mining system. Instead, there should be an underground mining and it should be made a part of land reclamation. What action do Government propose to take in this regard ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : It is a very pertinent question. We are also worried about it. Ecological balance is getting disturbed in the Himalayan region particularly because of mining work which includes felling of trees also. It is of great concern. It is largely the duty of the State Government to enact legislation for the protection of the ecological system. We are also looking into the matter.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : A survey was conducted to find out zinc deposits in the 2 Sq. km area in Rampura-Agucha. The largest deposits of zinc were found there. As per the information available, there are deposits of zinc in the entire area of about 40 Sq. kms upto Shahpura. Your department has also made a survey in this regard. Is it a fact that there are rich deposits of zinc and rock phosphate in the entire area ? Would a detailed survey be carried out in this regard and action taken to set up industries based on them. ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Certainly, we shall take action. Rich deposits of zinc have been found in the Agucha area.. We are trying our best to see how best we can utilise zinc and lead.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : I had said that there is 40 Sq. kms of area.....(Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Wherever it is available, we will make full utilisation of it. Why only in 40 Sq. kms., we shall do so even if it is available in an area of 100 Sq. kms.

[English]

Purchase and Sale of Raw Jute by Jute Corporation of India

***514 SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :** Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of raw jute purchased by Jute Corporation of India in 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 and the price thereof ;

(b) the total quantity of raw jute sold in the market by Jute Corporation in those years ; and

(c) the procurement target for the same in 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES
(SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) and (b) A statement is laid on the

Table of the House.

(c) No procurement target for jute
year 1985-86 (July-June has yet been fixed
by the Jute Corporation of India.

Statement

(a) The total quantity of raw jute purchased by Jute Corporation of India in 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 and purchase price thereof is as under :—

Year (July—June)	Quantity purchased by JCI including through Coopera- tives. (Lakh bales of 180 Kgs. each)	Purchase price of JCI at upcountry markets (Price in Rs. per quintal)	
		Ex-South Bengal (TD-5)	Ex-Assam (W-5)
1982-83	8.60	204.50 to 229.50	175.00 to 185.00
1983-84	8.39	275.00 to 325.00	245.00 to 285.00
1984-85	10.16	650.00 to 950.00	575.00 to 920.00

(b) The total quantity of raw jute sold by Jute Corporation of India during 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 is as under :—

Year (July-June)	Quantity of raw jute sold by JCI		
	Domestic market		Export market
	Indian Jute	Imported Jute	Indian Jute
1982-83	20.45*	—	0.72
1983-84	8.10	—	—
1984-85 (up to 31.3.85)	10.16	1.60	—

*Including stock B/F from earlier years.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :
Sir, in the Statement it has been mentioned that in the last year, 1984-85, the Jute Corporation of India procured only 10.16 lakh bales of jute. The total requirement of the jute industry is 82 lakh bales ; three lakh bales are imported and 79 lakh bales procured from the indigenous market. What was the original objective of the Jute Corporation of India ? Was it not to procure sufficient quantity of jute so as to avoid scarcity in the market, which is man made, and which

has recently led to closure of a number of mills in West Bengal ? Will the Minister ensure that in future the Jute Corporation of India will expand its infrastructure so as to procure at lost fifty per cent of the total requirements of the jute mills in the country ?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH:
The original objective of the Jute Corporation has been to protect the interests of the jute growers primarily. Later on, it was also given the responsibility of export

and import of raw jute and enter into commercial operations on behalf of NJMA, and still later on for private mills also on a back to back arrangement. The original objective remains the same and that is to give price support to the growers. It cannot be said that a new price structure should be developed and infrastructure expanded so that Jute Corporation is able to procure at least fifty per cent of the jute available in the market. In fact, we are concerned that the present infrastructure is not being fully utilised. The market conditions are such that the prices are much higher than the support price and the price support operations are not called upon. Those in the purchase centres remain almost idle; they have not much work to do. In a situation where the prices crash and price support operations are to be carried on a larger scale, then alone it can be considered.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Already because of the raw jute prices in West Bengal more than 16 jute mills have been closed down resulting in unemployment of three lakh people directly belonging to North India, not only West Bengal. This has been the subject of a calling attention also. A deputation has also met you. In view of this, I would like to know, if the Minister will consider it an urgent matter of national importance for the economy of the country, visit West Bengal, and meet the State Government to find out a suitable way out to reopen the jute mills and ensure supply of raw jute?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : The House will recollect the discussion that took place on a calling attention motion regarding the closure of jute mills in West Bengal. I promised this House that I would take initiative in this matter and would convene a meeting of the State Government, JMA representatives, and workers' representatives. I immediately wrote to the State Government and asked for an assessment from their end. They had a meeting on 26-2-1985. I have learnt that they have convened a tripartite meeting today or tomorrow and I shall be receiving an assessment from their end within a day or two. As soon as I get that, I shall take immediate steps to see whether a meeting can be called here or at Calcutta, and proper steps taken to reopen the jute

mills in West Bengal. It is a matter of serious concern for all of us.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : In view of the long term problems, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is considering the question of canalising raw jute trade. The other day in the Calling Attention, he had no time to reply it.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : This is not immediately under the consideration of the Government. I explained it the other day,

[Translation]

SHRI D.L. BAITHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir it has been said that prices of jute are increasing because of its scarcity. I would like to inform you that the reason for the pitiable condition of jute growers is that when there is a bumper crop, its prices come down and when there is less production, its prices go up. Hence, the situation is getting worse. Do Government propose to take some measures under which the growers may produce as much jute as is sufficient for domestic consumption as well as for export purposes so that they may not face any difficulty?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : Every year the support price is fixed in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture. Government try to ensure that the jute growers get not only the support price but remunerative price also. It will be kept in view for the future also.

[English]

Writing Off of Income Tax Arrears

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*516, **SHRI AMAL DATTA :**

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY ;

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Income Tax arrears amounting to Rs. 345 crores have been written off during 1982-83 which include Rs. 152 crores from various companies ;

(b) if so, the details of the companies whose tax arrears have been written off ;

(c) the reasons for such action by the Income Tax Department ; and

(d) who authorised such writing off ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir. However, a total amount of Rs. 6.82 crores was written off in respect of 25,235 cases which included Rs.2.28 crores relating to 160 company cases.

(b) Details of company cases are not readily available.

(c) The reasons for write off are—

(i) the outstanding demand is not recoverable ; and

(ii) no assets are available for recovery.

(d) The powers to write off irrecoverable Income Tax demands are exercised according to Delegation of Financial Power Rules, 1978, as regulated by Central Board of Direct Taxes. These are—

<i>Name of the authority</i>	<i>Monetary powers</i>
(i) Commissioner of Income-tax.	Unlimited powers in each case.
(ii) Inspecting Assistant Commissioner of Income-tax.	Upto Rs. 10,000 in each case.
(iii) Income-tax Officer Grade A.	Upto Rs. 1,000 in each case.
(iv) Income-tax Officer Grade B.	Upto Rs 500 in each case.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY : In the question I asked, "What are the reasons for writing off the income tax arrears?". Two reasons are given. (i) the outstanding demand is not recoverable, and (ii) no assets are available for recovery. The second point is understandable, but what about the first point? What are the other reasons that led to writing off the arrears of those companies?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir the hon. member while formulating the question stated that he was under the impression that Rs. 345 crores was written off. It is not correct. Only Rs. 2.28 crores was written off and it is for 160 companies throughout India. That is the position. Here if you kindly take into consideration the percentage that has been written off, compared to the demand or collection of the arrears, you would see that in 1983-84 the amount that was written off was not even 1 per cent, it was only, 82 per cent. Over the year, it has come down. In the year 1979-80, the amount that was written off was Rs.10.53 crores. But now in 1983-84, it has come down to Rs. 7.40 crores. Now, I have already stated the reasons. If the whereabouts of the man are not known, if he is insolvent or if the amount is not recoverable and if the person is not in a

position to pay anything, then only the amount will be written off. Even if it is written off, it does not mean that the claim is given up. Even upto a period of thirty years, if it is going to be recoverable, the amount will be recovered even after it is written off.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY : I want to know as to who are the authorities who can write off and what is the limit of power. It is said that the Commissioner of Income Tax has unlimited power in each case. Will you specify what does this mean and are there any state guidelines under which the Commissioner of Income Tax exercises his power to write off? Or is it arbitrary and can he do anything?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, it is not arbitrary. The limit for the Income Tax Commissioner is Rs.10,000 and above. After that, from one lakh rupees upto ten lakh rupees, there is a Zonal Committee. The Zonal Committee will look into all these aspects, and they will come to a conclusion. For Rs. 10 lakhs and above there will be the approval of the Member.....

MR SPEAKER: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Computerisation in Income Tax Department

*513. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the areas in which computerisation in the Income-tax Department has been started and the details thereof ;

(b) whether computerisation in these areas will lead to decrease in employment opportunities and promotional prospects ;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) A micro computer is already in use in Delhi for allotting permanent account numbers and for various other purposes. At present a proposal is under consideration for installing a mini computer for the following areas in each of the four metropolitan cities namely, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras :

- (i) Monitoring accuracy in manual calculation of taxes in high revenue yielding cases ;
- (ii) Quarterly review of Central Action Plan of the Department ;
- (iii) Compilation of key area performance statistics ;
- (iv) Processing of challans received in the Central Treasury Unit of Commissioner Charges ;
- (v) Allotment of Permanent Account Number (PAN) ;
- (vi) Processing of applications for approval of terms and conditions of service contract outside India u/s 80 RRA of the Income-tax Act.

Tenders have already been received for purchasing a mini computer for Madras and the same is under processing.

(b) to (d) The limited use of computers in the Income-tax Department to the extent indicated above is not likely to lead to any decrease in employment opportunities and promotional prospects. A Committee consisting of senior officers of the Department has been constituted to go into the entire question of computerisation in the Department.

Long-Term Trade Agreement between India and Poland

*515. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and Poland for a long-term trade plan, a new trade, and payment agreement for continuing the rupee trade and another for the avoidance of double taxation ;

(b) the balance of trade in India at present ; and

(c) the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) During the last four years, the trade has been in India's favour. During the first six months of 1984-85, the trade was in favour of India by about Rs. 26 crores.

Instructions to Nationalised Banks to extend Facilities Under IRDP

*517. SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have issued some instructions to the nationalised banks to extend facilities to the beneficiaries under the Integrated Rural Development Programme ;

(b) if so, the details regarding the number of branches opened in Orissa providing such financial assistance ; and

(c) whether Government have sought the report regarding the number of beneficiaries who have received assistance from the various banks in that State during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has been issuing instructions to the nationalised banks from time to time for providing bank credit to the beneficiaries under the Integrated Rural Development Programme. All the branches of scheduled commercial banks operating in a State are expected to provide financial assistance to identified eligible borrowers under IRDP. The number of branches of scheduled commercial banks operating in Orissa was 1561 as at the end of December '84. The Government have been receiving monthly progress reports relating to the number of beneficiaries, bank loan and subsidy disbursed in each State under Integrated Rural Development Programme.

Modernisation of Bhilai Steel Plant

*518. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to modernise and improve the performance of Bhilai Steel Plant during the Seventh Five Year Plan period ;

(b) if so, the amount proposed to be spent therefor ; and

(c) the details of the modernisation programme taken up in the Sixth Five Year Plan in the above Steel Plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) to (c) : Modernisation and technological improvement of a steel plant is a continuous process. Every year, the steel plants are allocated funds for additions, modifications and replacements to effect improvements in their performance. During the VI Plan, the Bhilai Steel Plant spent about Rs. 69.42 crores for additions, modifications and replacements. The major schemes that were under implementation at Bhilai during the VI Plan were :

- (i) Coal dust injection in blast furnace ;
- (ii) Conversion of open hearth furnace into twin hearth furnace ;
- (iii) Adoption of throat armour for better charge distribution in blast furnace ;

(iv) Expansion of the steel plant from 2.5 to 4.0 MT capacity per year which envisages incorporation of modern technologies as given below :—

(a) Adoption of basic oxygen furnaces for steel making ;

(b) Continuous casting of steel ;

(c) Bell-less charging in blast furnace ;

(d) Cast-house slag granulation ;

(e) Adoption of secondary ladle refining in the steel melting shop ;

(f) 7 m. tall coke oven battery as compared to conventional height of 4.3/4.5/5/5.0 m ; and

(g) Thyristor control in the mills ;

SAIL are formulating a comprehensive proposal for de-bottlenecking and technological upgradation of the Bhilai Steel Plant during the VII Plan. The cost estimates and technical details of this scheme will be finalised after the scheme is approved by Government.

During 1985-86, an amount of Rs. 20 crores will be spent by the Bhilai Steel Plant for additions, modifications and replacements.

[Translation]

Availability of Janata Cloth

*519. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the present demand of controlled cloth, sarees and dhotis in the country and the percentage of demand thereof which is met ;

(b) whether Janata Cloth, instead of being made available to the poor people, is generally being sold out by unfair means ;

(c) if so, the remedial steps taken by Government in this regard ; and

(d) the number of persons found guilty and the details of the punishment awarded to them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) The total quantum of production of controlled cloth both by the N.T.C. and the Handloom sector has been fixed at 650 million square metres in the Textiles Policy of March, 1981. The target for production of 'Janata' cloth for 1984-85 was 360 million square metres and for 1985-86 it has been fixed at 370 million square metres.

(b) No such specific complaint has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Revamping of Tea Gardens in Darjeeling

*520. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any progress has been made so far in regard to revamping of tea gardens in Darjeeling ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

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

(d) the steps to be taken for revamping the tea gardens ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d) The Tea Industry in the Darjeeling has been facing problems on account of higher cost of production mainly because of low productivity due to old age of bushes, most of which are well past their prime.

In order to help the tea gardens in Darjeeling, higher subsidy for replanting and higher development allowance for extension planting is being allowed. The Government has also sanctioned a scheme to subsidize interest payable to banks in order to make projects for revitalisation of Darjeeling gardens by replanting, rejuvenation and extension planting viable. Further NABARD has also relaxed various conditions relating to margin money, moratorium and the loan repayment period with the same end in view. The excise duty on Darjeeling tea has also been reduced from Rs. 1.25 per kg. to Rs. 0.20 per kg.

However, the major improvement in the prospects of Darjeeling gardens has come as a result of the considerable improvement in prices of Darjeeling tea in the recent past. Productivity has also registered an increase. While this may have acted as a temporary disincentive in terms of uprooting and replanting in the longer term perspective, the capacity of the industry for making use of the various incentives available for revitalisation of the tea gardens has improved.

Guidelines to States for Reduction of Government Expenditure

*521, SHRI SURESH KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Union Government to State Governments regarding reduction of Government expenditure;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines issued; and

(c) whether Government of Kerala is following those guidelines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) and (b) Government of India have not issued any specific guidelines recently to State Governments regarding reduction of Government expenditure. However, since the overdrafts of States were on the increase, Government of India have informed the States that their overdrafts with the Reserve Bank of India should not exceed the level reached on 28-1-1985.

(c) The overdraft of Government of Kerala has not exceeded the overdraft level reached as on 28-1-1985 for more than seven continuous working days since the instructions were issued.

Proposal for New Tea Gardens in Tripura

*522. SHRI AJOY BISWAS ; Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal of the Tea Board to start new tea gardens in Tripura;

(b) if so, the number of hectares of land required for the purpose; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Government of Tripura is ready to provide the required land ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) to (c) The draft Seventh Five Year Plan prepared by the Tea Board envisages a programme of extension planting on 775 hectares in Tripura. It is learnt that the State Government of Tripura has already made available approximately 1200 hectares of land to the Tripura Tea Development Corporation for this purpose.

Foreign Collaboration

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

(a) whether Government are now in favour of encouraging foreign collaboration including multinationals;

(b) if so, the guidelines and criterion for shift in policy;

(c) whether it is going to harm our indigenous industries; and

(d) if so, the reasons for resorting to such steps ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) to (d) Government's policy regarding foreign collaboration continues to be selective and this also has been reiterated in the Technology Policy Statement announced in January, 1983. Foreign collaborations are normally considered in areas where indigenous technology is not available and if the terms are reasonable.

Recovery of Gold from Toilet of Air India Boeing 747

*524. SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH : SHRI G. G. SWELL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 1200 total of gold worth Rs. 30 lakhs was recovered from the toilet of an Air India Boeing 747 on 22nd March, 1985 at the Sahar International Airport;

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

(c) whether any person has been arrested in this connection; and

(d) if so, the particulars thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) and (b) As a result of search by Customs of Air India aircraft which arrived from Dubai/Abu Dhabi on 22nd March, 1985, two cloth belts, with specially made compartments, were recovered from underneath the disposal tray placed inside the toilet room near the economy class. On examination, each cloth belt was found to contain 60 gold bars, totally weighing 1200 tolas and valued at Rs. 29.73 lakhs. The gold recovered has since been confiscated under the Customs Act, 1962.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of an Aluminium Research Centre at Nagpur

*525. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set-up an Aluminium Research Centre at Nagpur in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the site for the said project has since been selected; and

(c) the time by which a final decision for starting the project is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the recommendations for the inter-ministerial steering group, Nagpur has been recommended as the most appropriate site for the location of the Aluminium Research, Development and Design Centre.

(c) The project will be started after approval by the Public Investment Board and the Government.

World Bank's Volume of Lending

*526. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the MINISTER of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank's volume of lending in fiscal year 1985-86 is being pruned to \$ 10.5 billion;

(b) if so, whether this is \$ 2.8 billion less than the earlier estimated requirement of \$ 13.3 billion ;

(c) whether according to the reports the pruning has been done on the plea of inadequate projects to be financed;

(d) whether the U.S. is preparing the ground for opposing the Third World's demand for a general increase in the Bank's capital base; and

(e) if so, the extent to which it would hit India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) and (b) IBRD volume of lending for Fiscal Year 1985 (1st July 1984 to 30th June 1985) has been fixed within the range of \$ 10.5-11.5 billion as against the earlier projection of a range of \$ 12.6-13.3 billion.

(c) On of the reasons given is the lack of availability of projects.

(d) and (e) World Bank is considering the necessity of General Capital Increase and the matter is under active discussion. We are not aware of any particular country trying to oppose the need for GCI.

Ship-Breaking Industry.

3657. **SHRI R. ANNANAMBI :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is losing its importance in Shipping industry while other countries are making rapid strides in that field;

(b) whether the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Ltd. has broken the back of the ship-breaking industry;

(c) whether the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation is to be scrapped and in place of this canalising body, an association of ship-breaking is to be formed to monitor the imports of scrap ship as per the policy guidelines framed by Union Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) :

(a) and (b) The total tonnage of ships supplied to the ship-breakers in India has been as follows :—

1979-80	91,615 LDT
1980-81	1,28,683 LDT
1981-82	1,96,654 LDT
1982-83	2,06,000 LDT
1983-84	4,32,520 LDT
1984-85	3,29,000 LDT (Provisional)

As a result of the initiative taken by the Government, the ship-breaking activity has increased in the country except for a marginal drop in the year 1984-85 due to lesser availability of ships of requisite tonnage for scrapping in the international market. MSTC, as a canalising agency has ensured imports of foreign flag ships for scrapping at competitive prices and their equitable distribution amongst the ship-breaking units in the country. Besides, MSTC has provided financial assistance in the shape of bill discounting facility and technical assistance to the ship-breaking industry.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Renewal of Multifibre Agreement Relating to Exports of Apparels and Textiles

3658. **SHRI BANWARI DAL BAIRWA :** Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the position Government have adopted with respect to the renewal of the Multifibre Agreement relating to exports of apparel and textiles;

(b) whether Government have favoured adoption of global quotas in recent negotiation;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reasons why Government are not pressing for reversal of the discipline of 'GATT' for trade in apparel and textiles ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) to (d) The current term of the Multi-fibre Arrangement expires in July, 1986. The question of the future of the Arrangement beyond this period will be taken up in the GATT Textile Committee from July, 1985 on a continuing basis. The Government of India will evolve its position on the negotiations taking into account emerging positions on the part of developed importing countries, the overall approach of the developing exporting countries as well as the interest of the Indian textiles industry and trade.

Misuse of Position by non-Official Directors/Chairmen of Nationalised Banks

3659. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been cases in regard to the misuse of position by some non-official Directors and Chairmen of the nationalised banks ;

(b) the number of such cases which have come to the light of Government ;

(c) whether prior to the appointment of Directors/Chairmen of the nationalised banks, their antecedents and backgrounds are not being verified by Government ;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(e) whether Government have taken action against the persons found guilty for misuse of their position ; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) (a) and (b) There have been some cases where the conduct of non-official Directors was found to be unbecoming of their position. This has, however, been by way of exception. There have, however, been no cases where misuse of position by Chairmen has been established.

(c) and (d) Government propose to make due inquiry from income-tax and enforcement angles about the background and antecedents of persons to be appointed on boards of nationalised banks in pursuance of the recommendations of the Estimates Committee.

(e) and (f) The Directors of nationalised

banks hold office during the pleasure of Government and their appointment can be terminated with immediate effect. In the recent past this was resorted to in two cases where the conduct of the Directors was found to be unbecoming of their office. Government is committed to taking action against any one found guilty of misusing his position.

Persons Drawing Salary from the Consolidated Fund of India

3660. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of persons drawing salary, pay and allowances, fees honorarium from the Consolidated Fund of India in the year 1950-51 and in 1984-85; and

(b) the amounts paid to them in the aforesaid period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE: (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) The information is not available either for 1950-51 or for 1984-85.

The latest available information on part (a) is on March 31st, 1981. According to the Directorate General of Employment & Training, Ministry of Labour, the number of Central Government employees (Regular) (excluding Armed Forces non-civilians) as on March 31, 1981 was 34.07 lakhs.

As regards part (b) the latest available information is for the year 1982-83. The total expenditure on pay and allowances including T.A. of the Central Government employees (excluding Armed Forces non-civilians and those in Union Territories and Indian Missions abroad) is Rs. 3566.38 crores.

Cadre Management Plan for Employees of Income Tax Department

3661. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether no Cadre Management Plan for Class-III employees of the Income-Tax Department has been prepared so far ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Third Cadre Management Plan for Indian Revenue Service officers of

the Income Tax Department has been prepared and has resulted in creation of large number of posts at a higher level ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to prepare Cadre Management Plan for Class-III Officers of the Income-Tax Department ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) (b) and (e) : As per the decision of the National Council of J.C.M., cadre reviews are to be carried out in respect of those categories of Group 'C' cadres where there is relatively acute stagnation. The posts are to be created/upgraded if there is adequate functional justification consistent with the need for improving career prospects and reducing stagnation. The position of Group 'C' cadres of the Income-tax Department has been reviewed and selection grade posts have been created wherever justified, keeping in view the stagnation in these cadres.

(c) and (d) Proposals for the Third Cadre Review of the Indian Revenue Service officers of the Income Tax Department are still under consideration.

Increase in Market Borrowings

3662. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a sharp increase in market borrowings in recent years ;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for the same ; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to check this trend ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) The net market borrowings of the Central Government in 1985-86 B.E. are estimated at Rs. 5100 crores as against Rs. 2579 crores in 1980-81.

Market borrowings are part of normal resources for financing the Five Year Plans.

Although the amount of market borrowing has increased over the years in absolute terms, it constitutes only 27.6% of the resources for the Plan expenditure of Rs. 18509 crores in B.E. 1985-86 against 28.7% provided in 1980-81.

The share of market loans was 11.9% of the total receipts of the Central Government of Rs. 21600 crores in 1980-81 and has declined to 10.6% of the receipts of Rs. 47946 crores in B.E. 1985-86.

Purchase of Equipment since Nationalisation of Coal Mines in Bihar

3663. SHRI Y.P. YOGESH : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether since nationalisation of coal mines in Bihar heavy investment has been made in the purchase of equipments so far ;

(b) whether utilisation of such heavy investment is only 25 per cent but it has been claimed to be 45 per cent ;

(c) whether spare parts of these equipments are being purchased from private manufacturers which are of very sub-standard quality and these purchases are being made directly by Coal India Ltd. with the approval of Chairman ;

(d) if so, the spare parts purchased during January, 1983 to February, 1985 and total expenditure made ;

(e) the reasons why these spare parts were not purchased from original manufacturers ; and

(f) how the management of spares, repairs and maintenance of equipments is being done at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Seizure of Export Garments at Delhi Airport.

3664. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a freighter of Air France was detained at New Delhi Airport in early

April, 1985 and export garments were seized which were sought to be fraudulently exported under wrong categories ;

(b) if so, the full details including particulars of customs agents, exporters etc.; and

(c) the steps being taken to prevent such recurrence in future which spoil the fair name of the country in foreign markets ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) No freighter of Air-France was detained at Delhi Airport. However, sixty four export consignments of garments totally valued at Rs. 65.66 lakhs have been seized by the Customs officers at Delhi Airport for suspected contravention of Export Control Order and misdeclarations under the Customs Act, 1962. These consignments belong to twenty five different exporters, and six Clearing Agents processed the papers of some of these exporters. The matter is under investigation

(c) Intensification of preventive measures and close supervision of export cargo have been ordered for avoiding recurrence of such cases.

Allotment of Ships to Ship-Breaking Units in West Bengal

3665. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the policy being followed by Government regarding allotment of ships to the ship-breaking industry ;

(b) whether the ship-breaking units in West Bengal—the old and established—will be getting ships by means of allotment or auctioning ; and

(c) the particulars of these units and number of ships allotted to them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) According to the existing policy ships are made available to ship-breakers registered with Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Limited on the following basis :—

(i) Sale of Indian flag vessels to the highest bidder through tender ;

(ii) Allotment of foreign flag vessels on cost plus basis by M.S.T.C, to registered ship-breaking units at sites other than Bombay and Calcutta.

(c) During the year 1984-85 only one ship or 5504 LDT has been sold on tender basis to a ship-breaking unit in West Bengal. Besides, two Indian flag ships were purchased by the ship-breaking unit in West Bengal from M/s Scindia Steam Navigation Company Limited.

Pending Cases of Confiscated Goods lying in Warehouses of Collectorate of Customs, Bombay

3666. SHRI R.M. BHOY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of cases pending under adjudication, appeal and revision proceedings and prosecutions relating to confiscated goods lying in warehouses of the Collectorate of Customs, Bombay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Garment Exporters Reluctant to Push up Sales in Non-Quota Markets

3667. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that garment exporters are still reluctant to push sales in non-quota markets and prefer the sheltered and easier business done under quota regimes ; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the measures adopted by Government in this regard to develop non-quota export markets and prevail upon the garment industry to avail the potential for the export of garments to non-quota countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. On the basis of available information garment exports to non-quota markets have been showing an upward trend.

(b) Government has taken severa

steps to develop non-quota markets. These include :—

- (i) CCS is admissible on 5 popular garment categories when exported only to non-quota countries.
- (ii) Import-Export Policy allows REP licences at a higher rate against exports to specified new markets.
- (iii) Grants from Market Development Fund to export promotion councils and export houses are admissible at higher rates when they participate in exhibitions in African and Latin American countries.

Export of Non-Traditional items During 1983-84 and 1984-85

3668. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of non-traditional items of export introduced during 1983-84 and 1984-85 ; and

(b) whether any export mechanism will be adopted to diversify exports of non-traditional items every year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) The Non-traditional items (select products) added to Appendix 22 (Select List of Export Products) of the Import & Export Policy 1983-84 were (1) Articles made of paper pulp (2) Dehydrated onions (3) Sunflower Seed Extractions and (4) Sal Seed Extraction. In the Import and Export Policy 1984-85, the non-traditional items (select products) added to Appendix 16 (Select List of Export Products) were (1) Perfumery Compounds (2) De-oiled rice bran extraction (produced by Solvent Extraction Process) and Cotton Seed Extraction (produced by Solvent Extraction Process) and (3) Sal Seed Fats.

(b) Import and Export Policy measures are being continuously evolved for increasing India's exports of both traditional and non-traditional items. These include measures for increasing and diversifying the production making our exports more competitive, finding new markets for our products and processing commodities for higher value realisation.

Different instruments of policy available to the Government are being utilised for this purpose and adjusted as and when necessary.

Balance of Trade with Japan

3669. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the balance of trade with Japan during 1983-84 indicating separately the figures of exports to and imports from that country ;

(b) the major items of imports from Japan ;

(c) whether any agreement has been made to boost our trade with Japan ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) The balance of trade with Japan during 1983-84 is as below :

(Rs. in million)

Year	Export to Japan	Import from Japan
1983-84	8173	14152

(b) Major items of imports from Japan are general machinery, electrical machinery, transportation machinery, iron and steel, textile goods, chemicals, and other light industrial products.

(c) and (d) A trade agreement was signed with Japan on 4th February, 1988. The broad features of the agreement are :

Under the agreement, nationals and companies of either country shall be accorded treatment no less favourable than that accorded to nationals and companies of any third country with respect to payment, remittances and transfer of funds; in accordance with the laws and regulations of each country. Nationals and companies of either country are to be accorded most favoured nationals treatment with respect to matters relating to levying of taxes and the conduct of all kinds of business and professional activities etc. Merchant vessels of either country are to be accorded most favoured nation treatment within ports, places and waters of

the respective country. The two countries are to cooperate with each other for mutual benefit with a view to expanding their trade and strengthening economic relations and to furthering the inter-change and use of scientific and technical knowledge.

Legal Retainers Appointed in NTC Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Assam.

3670. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of legal retainers appointed by the National Textile Corporation in Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Assam :

(b) the terms and conditions of their appointment and since when ;

(c) the number out of these, who have been paid their dues upto 28 February, 1984 ;

(d) whether there are some retainers who have not been paid their dues so far ; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) and (b) : NTC (WBABO) has appointed three advocates as legal retainers. The terms and conditions with, date of their appointment, is given below :

1. SHRI AMARNATH SINGH, ADVOCATE, PATNA

Appointed on 2-8-1982. Rs. 500/- per month as honorarium. Usual appearance fee at the rate of Rs. 119/- if required to appear on behalf of the subsidiary corporation. Civil matters, excluding taxation, in respect of Gaya Cotton and Jute Mills and Bihar Co-operative Spinning Mills are referred to him from time to time. In case of journey to Gaya and Mukameh, actual 1st class train fare by the shortest route and daily allowance at the rate of Rs. 50/- per day are payable to him.

2. SHRI A.S. RAY, ADVOCATE, CALCUTTA

Appointed on 2-8-1982. Rs. 1000/- per month as honorarium. Usual appearance fee of Rs. 170/- if required to appear

for the subsidiary corporation in the Calcutta High Court, for matters relating to realisation of outstanding debts, land matters including various premises occupied by the subsidiary corporation, as tenant and otherwise. Journey to any place outside 20 kilometres from Calcutta, actual 1st class fare and all incidental expenses incurred in various court matters entrusted.

3. SHRI T.P. SHAH, ADVOCATE, CALCUTTA

Appointed in 1976. He is a retainer for Income-tax and Sales-tax matters in respect of all the 18 units of the Subsidiary Corporation. Monthly retaining fee at the rate of Rs. 800/- (consolidated) is paid. Since 1981, his retainership fee has been increased to Rs. 1000/- per month. He has recently approached for re-fixation of his retainership fee at Rs. 1,500/- per month, which is under consideration of the subsidiary corporation.

(c) to (e) Shri Amarnath Singh, Advocate was paid his dues upto Dec., 1983 on 24-3-84. No further bills have been received from him.

Shri A.S. Roy, was paid his dues upto February, 1985, in the month of March, 1985.

Shri T. P. Shah, has no outstanding dues.

Profits Earned by Nationalised Banks Vis-a-Vis Foreign Banks of India

3671. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the profits earned by the nationalised banks in relation to increase in deposits are less than that of foreign banks which are operating in India ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) and (b) : The aggregate deposits and net profits of the Public Sector Banks as also the foreign banks operating in India during 1982 and 1983 are as follows :—

	(Rs. in crores)			
	Deposits		Profits	
	1982	1983	1982	1983
Public Sector Banks	47153	55311	78	84
Foreign Banks	1608	1929	17	21

While Public Sector Banks have to ensure that they earn profits on their operations, they are primarily required to sub-serve the interests of national banking policies which aim at increased lending to priority sectors, Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and other Weaker Sections of the society at concessional rates of interest. These banks are also required to assist the sick units at concessional rates of interest. Besides, advances for food procurement through Government agencies and investments in Government Securities also affect their profitability.

Public Sector Banks are also required to open a large number of branches in backward areas which take a longer period of gestation to break even. The obligations of foreign banks operating in India in such matters are limited.

Export of Cotton

3672. SHRI ANAND SINGH :
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to start the export of cotton ;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the quality and quantum of cotton to be exported during the ensuing years ; and

(c) the extent of export earnings expected and how it would affect the indigenous industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) and (b) : Yes, Sir. Decisions with regard to export of cotton are taken from time to time after verifying demand and supply position of cotton in the country and the prevailing price trend. During the current cotton year a quantity of 1.95 lakh bales of long and extra-long staple cotton has been released for export so far.

(c) It is difficult to estimate precisely the possible export earnings before the quantities are actually exported as various varieties are allowed and exchange rates are subject to fluctuation. Only those varieties/quantities of cotton are allowed for export

which are considered surplus to our domestic requirements. As such the exports of cotton permitted by the Government of India are not likely to have any adverse effect on the indigenous industry.

Proposal to Divide Western Coalfields

3673. SHRI RAM SAMUJHAWAN :
Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was or is any proposal under consideration of Government regarding the division of the Western Coalfields into two—Western with headquarters at Nagpur and the Central India with headquarters at Bilaspur ; and

(b) if so, the stage at which the proposal stands at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) and (b) : No decision has been taken in regard to the proposal for division of Western Coalfields Limited into two Companies.

Export of Turmeric and Setting up of a Turmeric Board.

3674. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and value of turmeric exported to different countries from India in 1982-83 and 1983-84;

(b) the quantity of turmeric produced in the country during the years 1982-83 and 1983-84; and

(c) whether Government have under consideration any proposal to set up Turmeric Board on the lines of Coffee and Tea Boards for development, regulation of production and export of turmeric ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) and (b) The quantity and value of export of Turmeric and the production of Turmeric in 1982-83 and 1983-84 are given below :

Year	Exports (in MTS)	Value (in '000' Rs.)	Production (in '000' (MTS)
1982-83	7594.8	42354.3	173
1983-84	10891.9	110550.1	194

(c) There is no proposal to set up a Turmeric Board. Government has however decided to set up a Spices Board to attend to integrated development of export of all items of spices including Turmeric.

Loans to Farmers by Commercial Banks and Financial Institutions in Orissa

3675. SHRI K. PRADHANI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the various commercial banks and financial institutions which were directed to provide loans to the farmers for the development of agriculture;

(b) the names of the different banks which provide agricultural credit to the farmers in Orissa during the last three years; and

(c) the amount of credit disbursed by each of the commercial banks in Orissa in those years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) All Public Sector Banks were directed to provide loans to farmers so as to enhance the share of direct agriculture loans to 15% in their total outstandings by the end of March, 1985.

(b) The undernoted commercial banks are providing agricultural credit in the State of Orissa :—

1. State Bank of India
2. Allahabad Bank
3. Andhra Bank
4. Bank of Baroda
5. Bank of India
6. Canara Bank
7. Central Bank of India
8. Corporation Bank
9. Dena Bank
10. Indian Bank
11. Indian Overseas Bank
12. New Bank of India
13. Oriental Bank of Commerce
14. Punjab National Bank
15. Punjab & Sind Bank
16. Syndicate Bank
17. Union Bank of India
18. United Bank of India
19. United Commercial Bank
20. Vijaya Bank
21. Federal Bank
22. Lakshmi Commercial Bank Ltd.

(c) Bank Group-wise disbursement of direct agricultural advances to farmers in the State of Orissa for the last three years has been as under :—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the Bank Group	As at the end of		
	March, 1980	March, 1981	March, 1982
1	2	3	4
State Bank Group			
1. Number of Accounts	55850	260170	140712
2. Amount disbursed	1228.14	6327.05	2973.63

Nationalised Banks			
1. No of accounts	28881	44420	48448
2. Amount disbursed	443.64	728.17	847.69
Private Sector Banks			
1. No. of accounts	3420	1	—
2. Amount disbursed	78.53	0.12	—
Total			
1. No. of accounts	88151	304591	189160
2. Amount disbursed	1750.31	7055.34	3821.32

Encouraging Non Resident Indians for Investment

3676. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any innovative scheme to encourage investments by non-resident Indians and other steps taken to remove the irritants which have so far inhibited large scale investments by the non-resident Indians in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(d) the details of the response from the non-resident Indians ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) to (d) The Government have extended several facilities for attracting inflow of remittances and investment by non-residents of Indian nationality/origin. All the schemes announced since 1982 are in force. These include facilities for setting up new industries, for investment in equities, Government securities and bank deposits etc. In November, 1983, the Government constituted a Special Approval Committee in the Department of Industrial

Development for expeditious clearance of all industrial investment proposals emanating from non-resident Indians. The Reserve Bank of India has also recently set up a committee to review the existing procedures followed by it and the commercial banks in connection with various facilities under NRI Schemes so as to further simplify these procedures.

These facilities have resulted in substantial inflows of foreign exchange, particularly in the form of remittances and deposits in Non-resident (External) Rupee Accounts and Foreign Currency (Non-resident) Accounts. A large number of proposals for investment in industrial units on repatriable and non-repatriable basis have also been approved.

Proposal to set up a Ship-Breaking Unit Near Azhickal

3677. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a proposal to set up a ship-breaking unit near Azhickal in Cannanore District of Kerala;

(b) whether registration has not been given to this unit;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to see that this project is cleared quickly ;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) :

(a) and (b) M/s. Steel Industrials Kerala Limited have been granted a letter of intent for ship-breaking near Azhickal in Cannanore District in Kerala. They have registered themselves with M/s. Metal Scrap Trade Corporation for allotment of a ship for breaking.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Higher Pay to Clerical Staff in Comparison to Officers in Nationalised Banks

3678. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in nationalised banks clerical staff is getting higher pay than the Officers after IVth Bipartite Settlement signed between Indian Banks Associations and various workmen unions of nationalised banks ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps Government propose to correct this anomaly; and

(d) at what stage are the negotiations for revision of pay scales of officers in nationalised banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) to (c) The lowest of the pay scales for the officers is still higher than the pay scale for the clerical staff.

(d) Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has completed the process of consultations with the officers' Associations.

Shifting of BALCO Head Office from New Delhi

3679. SHRI D. P. JADEJA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether no other aluminium corporation except Bharat Aluminium Corporation Limited has its head office in New Delhi;

(b) whether the aluminium, smelter and bauxite mines of BALCO are nearer to Korba, Calcutta and Bhopal than New Delhi;

(c) whether BALCO is suffering huge losses since its inception and a large amount of expenditure is incurred on tours of the officers of BALCO to plants and mines etc;

(d) if so, the action taken to reduce such expenditure and the justification in keeping the head office of BALCO in New Delhi; and

(e) whether Government propose to shift BALCO head office to a place which is more nearer to aluminium smelter and bauxite mines of BALCO ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The bauxite mines at Phutkapahar and Amarkantak (in Madhya Pradesh) of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) are nearer to Korba and Bhopal than New Delhi and Calcutta. The aluminium complex is located at Korba. The bauxite mine in Gandhamardan (in Orissa), which is under development, and the Aluminium Corporation at Bidhanbagh, Asansol (West Bengal) which was nationalised on 2-6-1984 and vested in BALCO are nearer to Calcutta than New Delhi and Bhopal.

(c) and (d) It is not correct to say that the losses being incurred by BALCO are due to large expenditure on tours of the officers visiting plants and mines. The expenditure on this head is nominal. A Board level Director incharge of Operations and Projects, is functioning at Korba with supporting officers and engineers. The Gandhamardan Mine Project and the Aluminium Unit at Bidhanbagh, Asansol, are headed by senior level officers of the Company. The losses, however, have been mainly caused by non-availability of power resulting in under-utilisation of the capacity which was created with heavy capital outlay.

(e) The matter is under consideration of the Government at the highest level.

**Completion of Private Family Trusts
Cases in Agra by Income Tax
Officers**

3680. SHRI KESHAORAO PARDHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cases of private family trusts were completed by Circle-II-A Ward of the Income Tax Office, Agra during the years 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84;

(b) if so, the particulars of Income Tax Officers who handled these cases in Circle-II-A Ward;

(c) whether these cases were irregularly handled by the Income Tax Officers who had no jurisdiction in that Circle; and

(d) if so, the action taken against those officers ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANAR-
DHANA POOJARY) :**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) S/Shri Joginder Singh, M. N. Dikshit, Ganeshi Lal and M. M. Lal, Income-tax Officers handled private family trusts cases during the years 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84.

(c) and (d) Some infirmity in the original jurisdiction order came to notice in September, 1982 which was corrected in December, 1983. Also, one of the Income-tax Officers has been suspended in February, 1984, and disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against him for handling certain cases of private family trusts in a mala fide manner.

**Stalemate Over India's Application
for Asian Development
Bank Loan**

**3681. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MAN-
DAL :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the stalemate over India's application for a 2-billion Asian Development Bank (ADB) loan still continues;

(b) if so, when it is expected to be broken ;

(c) the nature of projects both in the private, public and State sectors expected to be funded by this loan;

(d) whether any benefit from this loan will be made available to West Bengal for any of its projects;

(e) if so, the board details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANAR-
DHANA POOJARY) :**

(a) to (f) The Government of India has indicated to the management of the Asian Development Bank its intention to commence borrowing from the Bank during the period of Third General Capital Increase (ending 1987). The exact amount of loans to be extended to India during this period and the projects to be financed are still under discussion.

**Meeting between Representatives of
Labour and Management on
Revision of D. A.**

**3682. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS :
PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting with the representatives of labour and management was held on the revision of dearness allowance on 21st March, 1985;

(b) if so, whether the meeting was adjourned without taking any decision on the issue; and

(c) the main points of disagreement ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANAR-
DHANA POOJARY) :**

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) It was decided in the above meeting to submit a report to the Government. Subsequently, after further consultations with the representatives of Central Trade Union Organisations, Government have taken the following final decisions on the revised DA rates about which the Finance Minister also made a statement in the Lok Sabha on the 12th April, 1985.

(i) The existing Industrial Dearness Allowance rate would be raised from Rs. 1.30 per point shift in AICPI (Simla Series, 1960=100)

to Rs. 1.65 per point shift. This will be effective from 1st April, 1983 and will apply to all increases in AICPI beyond 492 points.

- (ii) The revised rate would be payable from the current period i.e. from the 1st April, 1985. The arrears for the period from 1st April, 1983 to 31st March, 1985 would be calculated and one half of it would also be disbursed in cash. The other half would be retained with the Public Enterprises concerned and would be disbursed after one year along with interest at the rate of 12% per annum.
- (iii) The frequency of revision of the Dearness Allowance would continue to be quarterly.

[Translation]

**Allotment of Accommodation to
Employees of Income-Tax
Department**

3683. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are preparing any special scheme for solving the housing problem of the employees working in the Income Tax Department;

(b) if so, the outlines thereof;

(c) if not, how Government propose to tackle their housing problem; and

(d) the number of Income Tax employees at present who have rendered more than ten years of service but have not got the residential accommodation so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Besides the accommodation available to the officers and staff of the Income-tax Department in the General Pool administered by the Ministry of Works & Housing, the Government have, during the last few years, approved a number of proposals for the construction of residential quarters for the officers and staff of the

Income-tax Department at various places, and this process is a continuing one. Purchases of ready built flats from both the State Government authorities as well as private parties on a selective basis have also been made.

(d) This information is not readily available and will have to be obtained from the various Commissioners of Income Tax scattered all over the country. Collection of such information from various Commissioners of Income Tax is a time consuming process and may not commensurate with the results sought to be achieved.

[English]

Setting up of Coastal Steel Plant at Haldia

3684. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to set up a coastal steel plant in Haldia ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In view of the capacities planned and under execution already vis-a-vis demand for steel and the availability of funds for investment in the steel sector, there is no likelihood of setting up a new steel plant at Haldia in the foreseeable future.

[Translation]

Losses Suffered by Public Undertakings

3685. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY :

DR. A. K. PATEL :

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :

SHRI KRISHAN PRATAP
SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether out of 191 Undertakings of the Union Government, 82 suffered losses during 1982-83 ;

(b) if so, the break-up of this loss ;

(c) the causes of the losses ; and

(d) the measures being taken to see that these undertakings do not suffer losses in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) and (b) In the year 1982-83 out of 193 undertakings, 82 undertakings suffered losses. The names of the undertakings which have suffered losses and the quantum of losses suffered by each is available in Statement No. 2.7B at pages 53 to 54 of the Public Enterprises Survey 1982-83 Volume-1 placed on the Table of Lok Sabha on 28-2-1984.

(c) The reasons for the losses broadly are :—

(i) The loss making enterprises include a number of sick units taken over from private sector to protect employment. The profitability in these enterprises is adversely affected due to old and out-dated machinery, surplus manpower, etc.

(ii) Demand recession in industries like steel, textile, shipping, etc. resulting in low capacity utilisation. Strike in Bombay based textile mills also contributed to the higher losses in textile sector.

(iii) Non-availability/inadequate availability of power and coal.

(iv) Uneconomic prices as in Delhi Transport Corporation.

(v) Prevalance of administered prices as in the case of coal, fertilizer etc.

(d) Some of the measures being taken by the Government to see that these undertakings do not suffer losses are :—

(i) The Government have constituted a number of indepth study teams to go into specific causes of continued low capacity utilisation wherever noticed and to recommend short-term and long-term remedial measures.

(ii) Government is monitoring execution and expeditious completion of

major projects on a continuous basis.

(iii) Government is constantly reviewing various aspects of the management of public enterprises including change in personnel, structure of the organisation etc., wherever necessary with a view to improve their performance.

(iv) Additional investments are provided for balancing facilities and captive power plants wherever justified. The Government has also taken several steps to improve the power situation ; mention may be made of the following steps viz.

- (a) Generation of additional capacity,
- (b) Plant modernisation,
- (c) Training,
- (d) Improving maintenance operation of thermal plants etc.
- (v) Technology upgradation, modernisation and rehabilitation of plant and equipment and diversification of products are undertaken whenever considered appropriate.

[English]

Financial Crisis in Orissa Cotton Mill, Jagatpur

3686. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Orissa Cotton Mill, Jagatpur is facing financial crisis ;

(b) if so, the steps taken to remove the crisis ;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to modernise that Cotton Mill ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) At present, Orissa Cotton Mill, Jagatpur, is not facing any financial crisis.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The total sanctioned amount for modernisation of this unit including Phase-I, Phase-II and provision for escalation is Rs. 320.72 lakhs. Schemes to the tune of Rs. 290.37 lakhs have already been implemented.

Loan Sanctioned By ICICI to SC/ST and Backward Areas

3687. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Industrial Credit & Investment Corporation of India have sanctioned any loans during the last three years ;

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

(c) the total amount sanctioned State-

wise for backward areas, Scheduled Castes and Tribes out of the total allocation made ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) During the year 1982, 1983 and 1984 the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) had sanctioned loans to the extent of Rs. 282.01 crores, Rs. 334.53 crores and Rs. 414.09 crores respectively.

(c) Statewise details of sanctions by Industrial Credit & Investment Corporation of India to backward areas are indicated in the Statement attached. ICICI does not have separate information relating to assistance sanctioned to projects promoted by SC/ST entrepreneurs.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	State	1982	1983	1984
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1295	1598	4461
2.	Assam	201	515	234
3.	Bihar	—	—	303
4.	Gujarat	1423	3665	2807
5.	Haryana	197	496	803
6.	Himachal Pradesh	379	78	233
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	100	—	229
8.	Karnataka	1629	1569	1794
9.	Kerala	258	32	175
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1537	910	2278
11.	Maharashtra	1002	1211	1538
12.	Orissa	556	412	1634
13.	Punjab	477	850	1007
14.	Rajasthan	589	1292	1273
15.	Tamil Nadu	1424	2294	1005
16.	Uttar Pradesh	707	1050	2614
17.	West Bengal	448	764	650
18.	Arunachal Pradesh	30	16	25
19.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	35
20.	Goa	132	42	1
21.	Pondicherry	203	142	253
22.	Nagaland	—	16	—
23.	Sikkim	—	80	—
24.	Andaman and Nicobar	—	—	20
Total		12587	17032	23372

Recovery of Two Months Salary from Retiring Government Employees

3688. SHRI N. V. RATNAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether Government ordered stoppage of recovery of two months salary from retiring staff ;

(b) whether the Allahabad High Court in a Writ Petition directed the Government to refund that amount ; and

(c) if not refunded so far, the reasons therefor and when it is proposed to be refunded ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Two months salary used to be recovered from retiring Government servants as contribution towards Family Pension Scheme, 1984. The question presumably refers to that deduction. As a measure of liberalisation, this contribution was done away with in respect of those Government servants who retired on or after 22-9-1977.

(b) Ministry of Finance have not received copy of any such judgement of the Allahabad High Court.

(c) In view of (b) above, question does not arise.

Per Capita Consumption of Cloth

3689. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state the details of per capita consumption of cloth in every State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH:

The details of per capita consumption of cloth statewide is not maintained. However, the per capita consumption of cloth, non-cotton and mixed/blended cloth during 1983 are as under :

Category of cloth	All India (in meters)
Cotton	10.12
Non-cotton	1.44
Mixed/blended	2.14
Total	13.70

Liberalisation of Customs Rules

3690. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a demand by Indians living abroad for liberalisation Customs rules ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Consequent to representations received from Indians living abroad, the Baggage Rules were liberalised in March, 1983 and the duty free allowance was increased from Rs. 1,000/- to Rs. 1250/- In addition, Indians working abroad on contracts for one year were allowed to bring personal articles and household effects upto a value of Rs. 5,000/- free of Customs duty when returning at the end of their contracts. There is no proposal at this stage, to further liberalise the Baggage Rules.

Coal Production in Chhota Nagpur, Bihar

3691. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Chhota Nagpur area of South Bihar produce 60 percent of the total production of the country ; and

(b) whether provision of funds for increase of the production of coal for the current year i.e. 1985-86 under Central Sector has been enhanced from Rs. 1446 crores to Rs. 2090 crores ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Coal production from the mines of Coal India Ltd. in Chhota Nagpur area of South Bihar which include Nirsa and Kapasara area of Eastern Coalfields Ltd., all the mines of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd., the mine of Central Coalfields Ltd. excluding Talcher and Singrauli area, and the mines of TISCO, IISCO and D.V.C., was about 55 million tonnes in 1984-85 against the country's production of 147.45 million tonnes. This constitutes 37.3%.

(b) As against the allocation of Rs. 836.03 crores (Revised Estimates) for Coal

India Ltd. in 1984-85, Planning Commission have allocated Rs. 851.50 crores for Coal India Ltd. during the year 1985-86.

Visit of Delegation of Punjab-Haryana-Delhi Chamber of Commerce and Industry to China

3692. SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a delegation on behalf of the Punjab-Haryana-Delhi Chamber of Commerce and Industry went to China to explore the possibility of large trade and setting up joint ventures ; and

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

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

(b) A 15 member delegation from the Punjab, Haryana, Delhi Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited China from 24th March to 7th April, 1985 on the invitation of China Council for promotion of International Trade (CCPIT). The delegation visited Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, Guangzhou and Shenzhen Special Economic Zone. Memoranda of Understanding were signed with the Sub-Councils of CCPIT at Shanghai, Jiangsu and Guangzhou. Areas for setting up of joint ventures were also identified.

Financial Assistance to States by I.D.B.I.

3693. SHRI C.P. THAKUR : Will

the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum and distribution of financial assistance sanctioned by the Industrial Development Bank of India to different States during the last three years ;

(b) how Bihar compares with other States in this respect ; and

(c) the steps taken/ proposed to be taken to fill in the gap ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Details of statewide sanction of assistance by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) during the last 3 years are given in the statement attached.

(b) The share of Bihar in total assistance sanctioned by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) moved up from 2.04% in 1981-82 to 3.35% in 1982-83 but declined to 2.50% in 1983-84.

(c) Various incentives like interest-free loans for infrastructure development, reduced promoters' contribution, non-stipulation of the convertibility clause and concessions in rate of interest etc. are offered to entrepreneurs to encourage them to set up industrial units in identified backward areas, including such areas in Bihar. The IDBI has already initiated an Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) in Bihar and more EDPs have been planned.

Statement

State-wise details of Assistance Sanctioned*

(Period: July-June)

(Rs. lakhs)

S.No.	State	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14380	15431	33738
3.	Assam	1424	1630	2121
3.	Bihar	3275	6966	6423
4.	Gujarat	27539	26760	32680

*Includes Project loans, Underwriting, Soft Loans, TDF loans, Refinance, Bills rediscounting and Guarantees.

5. Harayana	4470	8675	10411
6. Himachal Pradesh	2320	2079	2452
7. Jammu & Kashmir	1757	1871	2757
8. Karnataka	11147	14155	22966
9. Kerala	3790	5652	6893
10. Madhya Pradesh	8218	8105	11408
11. Maharashtra	24580	29053	28531
12. Manipur	73	45	213
13. Meghalaya	215	155	83
14. Nagaland	206	102	178
15. Orissa	6953	9212	10917
16. Punjab	3835	8834	8247
17. Rajasthan	8262	14326	9643
18. Sikkim	17	38	285
19. Tamil Nadu	13309	22118	26037
20. Tripura	320	144	34
21. Uttar Pradesh	12218	14840	23592
22. West Bengal	5759	10508	10992
23. Union Territories	6736	7029	5684
Total	160803	207728	256285

Investments of IDBI & ICICI in Various States

3694. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the investment of Industrial Development Bank of India and Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India in West Bengal, Assam, Orissa, Maharashtra Bihar and Gujarat in 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 ;

(b) the reasons for discrimination if any ;

(c) whether it is proposed to give priority to entire Eastern and North Eastern Region through these financial institutions during the Seventh Five Year Plan so as to bring them on par with States ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) to (d) Details of sanctions and disbursements of assistance by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and Industrial Credit & Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) in West Bengal, Assam, Orissa, Maharashtra, Bihar and Gujarat during 1982-83, 1983-84, 1984-85 (upto December, 1984) are furnished in the attached Statement. Flow of institutional assistance to a particular State/region depends on the number of viable proposals originating from the State/region. The extent of financial assistance to Eastern and North Eastern Region during the 7th Plan period would depend upon the number of viable proposals that may be received from these regions.

Statement

Statement of Sanctions & Disbursements in Respect of Industrial Development Bank of India and Industrial Credit & Investment Corporation of India.
(April-March) (Rs. Crores)

State		1982-83		1983-84		1984-85 (Upto Dec. '84)	
		IDBI	ICICI	IDBI	ICICI	IDBI	ICICI
West Bengal	S	91.05	17.06	102.94	12.21	84.70	10.61
	D	61.64	9.50	72.36	17.85	68.39	12.48
Assam	S	22.20	2.03	18.02	5.30	25.88	2.82
	D	9.37	—	8.31	1.13	11.21	1.80
Orissa	S	75.85	9.03	79.56	12.61	290.47	34.47
	D	52.19	74.33	59.13	61.80	40.93	8.97
Maharashtra	S	206.06	66.75	292.35	88.82	236.96	53.74
	D	207.25	63.01	218.91	61.80	176.97	56.77
Bihar	S	47.85	5.67	78.80	9.14	45.60	3.97
	D	38.96	9.58	35.71	5.81	21.73	5.22
Gujarat	S	248.83	57.43	386.24	80.62	171.01	39.17
	D	178.90	37.95	166.73	38.56	133.78	40.19

S : Sanctions

D : Disbursements

Permission of RBI to HIPCO Growth Fund for Payment of Advance Interest Over Deposits

3695. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that HIPCO Growth Fund, Hyderabad, has been permitted by the Reserve Bank of India to pay advance interest over deposits ;

(b) whether the Reserve Bank is aware that HIPCO Growth Fund has collected over Rs. 6 crores and 26 lakhs ;

(c) whether two former Chairmen of Life Insurance Corporation of India are on the Board of Directors of the Company; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that as per the Company's balance sheet as at 30th September, 1984, the Company does not hold any deposits.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Request by Kerala Government to allow Import of Timber at low Import Duty

3696. SHRI K. MOHAN DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Kerala have requested the Union Government to allow import of timber at low rate of import duty for a large number of small scale industries in the State ;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in this regard ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY):

(a) Government of Kerala had requested that import of timber at low rates of duty might be permitted.

(a) and (c) With effect from the 17th March, 1985, certain specified categories of wood and timber, when imported, have been exempted from customs duty in excess of 10 per cent ad valorem.

Recommendations of Committees Relating to Export and Import Policy

3697. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have accepted the recommendations of Abid Hussain and D. V. Kapoor Committees relating to export and import policy ;

(b) the main recommendations of the said Committees ;

(c) whether Government have implemented any of their recommendations ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) to (d) Since the Reports of these Committees have a bearing on various economic policies which are under formulation, it would not be in public interest to furnish the details of the recommendations.

Investigation into Export of Contaminated Shrimps

**3698. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN :
SHRI AJOY BISWAS :**

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have directed to investigate into the whole issue of contaminated shrimps export to other countries ;

(b) if so, the results of the said investigation ;

(c) the particulars of the culprits ;

(d) the details of the proceedings initiated against these persons ;

(e) results of the said proceedings ; and

(f) the remedial measures taken to stop such exports in the future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) to (f) Quality problems with regard to export of marine products have appeared from time to time not only with regard

to such exports from India but also with regard to exports from other producing countries.

A number of schemes have been initiated and incentives given for improving the quality and avoiding contamination of our marine product exports. Testing for quality is also being done by the Export Inspection Agency and we are endeavouring to arrive at agreed norms and procedures for inspection and quality control with the authorities in the major importing countries.

Export Inspection Agency has issued instructions for minimising contamination problems with regard to shrimps. Whenever there are complaints action is being taken in accordance with the rules and regulations made for this purpose.

Special Liquidity and Cash Reserve Ratio and Financing Priority Sector by Banks

3699. SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of Special Liquidity Ratio (SLR) and Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) which banks are expected to maintain ;

(b) the rate of interest paid to banks for SLR and CRR maintained by them ;

(c) the quantum of priority sector advances at a lesser rate of interest which banks are expected to finance ; and

(d) whether foreign banks operating in India are also required to maintain Special Liquidity Ratio, Cash Reserve Ratio and to finance priority sector advances ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) There is no Special Liquidity Ratio. Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the Statutory Liquidity Ratio. The Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) prescribed for scheduled commercial banks is at present 36 per cent. A phased increase of one percentage point has been announced i.e., the ratio will be 36.5 per cent effective from June 8, 1985 and 37 per cent effective from July 6, 1985. The Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) is 9 per cent. Banks also have to maintain an incremental Cash Reserve Ratio of 10 per cent of the increase in net demand and time liabilities

over the level as on November, 11, 1983. The additional cash balances maintained with Reserve Bank of India as on October, 31, 1980 under the earlier incremental Cash Reserve Ratio cannot be withdrawn, other than the releases already made in October and December, 1984.

(b) An interest rate of 10 per cent per annum is paid on cash balances maintained over the statutory minimum of 3 per cent. The Statutory Liquidity Ratio consists mainly of Government and approved securities and some other items and the effective rate of return depends on the banks' maturity pattern of investments.

(c) The scheduled commercial banks were advised that by March, 1985 their advances to the priority sector should reach 40% of their total credit.

(d) The foreign banks operating in India are also required to maintain Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) and Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR). These banks have also been advised to take suitable steps to step up advances to priority sectors. However, the target of 40% of total advances by March, 1985 has not been made applicable to foreign banks.

Report of Working Group on Security Arrangements in Banks

3700. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the action taken by the public sector banks on the recommendations contained in the Report of the Working Group constituted in August, 1982 for examining the security arrangements in Banks and to suggest measures for strengthening the security arrangements in Banks, which was sent by the Finance Ministry to the Banks in 1983 ; and

(b) the action taken by Government on the reports submitted by the Expert Committee on Public Enterprises which studied the working of selected public enterprises and suggested measures for improving their performance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) A High Power Working Group on Security Arrangements

in Banks had recommended various measures to improve the security arrangements in banks the more important of which are :

- (i) Improving the liaison of bank branches with the local police ;
- (ii) Setting up an efficient security set up in each of the banks under a Chief Security Officer of sufficient experience ;
- (iii) Safeguards in regard to various aspects affecting security ;
- (iv) Stationing of Security Guards at vulnerable branches ;
- (v) Review of security arrangements by Bank Boards and Chief Executives.

Pursuant to these recommendations, an expert Sub-Committee had evolved detailed guidelines covering different aspects of banks' security. The banks were advised to take action on the recommendations of the Working Group, in the light of the guidelines framed by the Sub-Committee and having regard to their circumstances and the security requirements of their various offices. The banks have accordingly been taking action in a phased manner.

(b) An Expert Committee appointed by Government under the Chairmanship of Shri Mohd. Fazal, former Member of Planning Commission, submitted 10 Reports, namely, on Coal, Fertilizers, Engineering, Shipping, Indian Telephone Industries, IPCL, Neyveli Lignite Corporation, Steel, B.P.E. and General Issues. Out of above, the Government has considered all the reports excepting Steel and General Issues. Accepted recommendations are under implementation.

[Translation]

Implementation of Resolutions Passed by Hindi Advisory Committee

3701. SHRI KRISHAN PRATAP SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of meetings of the Hindi Advisory Committee of his Ministry held in 1984 ;

(b) the resolutions passed in these meetings ; and

(c) the details regarding implementation of these resolutions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The Hindi Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Finance met twice in 1984.

(b) the prime function of the Hindi Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Finance is to advise the Ministry on matters relating to the progressive use of Hindi for official purposes, and no resolutions are passed in these meetings.

(c) does not arise.

[English]

India's Share in World Cotton Trade

3702. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :
SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) India's share in the World Cotton trade at present ;

(b) whether there has been any increase in India's share over the years ; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to increase it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (c) According to available information India's share in the World Cotton trade during the last three years is as follows :

Year	India's Share in World Cotton Trade
1981-82	1.35%
1982-83	2.74%
1983-84	1.61%

As a result of efforts made in the field of cotton development, cotton production has increased over the years. However, as cotton is the main raw material of textile industry most of the cotton produced in the country is used by the domestic textile industry. The varieties of cotton whose production is surplus to our domestic requirements are exported to foreign countries.

[Translation]

Foreign Exchange Earned Through Export of Flowers

3703 PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of flowers exported during 1984-85 and the foreign exchange earned thereby ; and

(b) the varieties of flowers being exported and whether several varieties of 'orchidous' flower grown by Arunachal Government can be grown at other places also ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Estimated exports of cut-flowers/fresh flowers and orchid plants in 1984-85 are as under :—

(i) Cut-flowers/ fresh flowers	Rs. 22.71 lakhs
(ii) Orchid Plants	Rs. 5.16 lakhs

(b) Gladioli, Tube roses are among the principal varieties of flowers exported. It is understood that varieties of orchidous flowers grown in Arunachal Pradesh can be grown in other areas having identical climatic conditions.

[English]

Role of Financial Institutions in Achieving Targets of 20-Point Programme

3704. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to issue instructions to the Government financial institutions (other than Banks) to play a vital role in achieving targets laid down in the 20-Point Programme ; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the programme and policy of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Government of India had written to the Industrial Development Banks of India (IDBI) in May 1983 requesting IDBI to place suitable emphasis in implementing the recommendations of the Committee headed by the then Chairman of IDBI regarding measures for speedy implementation of the 20-Point Programme so far as it related to the financial institutions. There is no proposal to issue any fresh instructions in this regard.

S.C. and S.T. Employees in N.A.L.C.O

3705, SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of employees in National Aluminium Company Limited as on 1 March, 1982, 1 March, 1985, particularly in Orissa ;

(b) the number of S.C. and S.T. employees amongst them ;

(c) whether reservation rules in favour of S.C. and S.T. employees are being followed and rosters maintained for that purpose ;

(d) if so, the reasons for the shortfall, if any ;

(e) the steps taken to fill the quota reserved for these communities ; and

(f) the number of reserved posts lapsed during this period ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) and (b) The total number of employees in National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) as on 1st March, 1982 and 1st March, 1985, in Orissa was 125 and 1439 respectively. The number of SC and ST employees amongst them was SC—8 and ST-1 on 1.3.1982, and SC—186 and ST—94 as on 1-3-1985

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The primary reason is general scarcity of qualified candidates belonging to SC and ST categories, especially in a Company like NALCO with high technology content and low labour intensity.

(e) Special recruitment drive has been launched for filling up backlog of reserved vacancies to make up the shortfall, which include exclusive advertisements/notifications, and relaxation of standards consistent with administrative efficiency.

(f) None.

Increase in Garment Export During 1984-85.

3706. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether garment export has increased in 1984-85 over the last year ; and

(b) if so, the amount of increase in the major cities concerned (with figures of exports in rupees) ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES

(SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the provisional figures furnished by the Apparel Export Promotion Council, garment export for the period from April, 1984 to February, 1985 amounted to Rs 827.56 crores as compared to Rs. 631.68 crores during the corresponding period of 1983-84 representing an increase of 31%. Citywise export figures are not maintained.

News Item Captioned "Strict U.S. Policy to Hit India"

3707. SHRI DHARAMPAL SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Strict U.S. aid policy to hit India" appearing in "The Hindustan Times" of 27 March, 1985 ;

(b) if so, whether it will affect the financial condition of the country ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The Agency for International Development has included the following figures of bilateral aid to India during the last 3 years 1984-86.

(\$ Million)			
1984 Actual	1985 Estimated	1986 Proposed	
Development Economic Assistance	87.5	85.0	85.0
PL-480 Title II	115.1	90.6	93.54
International Military Education & Training.	—	—	0.35
Total	202.6	175.6	178.89

The AID proposals for US FY 86 (Sept. 85—Oct. 86) for various Third World Countries are under consideration of the concerned Committees of the House and the Senate. The proposals will not affect the financial condition of the country.

Loss in N.T.C.

3708. SHRI S.G. GHOLAP : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total loss suffered by the National Textile Corporation till date ;

(b) the strength of workers and the number of mills under the N.T.C. .

(c) the total amount invested in the N.T.C. so far ;

(d) the total amount required for modernisation ; and

(e) the number and names of mills earning profits ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) National Textile Corporation has incurred losses to the extent of about Rs 617 crores from 1974-75 to 1984-85.

(b) As on 31-12-1984, the strength of workers in 103 (101 in operation) nationalised mills was 1.56 lakhs, excluding clerical staff and officers in the mills.

(c) Rs. 932.85 crores has been invested in National Textile Corporation mills upto 31-3-1985.

(d) NTC has prepared a plan for modernisation of nationalised units during the Seventh Five Year Plan, with an outlay of Rs. 347 crores.

(e) The number of mills which made net profit during the year 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 is given below :

Year	No. of Units making net profit
1982-83	15
1983-84	9
1984-85	2

The names of mills which made net profit during the year 1984-85 are as follows :

1. Barshi Textile Mill, Barshi District, Sholapur.
2. Pankaja Mills, Coimbatore.

Pay Scales of Teachers of Schools in Bhilai Township

3709. SHRI S. M. GURADDI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pay scales presently given to teachers working in schools in

Durgapur and Rourkela Townships are also given to teachers in the schools in Bhilai Townships; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) :

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

[Translation]

Employment to SC/ST Persons Living near Coal Mines

3710. SHRI SHIV PRASAD SAHU : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a provision in regard to coal mines that only those people will be provided employment whose lands measuring more than three acres are acquired;

(b) whether Government are aware that mostly poor Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes live near the coal mines, who do not possess three acres land and though their land is acquired yet they are not provided employment on the plea that their land is less than three acres as a result of which lakhs of people are rendered homeless and jobless;

(c) whether Government propose to make a provision in the near future that even those persons will be provided employment whose less than three acres of land is acquired; and

(d) if so, by what time ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) and (b) When land is acquired for coal projects, land losers are provided employment by the coal companies on the basis of one employment for every three acres of non-irrigated land or two acres of irrigated land acquired. In providing such employment, no special distinction is made in regard to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and all land losers are treated alike.

(c) No review of the position is contemplated.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Bilateral Trade between India and Turkey

3711. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the session of the Indo-Turkish Joint Committee took place in New Delhi recently.

(b) if so, the matters discussed at the meeting ;

(c) the items of export to Turkey; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to increase the bilateral trade between the two countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Discussions broadly pertained to matters regarding bilateral trade, cooperation in the IRD field of agriculture and industry, besides third country projects.

(c) Major items of export to Turkey are textile fabrics, made-ups and related products, textile yarn, machinery and transport equipment.

(d) During the Joint Committee meeting, the two sides expressed their desire to increase the bilateral trade through various export promotion measures like participation in trade fairs, exchange of delegations, joint ventures, cooperation in third country projects.

[Translation]

Rules Regarding Recruitment of Local People in Nationalised Banks

3712. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any rules have been framed for giving preference to the local people in the recruitment of officers and staff for the various branches of nationalised banks to be opened in tribal areas;

(b) if not, whether Government have a proposal that the local people should be given preference for the effective expansion of banking facilities in tribal areas; and

(c) if so, whether Government are likely to issue guidelines in this regard to all the banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) to (c) Recruitment to jobs in the public sector banks is made through open competitive examinations, on All India basis in the case of officers, and on regional basis in the case of clerical staff. As regards recruitment of subordinate staff, such recruitment is made through local employment exchanges. There are reservations for candidates belonging to Scheduled Tribes as per the declared policy of the Government. The Banking Service Recruitment Boards have been taking special measures to step up recruitment of candidates belonging to Scheduled Tribes in the public sector banks.

[English]

Coal deposit in Ib Valley of Orissa

3713. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of coal deposits in the Ib Valley of Orissa according to the recent survey undertaken; and

(b) the steps being taken to explore the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) According to the recent assessment made by Geological Survey of India a total reserve of 11145 million tonnes of coal has been established in Ib Valley Coalfields, Sambalpur district, Orissa.

(b) The detailed exploration is being done in Ib valley Coalfield to identify mineable coal reserves. Two new projects namely Belpahar OC and Lajkura OC with 2.0 m t. and 1.0 m.t. per annum capacity respectively have since been taken up and coal production in these projects have started recently. Subject to confirmation of coal demand, it is proposed to plan three more mines namely Samleshwari OC, Gopalpur OC and Belpahar-II OC during the 7th Five Year Plan period.

[Translation]

Office of Khetari Copper Project

3714. SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether office of Khetari Copper Project is located in Calcutta;

(b) the justification of locating this office so far away from Khetari;

(c) whether there is any proposal to locate the said office at Jaipur; and

(d) if so, the time by which the office will be shifted to Jaipur ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) No, Sir. It is located at Khetri-nagar, Rajasthan. The Khetri Copper Complex is one of the three projects of M/s. Hindustan Copper Ltd. The head office of M/s. Hindustan Copper Ltd. is located at Calcutta.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Coal Mining in Rajmahal Coalfield Area, Bihar

3715. SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a vast potential exists for mining coal in Rajmahal coalfields area of Santhal Parganas, a tribal district of Bihar;

(b) whether out of the five coal basins of this region, only one has been developed for exploitation which would be able to supply coal both to Farakka and Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Plants and further vast potential exists for utilising the coal reserves; and

(c) if reply to parts (a) and (b) above be in affirmative, the steps his Ministry is contemplating to take to utilise the above vast coal resources ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) and (b) The potential for mining of coal in Rajmahal coalfields is yet to be

determined. So far, of the five basins comprising Rajmahal coalfields, detailed exploration in Hura basin has been completed and a large quarriable potential has been established. As only Hura basin has been explored, this basin is, at present, being developed for exploitation. The Rajmahal opencast project with a capacity of 5 m.t. per year has been approved and is under construction. This project would meet the initial coal requirements of Farakka Super Thermal Power Station and Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Station.

(c) A project report for expanding the capacity of Rajmahal project to 10 m.t. per year is under preparation. It is also proposed to plan another project, Rajmahal 'C' with a capacity of 2.00 m. t. per year. These projects will meet the increasing requirements of Farakka Super Thermal Power Station and Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Station.

Central Assistance to Orissa Government for Creation of Additional Units of Revenue Administration

3716. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Orissa have requested his Ministry to provide Central assistance for creation of additional units of Revenue Administration in that State;

(b) if so, the amount of Central assistance provided to State of Orissa for that purpose; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Procurement Policy of Opium

3717. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI :
PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI
SHAKTAWAT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) when the procurement policy in regard to opium was formulated according

to which Government purchase opium from the farmers;

(b) the basis on which that policy was formulated;

(c) whether Government now pay the farmers for their opium produce in proportion to the increase in its production cost;

(d) the time by which Government propose to introduce a new procurement policy of opium with a view to removing the disparity between the cost price and procurement price;

(e) whether Government are aware that with the introduction of slab system, the farmers are being paid less at present;

(f) if so, whether this policy requires to be revised; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) to (d) In the Annual Departmental Narcotics Meeting held generally in the month of July-August every year, all important matters relating to poppy cultivation in the succeeding crop year, including the question of procurement price for opium payable to the farmers are considered and recommendations made to the Government for consideration.

The production of opium in India is essentially export-oriented. Due to global over-supply of the opiate raw materials, Indian opium has been facing increasing competition from alternate raw materials particularly, concentrate of poppy straw. The question of price payable to the poppy cultivators is examined keeping in view the need for the export price of opium to be competitive, the comparative income of farmers from poppy crop and other cash crops cultivated in the poppy-growing areas, the cost of production, the stock of opium lying with the Government factories, etc. While fixing the price structure of opium, care is taken to ensure that the income from poppy crop accruing to the cultivators is more than the cost of production.

(e) to (g) The slab system of price payable to cultivators has been in vogue

for several years providing high rates as incentives for higher production per hectare. The existing price of opium to cultivators is sufficiently remunerative.

As stated above, the question of price of opium payable to the cultivators for the crop year 1985-86 will be examined at this year's Annual Departmental Narcotics Meeting, keeping all the relevant factors in view.

[Eng'ish]

Pending Cases for Payment of Pension, Gratuity etc. In S. B. I. Fatehpur, District Kangra.

3718. SHRI E.S.M. PAKEER MOHAMMED : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pending cases of payment of pension, gratuity, commuted value of pension and arrears of ad-hoc relief sanctioned by Government from time to time with the State Bank of India, Fatehpur, District Kangra (H.P.);

(b) the reasons for the delay in making payment in the above cases and the action that has been taken in this regard against the concerned bank authorities; and

(c) when these pending cases are likely to be settled and payment is made to pensioners and family pensioners ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) to (c) State Bank of India has reported that no case for payment of pension, gratuity, etc. is pending in its branch at Fatehpur, District Kangra (H. P.), as on 12-4-1985.

There was, however, some delay in regard to adjustment of arrears in 19 cases, of ad-hoc relief sanctioned by Government, from time to time. These cases have also been settled and the amounts credited to the pensioners accounts.

Targets for Completion of Reconciliation of Inter Branch Transactions in Nationalised Banks

3719. SHRI R. PRABHU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to lay down specific time targets for completion of the reconciliation of inter branch transactions in nationalised banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) and (b) In view of the wide network of bank branches and the centralised system for accounting inter branch transactions followed by the nationalised banks there is always a time lag between the dates of transactions and their actual reconciliation which may vary between three to six months depending upon the systems and procedures followed by individual banks. Due to the delay in submission and/or incorrect compilation of daily schedules, non-availability of certain old records, hitherto manual reconciliation of work etc. there are arrears in the reconciliation of inter-branch accounts in banks. Banks are seized of the situation and have taken various steps to reduce the arrears in this regard. In view of the above no specific time targets for completion of the reconciliation of inter-branch transactions have been laid down by the Reserve Bank.

The Government and Reserve Bank have also been urging banks from time to time to make effective and concerted efforts to keep this area of work upto date by streamlining the systems and procedures in this regard and for clearing the arrears within a time bound programme. The progress made by the banks in clearing the arrears in the reconciliation of inter-branch accounts is being monitored on half yearly basis by Reserve Bank of India.

Coal Supply to North Bihar

3720. SHRI LALITESHVAR SHAHI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of coal rakes despatched to Garhara (Barauni) and Narayanpur Anant (Muzaffarpur) rake unloading stations during the last two years;

(b) the number of coal wagons despatched to North Bihar stations during the above period; and

(c) the steps, if any, he contemplates to supply more coal to North Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

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

Illegal Mining of Coal in Bihar

3721. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have come across cases of illegal mining of coal in Bihar ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken to stop this ; and

(c) the names of persons and organisations found involved in this ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) to (c) The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act was amended in 1976 prohibiting any person other than those authorised by the Act, to carry on coal mining in India in any form and terminating all leases relating to winning or mining of coal granted in favour of private parties except those engaged in production of iron and steel, illegal coal mining was also made a cognizable offence and is punishable with an imprisonment for a term extending to three years and fine extending to Rs. 20,000/-. The Supreme Court in their judgements dated 11-4-1980 and 7-5-1980 have upheld the vires of these provisions.

After these judgements, illegal mining of coal has been curbed to a great extent. However, the coal belt is vast and certain persons at times violate the provisions of law and indulge in illegal extraction of coal sporadically and stealthily.

The State Government and coal companies have been asked to take concerted action against the offenders. The State Government has already issued instructions to District authorities to take punitive and preventive action under the Act read with Indian Penal Code. The coal companies have also been directed to report to the authorities concerned as and when illegal extraction of coal is detected.

Setting up of Bank Customers' Grievance Cell

3722. **SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :**
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Bank Customers' Grievance Cell has been set up in Delhi ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether similar cells are proposed to be set up in other cities as well ;

(d) whether customer grievances are mainly arising out of delays in cashing their cheques, drafts, etc. ; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to remove these delays ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) to (c) A Customer Service Centre has been set up in Delhi for redressal of grievances of clientele of public sector banks in the Union Territory of Delhi. Punjab National Bank (PNB) will act as Leader Bank for ensuring proper running and control of the Centre. Complaints received by the Centre will be passed on to the concerned banks, for redressal and to ensure their disposal within a maximum period of three weeks from the date of receipt of the complaint. Where disposal is not possible within the specified period, the complainant will be sent an interim reply. In cases where no reply is received from the concerned bank within a month or where the reply is not satisfactory, the complainant can write to Government when steps will be taken for early disposal.

The extension of the scheme to other major centres in the country will be considered after watching the functioning of the scheme in Delhi for some time.

(d) Some of the complaints relate to delays in cashing of cheques, drafts, etc.

(e) All efforts are being made to improve the quality of customer service in banks to meet the increasing tasks and expectations.

To facilitate speedy withdrawals from banks, public sector banks have introduced the Teller system in a large number of their branches.

Commissioning of Dancuni Coal Complex

3723. **KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE :**
Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi had announced that 'Dancuni Coal Complex' would be commissioned on or before December, 1984 ;

(b) if so, the reasons due to which the above target date could not be adhered to

(c) the progress made so far ; and

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project got delayed due to the initial difficulties in the acquisition of land, import of technology, completion of massive land filling work, and delay in the finalisation of orders for compressors due to import restrictions.

(c) The project is already in an advanced stage of construction and about 50% of the overall work has since been completed.

(d) The project is likely to be commissioned by March 1987.

Shifting of Council for Leather Exports to Capital

3724. **DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :**
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been urged upon Government that the unified Council for Leather Exports should be shifted to the Capital ;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The present pattern of the growth of exports in the leather sector and the distribution of membership

of the Council among different regions do not warrant shifting of the Head quarters of the Council for Leather Exports from Madras to Delhi.

Study Conducted by G. S. I About Deposits of Gold in Palghat, Kerala

3725. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India had conducted any study about the deposit of gold in the Palghat region of Kerala ;

(b) if so, the result of the study ;

(c) whether Government have a plan for commercial extraction of gold in this region ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Very minor occurrences of gold from Sivrani river and Attapady valley in Palghat district of Kerala were noticed by the Geological Survey of India.

(c) and (d) As the results of the surveys did not give encouraging results the question of commercial exploitation of gold from this region does not arise.

[Translation]

Export of Stapled Cotton Bales.

3726. SHRI NARSINH MAKWANA : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of long and extra stapled cotton bales proposed to be exported and the institutions entrusted with this work as also the criterion fixed therefor ;

(b) the quantum of cotton production this year in the States indicating the requirement within the country and the hitch in granting permission for the export of remaining cotton ; and

(c) the institutions besides the Cotton Corporation entrusted with the work of export and the reasons therefor and also the reasons for not paying attention towards those institutions which look after the interests of cotton growers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) It has been decided to export 2 lakhs bales of long and extra long staple cotton during the current cotton year. Out of this a quantity of 1.95 lakh bales has already been released for export in favour of the Cotton Corporation of India Limited, Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation, Gujarat State Cooperative Cotton Federation and Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Marketing Federation. Only such varieties of cotton as are surplus to our domestic requirements are released for exports.

(b) The total production of cotton in the various cotton growing States during the current cotton year has been estimated at 84.75 lakh bales by the Cotton Advisory Board on 2nd February, 1985. There are, however, indications that the production may be in excess of 84.75 lakh bales. The total consumption including Mill consumption (82 lakhs bales) and consumption by users other than Mill (4.65 lakh bales) is estimated at about 86.65 lakh bales. Cotton situation in the country is reviewed from time to time and appropriate decisions with regard to export/import of cotton are taken as considered necessary.

(c) In addition to the exports by Cotton Corporation of India Limited export quotas have been released in favour of the State Apex Cooperative Marketing Federations such as Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation, Gujarat State Cooperative Cotton Federation and Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Marketing Federation. All these organisations take care of the interests of cotton growers.

[English]

Contraband Goods Seized During 1984

3727. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the airport and sea port-wise break up of contraband goods such as gold, silver, diamond, watches and electronic goods seized during the year 1984 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

The total value of contraband goods seized at the following major international airports during the year 1984 is furnished below :—

Value : Rs. in lakhs)

Bombay	Calcutta	Madras	Delhi	Trivandrum	Amritsar	Total
719.91	156.15	194.31	464.24	185.82	0.02	1720.45

(Figures are provisional)

Figures of seizures of contraband goods, commodity-wise for each sea and airport are not maintained separately. However, commodity-wise break-up of contraband goods seized in the West Coast, East Coast and All Over India during 1984 are furnished below :

(Value : Rs. in crores)

	Gold	Watches	Synthetic fabrics	Electronic goods	Diamonds and precious stones	Silver	Other articles	Total
West Coast	5.83	9.10	13.82	12.06	0.11	0.20	18.21	59.33
East Coast	2.19	0.42	3.37	4.75	0.01	Nil	9.98	20.72
All India	10.09	11.14	18.41	19.99	0.39	0.25	40.29	100.56

(Figures are provisional)

Goods Seized by Customs Authorities at Trivandrum Airport

3728. SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) details of the goods seized by the Customs Authorities from the passengers at Trivandrum Airport during 1984 and so far during the current year ;

(b) the amount realised by the sale of

confiscated items during the above period ; and

(c) the value of goods lying undisposed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) The details of goods seized by the Customs from passengers at Trivandrum Airport, during 1984 and 1985 (January to March), as reported, are furnished below :—

(Value : Rs. in lakhs)

YEAR

Name of commodity seized	1984 (January to December)	1985 (January to March)
Gold	71.58	37.49
Diamonds and precious stones.	0.50	NIL
Wrist watches	7.27	0.91
Indian/Foreign currency.	3.71	0.03
Miscellaneous baggage goods	102.76	21.46
Total	183.82	59.89

(Figures are provisional)

The amount realised by the sale of confiscated goods during 1984 and 1985 (January to March) was Rs. 24.20 lakhs and Rs. 17.00 lakhs respectively.

(c) The value of the goods lying undisposed at Trivandrum Airport at the end of December, 1984 and at the end of March, 1985 was Rs. 3.63 crores and Rs. 4.03 crores respectively.

Irregularities Committed by Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited

3729. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a representation has been made to Government about the irregularities committed by the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited ; and

(b) if so, the nature of the irregularities and the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard in order to bring the defaulters to book ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Representations/Complaints about the activities of the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited are being received by the Government from time to time which are looked into by the Reserve Bank of India.

The Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited is a Company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 and its affairs are managed by its Board of Directors. The administration of the Company is not controlled by the Central Government or Company Law Board. The Company has been served with a notice on 10-8-1979 by the Government of West Bengal for winding up its business under Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act, 1978. The Company has, however, obtained a stay order from Calcutta High Court and the matter is *Sub-judice*.

The Company was inspected by Reserve Bank of India in 1978-79. The Reserve Bank of India was of the view that accounting system followed by the Company

did not give a "true and fair view" of the Company's state of affairs. Further, Department of Company Affairs ordered inspection of accounts of the Company under Section 290A of the Companies Act, 1956 on 21-12-1983. The Company, however, obtained a conditional stay from the Calcutta High Court and further appealed to Division Bench. The Government has, therefore, no precise information about the working of this Company.

[Translation]

Decline in Brass Trade

3730. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the brass trade in Muradabad District which was of about Rs. 60 crores has now almost vanished due to steep rise in the prices of raw material; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken for making available raw materials at cheap rates to encourage brass industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. According to the provisional figures, the value of exports of artmetal ware from the country has increased from Rs. 53.61 crores in 1982-83 to Rs. 72.7 crores in 1983-84. Brassartwares of Moradabad constitute major portion of artmetalwares.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Reduction in Interest Charged from State Co-operative Banks by NABARD

3731. SHRI SUBHASH YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the rate of interest charged by the Reserve Bank of India from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development on general line of credit ;

(b) whether NABARD retain a big margin of interest while passing on these funds to State Cooperative Bank for seasonal agricultural operations purposes ;

(c) whether any representation has been made to NABARD to reduce the rate of interest by reducing its margin ;

(d) if so, whether the representation has been put before the Board of Directors for their decision and consideration ; and

(e) if so, the result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) With effect from 1st July, 1984, the rate of interest charged by Reserve Bank of India on general line of credit sanctioned to the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has been 5.50%.

(b) to (e) The bulk of short-term advances from this general line of credit made to State Co-operative Banks and Regional Rural Banks are intended for seasonal agricultural purposes at an effective interest rate of 7%. The nominal margin of 1.5% available to NABARD has been decided by RBI on the basis of a detailed cost exercise taking into account the various functions entrusted to NABARD including its promotional and developmental role and responsibility for institution building, inspections, training, supervision, etc. NABARD had received a suggestion for reducing its margin. The matter was examined and it was felt that the scale of margin decided by RBI is necessary for proper discharge of functions by NABARD. This suggestion was not placed before the Board of Directors of NABARD.

News Item Captioned "Packet in Bank Guarantees Busted"

3732. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned—"Racket in bank guarantees busted" appeared in *Times of India* of 31 March, 1985 ;

(b) if so, the facts of the case ; and

(c) the measures contemplated to ensure that banks themselves could locate such fraudulent practices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State Bank of India has reported that one of its officers posted at its Kanpur

main branch, on receipt of information from a rubber stamp maker, of having received an order for preparation of a block of his signatures, lodged a complaint with the local police who laid a trap and arrested one Shri Kamaruddin. The police is also reported to have recovered a number of documents, stamps, etc. They are investigating the matter.

Indian Overseas Bank has reported that letter heads and photo copies of bank's certificate purported to have been issued by its Moradabad branch on 22nd June, 1981 and 31st July, 1981 favouring a local unit given position regarding export bills handled by it have been seized by the Kanpur police from the accused.

According to Punjab National Bank, no forged papers or rubber stamps containing signatures of officers of the bank have been seized from the accused.

Canara Bank has not come across so far any forged guarantee purported to have been issued by its branches in Delhi, Kanpur and Lucknow.

(c) Banks are not likely to be aware of the fraudulent guarantees issued unless the beneficiaries of the guarantees take up the matter with the banks for confirmation of the issue of guarantee or unless such fraudulent guarantees are invoked by beneficiaries following defaults by the persons on whose behalf the guarantees are purported to have been issued. Since the banks will not become aware of such fraudulent transactions unless the issue is brought to their notice, it will not be possible for them to locate such fraudulent practices without the cooperation of beneficiaries. Government has, however, issued instructions to all Ministries/Departments and Public Sector Undertakings not to accept bank guarantees in their favour until the genuineness of the same has been got confirmed from the issuing bank. It is also open to all beneficiaries to accept guarantees only after taking the precaution of verification of the genuineness of the guarantee from the issuing bank.

Demands of Employees of LIC

3733. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agreement on the charter of demands submitted by the All India

Life Insurance Corporation Employees Federation and others has been concluded recently in Bombay ;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ;

(c) whether all other employees organisations have been made party thereto ; and

(d) further action being contemplated for implementation of the same in letter and spirit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) There is no such employees' organisation called "The All India Life Insurance Corporation Employees Federation". However, the LIC management held a series of discussions with different employees' unions on their charter of demands regarding the terms and conditions of the service of the Class III and Class IV employees between 31-8-1984 and 9-2-1985. An understanding on revision of pay scales and other benefits was reached between the management and the five employees' unions on 9-2-1985. Since the Government is empowered to alter the terms and conditions of the service of the employees a notification on the lines of the understanding arrived at between the LIC management and the unions was issued by the Government on 11-4-1985 for revising the terms and conditions under the LIC Amendment Act, 1981.

Dearness Allowance to Pensioners.

3734. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to give dearness allowance to the pensioners equal to those of the serving employees;

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

(c) whether it has also been decided to give minimum pension to the pensioners not being less than the prescribed minimum wages; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The rate of Dearness Relief to pensioners is based on the

recommendations of the 3rd Pay Commission who had recommended a lower rate for them in view of the fact that the social and other obligations of the pensioners are not of the same order as that of serving employees. The Fourth Pay Commission is likely to look into this matter.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The amount of retiring pension is linked to certain conditions like average emoluments drawn during last 10 months prior to retirement, number of years of service etc. The Fourth Pay Commission is likely to examine these aspects also.

National Coal Wage Agreements between Labourers and Management of Coal Mines of Bihar State

3735. SHRI Y. P. YOGESH : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the detailed procedure for mining of coal and hard coke in the mines of Bihar during January, 1982 to February, 1985;

(b) the details of National Coal Wage Agreement Nos. I, II and III agreed to between labourers and management of coal mines of Bihar State with special mention of validity of each Agreement;

(c) the safety measures drawn up for the miners of Bihar during the period as in (a) above;

(d) the detailed welfare programmes chalked out for the miners of Bihar during the period as in (a) above with special mention of their medical, housing and payment of wages arrangements; and

(e) whether some agency has been appointed to ensure implementation of terms and conditions of National Coal Wage Agreements as in (b), safety measures and welfare programmes as in (c) and (d) above respectively ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) Coal mining is totally nationalised. In Bihar, except for the captive mines belonging to TISCO, all other mining of Coal is in the public sector. Hard coke is not mined but is a manufactured item.

(b) The National Coal Wage Agreement provides for the revision of wage structure

of coal workers, payment of various allowances, provision of service benefits and welfare amenities etc. The period of validity of the three Agreements is as under :

NCWA-I	1-1-75 to 31-12-78
NCWA-II	1-1-79 to 31-12-82
NCWA-III	1-1-83 to 31-12-86

(c) Based on the recommendation of the Committee on Safety in coalmines, a number of measures have been taken for the safety of coal miners, including the setting up of Internal Safety Organisation in Coal Mines, replacement of basket loading by conveyors and mechanised loaders at coal faces, prohibiting the entry of workers in mines without ear protection, prevention of accidents due to rope haulage, explosion of gas etc. and methods of tackling underground fires and subsidence.

(d) NCWA-III provides for the construction of 15,000 houses annually by CIL for coal miners. It also provides that the ratio of hospital beds to employees will not be less than 1×120 by the end of the period of Agreement. The payment of wages to the coal miners is strictly in accordance with the NCWA-III.

(e) Vide Clause 12. 3. 1. of the NCWA-III the JBCCI or a Sub-Committee constituted by the JBCCI is expected to settle any doubt or difficulty in the interpretation or implementation of any provision of the Agreement.

Production of Aluminium Sheets

3736. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the aluminium industry of the country is self-sufficient to meet the requirement of aluminium sheet production in the country;

(b) if so, the actual production of aluminium;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the name of largest producing unit and its capacity ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) The indigenous production of alu-

minium sheets is by and large meeting the domestic demand. Import of aluminium sheets is only marginal compared to domestic production.

(b) The production of aluminium metal during 1984-85 was 2,76,492 tonnes.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The largest producing unit of aluminium metal is Hindustan Aluminium Corporation Limited with a licenced capacity of 1,20,000 tonnes per annum. The largest unit in terms of production of aluminium sheet products is Indian Aluminium Company Limited and its licenced capacity is 33,175 tonnes per annum.

Licences issued to New Bank of India and the Oriental Bank for Opening their Branches in Himachal Pradesh

3737. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India had issued any licences to the New Bank of India and the Oriental Bank for opening their branches in Himachal Pradesh during the financial year ending 31st March, 1985;

(b) if so, the details of the branches for which the licences had been given districtwise alongwith the names of such branches as have since been opened; and

(c) the likely date by which the remaining branches would be opened and the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has reported that New Bank of India has been issued on 1-2-1985 a licence for opening a branch at Panjgain, District Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh. According to available information, this branch has not been opened so far. The validity period of the licence issued to the bank is for one year and it has been advised to open the branch as early as possible. Oriental Bank of Commerce has not been issued any licence for opening its branch in Himachal Pradesh.

Opening of New Branches by Himachal Gramin Bank in Himachal Pradesh

3738. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE may please refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 9983 on 4 May, 1984 regarding opening of Gramin Bank in Kangra and Mandi Districts and state :

(a) the names of new proposals initiated by the Himachal Gramin Bank for opening new branches during the financial year ending 31st March, 1985, District-wise;

(b) whether the Reserve Bank of India has since granted licences for the opening of these branches, if so, the names thereof;

(c) the names of the branches which are still awaiting sanction by the Reserve Bank of India; and

(d) the reasons for delay and the likely date of issuing of licenses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) to (d) Himachal Gramin Bank has reported that it had applied for licenses to the Reserve Bank of India for opening its branches at the under noted centres in its jurisdiction comprising of Districts Mandi, Kulu and Kangra;

District Mandi	District Kulu
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- | | |
|------------------------|------------|
| 1. Leda | 1. Sarsari |
| 2. Dhalwanand Chhatari | 2. Kalath |
| | 3. Kulu |

District Kangra

1. Lahru
2. Chanaur
3. Ghhghar
4. Gnoh Sansarpur Tarris
5. Peer Salhui
6. Rajiana

7. Adedihatti
8. Guptaganga

Licenses have been granted by Reserve Bank of India for opening branches at Guptaganga, Chhatari, and Kulu centres. Since Branch expansion programme for the State of Himachal Pradesh for 1982-85 has been completed, the Reserve Bank has decided to consider the request of Himachal Gramin Bank for opening branches at the remaining centres under branch expansion policy for 1985-90.

Opening of New Regional Offices by State Bank of India

3739. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether during the past three years the State Bank of India has set up a number of regions covering specific areas for ensuring efficiency and supervision in banking operations in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the new regional offices alongwith their jurisdiction opened during that period;

(c) the average number of branches under each regional office and the number of such regions under each zone (local head office); and

(d) whether it is proposed to have local head office for the State of Himachal Pradesh/Jammu and Kashmir in view of the peculiar geographical difficulties in these States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) and (b) The State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that it has opened five Regional Offices during the past three years. Their names, together with the respective jurisdictions, are indicated below :

Name of the Regional Offices opened by SBI during the last three years.	Jurisdiction
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1. Panaji (Goa)

Union Territory of Goa and Districts of Raigad, Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri in the State of Maharashtra.

Name of the Regional Offices opened by SBI during the last three years.

Jurisdiction

2. Siliguri	State of Sikkim and the districts of Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, West Dinajpur and Malda in the State of West Bengal.
3. Hubli	Districts of Uttar Kannada, Dharwad, Belgaum, Raichur, Bidar, Bijapur and Gulbarga in the State of Karnataka.
4. Purnea	Districts of Purnea, Katihar, Saharsa, Madhipura and Khagaria in the State of Bihar.
5. Gwalior	Districts of Gwalior, Shivpuri, Bhind, Morena, Datia, Guna, Raisen, Vidisha, Rajgarh, Shajapur, Sagar, Chattarpur, Tikamgarh and Damoh in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

(c) The SBI has reported that the average number of branches under the jurisdiction of a regional office works out to 147. The average number of Regional Offices under a Local Head Office is four.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

Use of Hindi in Correspondence in Ministry of Commerce

3740. SHRI R.M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindi which is the official language of the country is not used in his Ministry in their correspondence within the country ;

(b) whether there is any Hindi Advisory Committee constituted in his Ministry ;

(c) if so, the details regarding its sittings during the last three years ; and

(d) the steps he proposes to take for the promotion of Hindi in his Ministry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) No, Sir. Hindi is being progressively used in correspondence by this Ministry.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Details regarding its sittings during last three years are as follows :

Year	No. of sittings held	Date of sitting
1982	One	29-10-1982
1983	Two	27-7-1983 28-10-1983
1984	One	20-7-1984

(d) In accordance with the instructions issued and guidelines given in the annual programme by the Department of Official Language relating to the use of Hindi in official work, all possible steps, such as, exercising of check points, reviewing of quarterly progress reports, inspections for review of the progress in the use of Hindi in official work, incentive schemes, organising Hindi workshops, Hindi essay competitions etc. are already being taken for the promotion of Hindi in the Ministry.

Increase in Export of Betel Leaves

3741. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether, as per assurance given by Government, there is any progress in regard to export promotion of betel leaves ;

(b) if so, to which countries the export of betel leaves has been increased ;

(c) the increase in terms of money ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A.
SANGMA) :

(a) to (c) A statement is attached.

(d) As an export promotion measure,

Government have introduced specific commodity rate for betel leaves on Madras-Karachi sector in October, 1984 @ Rs. 9.35 for 500 kgs. and @ Rs. 7.80 for 1,000 kgs. and above, against the previous rate of Rs. 11.65 kg.

Statement

Quantity and value of betel leaves exported during the last five years is as under :—

Quantity : In Mts.

Value : In Rs. lakh

S.No.	Name of the Country	1980-81		1981-82		1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	
		Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty. Value	Qty. Value	Qty.	Value
1.	Bahrain	22	21.57	26	3.10	Figures are provisional. Statistics of country-wise exports have not yet been reported to the concerned Export Promotion Council.			
2.	Kenya	17	3.23	19	3.11				
3.	Kuwait	46	3.90	60	5.39				
4.	Nepal	37	2.56	19	0.89				
5.	Oman	72	6.07	155	16.20				
6.	Qatar	17	1.41	37	3.74				
7.	Saudi Arabia	109	8.81	179	19.36				
8.	U.A.E.	43	4.16	7	0.82				
9.	U.K.	50	5.71	53	6.44				
Total		435*	40.02*	574*	66.62	365.40	629	80	448 74

* Inclusive of small exports to other countries.

Companies Supplying Sub-Standard Products to Foreign Countries

3742. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some companies are supplying substandard products to foreign countries ;

(b) if so, the particulars of those companies and the countries to which those companies supplied such products ;

(c) the reaction of those countries ;

(d) its financial implication on our economy ;

(e) the steps Government have taken to punish those guilty producers ; and

(f) the steps Government propose to take to stop such activities in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A.
SANGMA) :

(a) About 600 complaints on quality of items both notified for Quality Control and not notified for Quality Control have been received by the Quality Complaint Cell of the Export Inspection Council at Bombay against various companies during 1983-84.

(b) The exports were generally to countries like U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Japan, U.K., Hong Kong, Singapore, Republic of Germany, Canada, West Germany, Bulgaria, France, Australia, Dubai etc. etc. The particulars of the companies which is sought to be obtained is not clear.

(c) Generally the complaints are lodged by the foreign buyers against the exporters.

(d) No estimate of financial implications because of quality complaints for our economy, has been made.

(e) Several erring exporters have been punished under the provisions of the Export (Quality Control & Inspection) Act, 1963 and also under the Customs Act.

(f) Government takes, from time to time, preventive and deterrent action to stop exports of sub-standard goods :

Scheme to Export Potatoes

3743. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for export of potatoes ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to protect the interest of potato growers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) and (b) Export of potatoes is allowed freely.

(c) The following measures have been taken to protect the interests of potato growers :

(i) Advance action has been taken to introduce market intervention operations in the States of U.P., Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal which together account for nearly 77% of total production in the country.

(ii) The market intervention price is Rs. 50/- per quintal and losses are shared equally between the Central and the State Governments, The implementing agencies are NA-FEED (National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.) and the State co-operatives which are farmers' own organisations.

(iii) As a standing arrangement, all State Governments have been advised to avail of the scheme of market intervention for potatoes whenever warranted.

Exploration of Coffee Cultivation in Orissa

3744. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTHAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Orissa have approached the Union Government to find out the possibility of coffee cultivation in Orissa ;

(b) if so, the scheme of Union Government in this regard ; and

(c) the District in Orissa in which plantation of coffee has started ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A survey has been conducted by the Coffee Board to find out the areas suitable for coffee cultivation in the non-traditional areas (other than the North-Eastern Region) which cover Orissa State.

(c) The Orissa State Soil Conservation Department which is entrusted with the work of coffee cultivation, has planted coffee in an area of 900 hectares in the hilly districts of Koraput, Kalahandi, Phulbani and Ganjam.

Supply of Sub-Standard Jute Products to Foreign Countries

3745. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTHAIK : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some complaints have been received from foreign countries regarding supply of sub-standard jute products ;

(b) whether the jute exports have also come down ; and

(c) if so, the steps Government have taken to encourage jute export ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) No general complaint about the quality of India's jute products has been received from foreign countries.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, the trend has been reversed in current year 1984-85, when the exports have been higher, both in volume and value, over the last year.

(c) In order to boost exports of jute goods, the Government have taken several steps which include :—

(i) Providing higher CCS to jute carpet backing cloth and yarn on the basis of matching performance by the industry ;

- (ii) Formation of STC Jute Industry consortium on 50 : 50 loss-sharing basis of exports of carpet backing cloth to North America.
- (iii) Arranging participation in international trade fairs and sponsoring market-oriented trade delegations from time to time ;
- (iv) Encouraging development of exportable products through R&D efforts ; and
- (v) Constituting a new JMDC and a Jute Fund out of proceeds of jute cess to give boost to R&D efforts and export promotion.

Proposal to set up Central Wool Board

3746. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal, to set up a Central Wool Board on the lines of other such commodity boards;

(b) if so, the broad outlines, functions and proposed composition thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to locate the headquarters of the Board at Calcutta which had been the centre for import of Australian wools; and

(d) if not, the location of the headquarters and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) to (d) A Study Group was appointed to study the problems of Wool and Woollen Industry. The Study Group has submitted its Report. It has, *inter-alia* recommended constitution of a Wool Board. An Empowered Committee has been constituted by the Government to take decisions for effective and expeditious implementation of the recommendations made in the said Report including the recommendation on Wool Board.

Guidelines Issued for Determining Ostentatious Expenditure

3747. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 757 on 22 March,

1985 regarding on ostentatious expenditure cases detected by Income Tax Authorities and state :

(a) the guidelines which have been issued to the Income-tax Authorities for determining the 'ostentatious' expenditure;

(b) the particulars of the cases involving lakhs of Rupees of such an expenditure which were enquired into and in which of these cases the matter was taken to some logical conclusion; and

(c) the nature of action taken against these tax evaders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) to (c) The question as to whether the expenditure is ostentatious or not depends on the status of the assessee. The completion of assessment is made according to the statutory time limits.

Rules Regarding Appointment and Selection of Members and Chairmen of Banking Boards

3748. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any rules and regulations have been laid down after the passage of the Banking Recruitment Boards Bill regarding appointment and selection of Members and Chairmen of the various Banking Boards;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to lay on the Table a copy thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) to (c) The Hon'ble Member is presumably referring to the Banking Service Commission Act.

The Act has prescribed the criteria for selection of Chairman and Members of the Commission and empowered the Central Government to make these appointments. As such the question of framing any rules or regulations, in this regard does not arise.

Profits of Steel Authority of India Limited during 1984-85

3749. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI MUKUL WASNIK :
SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited was expected to make a profit of over Rupees ten crores during the year 1984-85 due to increase in steel prices and interest holiday accorded to it in 1983-84;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the percentage of increase in steel prices made by Government on each occasion during the last three calendar years with effective date of each increase in price; and

(c) the details of total effect of increase in the prices on the rise of sale value of Steel Authority of India Limited and on economy as far as general inflation is concerned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) :

(a) It is expected that SAIL will make profits in 1984-85, the exact amount will be known after the accounts are closed. The interest holiday given to SAIL in 1983-84 will not affect its profitability in 1984-85.

(b) During the last three calendar years the steel prices were revised by the Joint Plant Committee as given below :—

Year	Effective from	% average increase
1982	1-4-1982	11
	2-4-1982	
	23-10-1982	
1983	1-4-1983	4
	24-7-1983	4
1984	22-6-1984	15
1985	21-2-1985	15

Price increases effective from 1-4-1982 and 1-4-1983 did not accrue to producers as these price increases were made to meet the additional requirement of funds for equalised railway freight. Out of the price increa-

se effective from 22-6-1984 about 12½% only accrued to producers as the total increase of 15% included increases on account of upward adjustment in equalised railway freight element, JPC Cess and reintroduced Engineering Goods Export Assistance Fund.

(c) The impact of the increase in prices on the economy has been marginal. The 1984-85 price increase is estimated to affect the wholesale price index by about 0.8%.

Increase in sales realisation of SAIL Plants (excluding IISCO) over the previous year due to increase in prices of steel and pig iron is as under :—

(Rupees in crores)	
1982-83	231
1983-84	164
1984-85 (estimated)	370

Construction and Supply of Boats to Andaman and Nicobar Administration

3750. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :
Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of indents placed by the Director General of Supply and Disposal for construction and supply of marine boats to the Andaman and Nicobar Administration for ferry services and carriage of cargo;

(b) the number out of them which have not yet been complied with and the reasons therefor;

(c) the action Government propose to take against the parties which have been constantly failing to comply with the contract and whether the new parties have been found out to execute completion of the said work; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) Number of contracts placed by the Director General of Supply and Disposal during the past 10 years for supply of sea going vessels for Andaman & Nicobar Administration is eight.

(b) Four. The delay in execution of these contracts is mainly due to financial constraints of the suppliers.

(c) Against the defaulter firms legal action as per the terms of the contract is taken. Some of the defaulted contracts were awarded to other firms which have been executed partly or are under execution.

(d) Details of contracts pending execution are as per statement attached.

Statement

Contracts Pending Execution

1. B/T No. S.V.3/236 dated 31-7-75 on M/s. Cleback Boat Company for four numbers Passenger Vessels. Fire-vessel delivered in September, 80. Second vessel completed upto 85 per cent and expected to be delivered by June, 1985. Third and fourth vessels completed upto second stage i.e. to the extent of 30%.
2. A/T No. ME-1/084 dated 10-7-79 on M/s. East Coast Boat Builders & Engineers Ltd., Kakinada for 2 Nos. Barges. Construction work for both the barges completed and matter being pursued with the firm for getting the vessels transported to Port Blair.
3. B/T No. ME-1/119 dated 1-11-83 on M/s Unique Enterprises, Cochin for 200 Ton Cargo Vessel. This contract has been placed towards risk purchase on defaulted contract No. ME-1/098 dated 18-7-80 placed on M/s. Arun Sea Crafts, Alleppy. The vessel has been completed upto third stage i. e. roughly 45%. As per latest intimation from the firm vessel is likely to be completed by end of July, 85.
4. A/T No. ME-1/096 dated 7-6-80 on M/S. Hindock Engineering, Calcutta for one number Hospital-cum-banking-cum-Supply ship. The vessel was completed upto 4th stage i.e. roughly 65 per cent. However, the contract had to be cancelled on 8-6-84 at the risk and cost of the firm. Partly built ship is still in the custody of the firm and the case is being processed in consultation with the Minis-

try of Law for further course of action.

Agricultural Produce Export Development Authority

3751. PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up an Agricultural Produce Export Development Authority with a view to removing difficulties being experienced in the matter of publicity and export of agricultural produce to foreign countries ; and

(b) if so, the other proposed functions of this Authority for augmenting export of agricultural produce ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) There is a proposal to set up an Agricultural Product Export Development Authority (APEDA), which would assist in the development of processed foods industry ; promote exports of processed foods and value-added agricultural products ; promote export-oriented production and product development ; assist in improvement of packaging designs; improvement of marketing of value-added products and ensure quality control in exports of processed foods.

Strike in Bombay Textile Mills

3752. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of workers of Bombay Textile mills who are still out of jobs after the long drawn strike ; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take for their employment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) According to available information, the daily employment of workers on the first working day of February, 1985 in the Bombay Mills was about 49000 less than the pre-strike employment.

(b) The Government have, in October, 1983, already taken over the management of 13 textile undertakings to protect the interest of the workmen employed therein.

The Government have constituted Groups of Officers to look into the problems of closed mills in the cotton textile sector in the country.

Loss Suffered by N.T.C.

3753. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the nine subsidiaries of the National Textile Corporation have worked out a plan for reducing losses ;

(b) whether total losses of Rs. 100 crores in 1983-84 are to be brought down progressively ;

(c) the total number of mills where reduction in losses has been projected by NTC in March, 1985 ;

(d) the extent to which losses will be reduced; and

(e) the steps that are being taken in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Efforts are being made by all the 9 subsidiaries of NTC to reduce the losses.

(b) to (d) During 1983-84, the nationalised mills under NTC incurred a loss of Rs. 137 crores. The average monthly losses during April-December 1984 were of the order of about Rs. 15 crores. During January-March 1985 the average monthly losses have been reduced to about Rs. 11 crores. This reduction has been achieved by all subsidiary Corporations of NTC during January-March 1985.

(e) Some of the important steps taken or are being taken to improve the performance of the mills are as under :

- (i) Arrangements are being made for timely procurement of cotton from different available channels.
- (ii) Working capital has been replenished to make up for cash losses.
- (iii) To overcome the power shortage, self generating capacity has been provided.

(iv) Cost control methods have been introduced for reduction in cost at all levels.

(v) Management of the subsidiaries is being strengthened for better management of available resources.

(vi) Workers participation scheme in the management of the mills is being encouraged.

(vii) Efforts are being made for reducing the non-operational administration expenses.

Foreign Money for Election Purposes

3754. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Saudi sources had remitted in a clandestine manner over Rs. 2 crores to a Bombay based smuggler who was a candidate in recent Assembly election;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any step has been taken to check the flow of foreign money for election purposes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No such report has been received by Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 provides that no foreign contribution shall be accepted by a candidate for election. However, if a candidate for election had received any foreign contribution at any time within 180 days immediately preceding the date on which he is duly nominated as such candidate, he is required to give an intimation thereof in the prescribed form and in the prescribed manner within fifteen days from the date on which he is duly nominated as a candidate for election. No such intimation has been received from any candidate for election in the recent Assembly elections.

Group Insurance Scheme for Bhatti Mine Workers of Delhi

3755. SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a group insurance policy scheme has been introduced for Dehli's Bhatti Mine workers

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

(c) the reasons for not implementing this scheme throughout the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All workers and supervisory staff who have completed 4 months' continuous service are covered under the scheme. The insurance gives a maximum cover of Rs. 15, 000/- per worker in case of death and varying amounts in case of injury. The insurance premium is paid by Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation on year to year basis.

(c) It is open to any employer to introduce a group insurance scheme.

The provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, the Payment of Gratuity Act and the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, which apply to mines, provide for financial benefits to employees in mines.

Opening of Regional Office of G.I.C. in Bihar

3756. SHRI C.P. THAKUR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any regional office of General Insurance Corporation in Bihar; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to open one for the economic growth of the region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question of opening a regional office in Bihar is to be decided by the General Insurance Corporation on the basis of relevant criteria, on merits.

Hunger Strike by Kannadigas at Regional Office of NABARD at Bangalore

3757. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Kannadigas working in the Regional Office of NABARD at Bangalore ;

(b) whether some Kannadigas who were working as local candidates were removed ; and

(c) whether the working of the NABARD Office at Bangalore was paralysed for number of days due to hunger strike by the Kannadigas and Kannada Sanghas in front of NABARD office at Bangalore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) In the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development appointments are made on merit on an all-India basis. However, in the past, pending an all-India test, some posts, were filled up on daily-wage basis. In April, 1983 the NABARD had advertised for the posts of clerks, typists and stenographers. Thereafter written test and interviews were held. On selection of the candidates on merit, such of the daily wage earners were taken off the rolls who had not achieved ranks upto 544 in the Merit List. In the case of Bangalore Office of NABARD out of 12 clerks who were daily wage earners, 9 were absorbed on the basis of test on permanent basis. Three wage earners not absorbed because they were very low in the merit list. NABARD advised its Bangalore Regional Office to arrange for proper functioning of the Office, if necessary, with the assistance of local authorities. NABARD has reported that care has been taken to ensure that essential work does not suffer.

Indian Companies Receiving Assistance from International Finance Corporation, Washington

3758. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Indian companies (indicating their field of operation) which received assistance from International Finance Corporation, Washington (IFC, W) during the last three years ;

(b) whether Government have knowledge about the proper utilisation of assistance received by these companies ; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to ascertain the manner in which the assistance is being utilised by these companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) (a) The International Finance Corporation, Washington [IFC (W)] have approved the following investments in

Indian Companies in the last 3 years :

(b) and (c) IFC (W) assistance is without Government guarantee and can be utilised by the Indian Companies only for the purpose and on terms and conditions specified in the Investment Agreement entered into between the company and IFC (W) and approved by the Reserve Bank of India)

Year	Name of the Company	Purpose/ Project	Total assistance (US \$ m. equivalent)
1	2	3	4
1982-83	(1) Indian Rayon Corporation Ltd.	Cement	8.9
	(2) Bharat Forge Co. Ltd.	Forgings	16.9
	(3) Modi Rubber Ltd.	Cement	16.3
		Total	42.1
1983-84	(1) India Equipment Leasing Co. Ltd.	Lease financing	5.5
	(2) Gwalior Rayon Silk Mfg. & (Wvg.) Co. Ltd.	Cement Phase I	4.6
	(3) The Leasing Corporation of India Ltd.	Lease financing	5.5
	(4) Bihar Sponge Iron Ltd.	Iron & Steel	11.7
		Total	27.3
1984-85	(1) Bajaj Auto Ltd.	Auto Scooters	22.0
	(2) Gwalior Rayon Silk Mfg. & (Wvg) Co. Ltd.	Cement Phase II	9.96
		Total	31.96

Aid to India from Ford Foundation

3759. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state ;

(a) the details of the assistance received by India from the Ford Foundation for the projects involving rural and urban poverty during the last three years, year-wise ;

(b) the details of the projects for which assistance was received :

(c) whether the assistance received was fully utilised ; and

(d) if so, the project-wise details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) to (d) A detailed statement is laid on the table of the House. [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1087/85].

Advances to Small Scale Industries by Public Sector Banks

3760. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the advances to small-scale industries by public sector banks for the year 1984 (upto December, 1984) is higher than that for the corresponding period of 1983 ;

(b) if so, the reasons attributable to the increase in the advances, and

(c) the amount so sanctioned as advances to small scale industries by public sector banks during the said period, year-wise and State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A major factor contributing to the increase in the advances to the small scale industries by the public sector banks for the year 1984 over that of the year 1983 is the increase in the number of the assisted small-scale industrial units.

(c) According to the provisional data available with the Reserve Bank of India, outstanding advances to small-scale industries by public sector banks for the years 1983 and 1984 are indicated below :

As on the Last Friday of December	No. of Accounts in lakhs	Amount outstanding in crores of Rs.
1983	12.25	5050.58
1984	14.10	6115.08

The State-wise data for the periods referred to above is not available with Reserve Bank of India.

Block Level Advisory Committees to help Nationalised Banks in Implementation of IRDP

3761. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :
SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government some-time back advised State Governments to take steps for setting up Advisory Commit-

tee at the block level to help State agencies in identification of beneficiaries of the Integrated Rural Development Programme and help nationalised banks in implementation of the programme ;

(b) whether Union Government also advised State Governments to set up a sub-group at the district level to oversee grievances of borrowers and seek redressal of their grievances to the extent possible ;

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) be in affirmative, whether Union Government have called for any action taken reports from State Governments in this regard ;

(d) if so, Statewise details thereof ;

(e) if answer to part (c) above be in negative, whether Government propose to call for any action taken reports from State Governments ; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In his letter dated 3-8-1983 addressed to Chief Ministers of all States, the then Finance Minister had advised setting up of such block level advisory committees and district level sub-groups.

(c) to (f) Replies have since been received from 15 States namely Sikkim, Kerala, Manipur, Bihar, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. Four States namely Haryana, West Bengal, Gujarat and Rajasthan have stated that the present set up evolved in the States appears to be working satisfactorily and there was no need to disturb it for the present. While Government of Karnataka has implemented the suggestion in full, Government of Himachal Pradesh has expressed the view that only block level committee need be set up and District level sub-groups were not necessary. The other States have generally welcomed the advice and have stated that they were getting it examined. The suggestions made to the State Governments were only of a recommendatory and advisory nature. The Central Government is, however, following them up with the State Governments.

Purchase of Iron Ore and Chrome from India by China

3762. SHRI PRIYARANJAN DAS MUNSI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the visit of China Council for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) expressed their desire to purchase iron ore and chrome from India :

(b) whether Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation is dealing with this matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited, has been pursuing for the last 2/3 years with concerned organisations in China the sale of Iron Ore and Chrome Ore. As a result of these discussions, a contract was signed with the Chinese side during 1983-84 and a quantity of 30,000 tonnes of Iron Ore and 30,000 tonnes of Chrome Ore was shipped to China.

A delegation from MMTC visited Beijing in the last week of March, 1985 and finalised contracts for sale of 170,000 tonnes of Iron Ore during 1985 and 10,000 tonnes of Chrome Ore in third quarter of 1985.

Increase in Steel Production

3763. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether overall steel production has increased by 14 per cent during April 1984 to January 1985 ;

(b) whether Steel Authority of India Limited is proposing to provide and extend more credit facilities to importers ;

(c) whether Steel Authority of India Limited propose to further hike the present steel prices ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir. The saleable steel production of the four integrated steel plants of SAIL registered an increase of 14% during the period April 1984—January 1985 over the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) SAIL is no longer the canalising agency for steel imports, as such the question of SAIL granting credit to importers, does not arise.

(c) and (d) Prices of iron and steel items produced by the integrated steel plants are fixed and announced by the Joint Plant Committee of the main producers and not by SAIL.

A price rise in steel is not visualised in the next twelve months unless JPC is compelled to consider a rise on account of unexpected economic factors.

Opening of Branches of Nationalised Banks in Orissa

3764. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAYAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branches of nationalised banks so far opened in Orissa ; and

(b) the names of the places selected for opening of such branches during the year 1985-86 in that State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) Available information relating to the Bank Group-wise position of Commercial Bank offices in Orissa as at the end of December, 1984 is given below :—

Bank Group	No. of branches
State Bank of India and its Associates	336
20-Nationalised Banks	559
Regional Rural Banks	663
Other Scheduled Commercial Banks	3
Total	1561

(b) The branch licensing policy for the Seventh Plan Period has not yet been finalised.

Manganese Mines

3765. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES, AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of manganese mines located in different parts of the country ;

(b) the average production of manganese from these mines during the Sixth Five Year Plan period ;

(c) whether some new manganese areas have been located in the recent discovery made by Geological Survey of India ; and

(d) the details of the locations and approximate deposits of manganese of these areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) :

(a) The number of mines located in the various States/Union territories which reported production during 1984 are indicated below :—

Andhra Pradesh	23
Bihar	4
Gujarat	3
Goa	57
Karnataka	68
Madhya Pradesh	12
Maharashtra	12
Orissa	44

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(b) The average annual production of manganese during 1980 to 1984 was 1,426,000 tonnes.

(c) and (d) Information from Geological Survey of India indicates that no new manganese areas (occurrences or deposits) have been located/discovered recently in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. However, in known belts/deposits (Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra Manganese Ore belt) further depth extensions were confirmed in deposits located at Ukwa, Chikla, Miragpur and Dongri Buzurg yielding additional recoverable manganese ore resources of 23.49 million tonnes.

Contribution of Income Tax to total Government Receipts

3766. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether income tax contributes only 4% to the total Government receipts;

(b) if so, the total number of income tax assesseees at present in the country and the year-wise percentage thereof to total Government receipts for the last 3 financial years;

(c) whether the percentage of income tax receipts to the total Government receipts has been decreasing during the past three years; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) No, Sir. The percentage of income tax contribution during the earlier three financial years is as under (for 84-85 the figures of revised estimates only are given as final figures are yet to be received) :—

(In crores of rupees)

Financial Year	Total revenue receipts of Govt.	Income tax receipts (excluding Corporation Tax i.e. tax on cost)	% age of 3 to 2	Income tax receipts (including Corporation Tax)	% age of Col. 5 to 2
1	2	3	4	5	6
1981-82	19848.67	1475.50	7.43%	3445.47	17.35%
1982-83	22730.62	1569.72	6.91%	3754.23	16.52%
1983-84	25738.17	1699.14	6.60%	4191.87	16.28%
1984-85	30708.50	1810.00	5.89%	4634.00	15.09%
(Revised Estimates)		(Revised Estimates)		(Revised Estimates)	

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) It can be seen from the reply given to part (a) of the question that while the income tax receipts have gone up amount-wise, there is a fall in terms of percentages. The reason for the fall can be attributed to the increase of some of the other taxes at a rate higher than that of income tax.

Dispute Between Delhi and Haryana Regarding Faridabad Red Sand Mines

3767. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the dispute between Delhi and Haryana State regarding Faridabad red sand mines, has been settled;

(b) if so, when and with what results;

(c) the number of deaths of the labourers working in the above mines due to accidents during the last three years giving yearly figures;

(d) how long did the above dispute continue and who was looking after the above cases of compensation; and

(e) the total amount of compensation paid in the above cases during the said period ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) and (b) Delhi Administration has reported that the demarcation of boundary has not so far been completed.

(c) 1982— 3
1983—14
1984— 1

(d) and (e) The dispute is reported to have been continuing for about five years. Cases for deciding compensation are pending in the Court of Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation. However, the Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation made ex-gratia payment of Rs. p50,000.00 during 1981, 1982 and 1983.

Garment Export Quota and Man Power Engaged in Garment Industry in Five Year Plans

3768. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to State :

(a) the position of Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and Bombay, in that order, in the garment export industry prior to and at the end of the First Five Year Plan and at the beginning of and at the end of the Second to Sixth Five Year Plans;

(b) the garment export quota for Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras before the start and end of the First Five Year Plan and at the beginning and end of Second to Sixth Five Year Plans; and

(c) man power engaged in garment industry in Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras before the start and end of the First Five Year Plan, and in the beginning and at the end of the Second to Sixth Five Year Plans ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) The information with respect to export of garments is not maintained city-wise.

(b) The location of export units or the exporters is not a criterion for grant of export entitlement under the policy laid down by the Government. The export entitlement policy is applicable to the country as a whole.

(c) The information relating to man-power engaged in garment industry in various cities is not maintained.

Re-Instatement of Garment Exporters

3769. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "AEPC reinstates suspended exporters" appeared in the 'Economic Times' of 19 March, 1985;

(b) if so, whether he will lay a statement showing :—

(i) a list giving names and addresses with names of Directors/Partners/Proprietors of these 28 garments exporters;

(ii) the nature of offence committed by each Exporter separately; and

- (iii) names of the members of the Executive Committee who are alleged to have decided to withdraw the suspension orders and whether the members of the Executive Committee are themselves exporters; and

(c) what Government propose to do in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) (i) and (ii) A list giving names and addresses with the names of Directors/Partners/Proprietors and the nature of offence alleged to have been committed by the concerned 28 garment exporters is given in statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library; See No. LT-1088/85]

- (iii) Names of the non-official members of the Executive Committee present in the meeting are given in statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1088/85]. All the members in Annexure 'B' are themselves garment exporters.

(c) The Government had directed Apparel Export Promotion Council to check the Letter of Credits as a result of which these irregularities were detected. The Government has asked the Apparel Export Promotion Council to expedite finalisation of the deregistration proceedings urgently.

Setting up of Banking Service Commission

3770. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the reasons for delay in setting up of the proposed Banking Service Commission although the Banking Service Commission Bill was passed during the last Session ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

The modalities of setting up of the Banking Service Commission including identification of persons with appropriate stature, experience, outlook etc. to man the Commission are being worked out.

Opening of New Branches of Nationalised Banks in Tripura

3771. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for opening of the new branches of the nationalised banks in Tripura during the next two years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) and (b) The branch licensing policy for the Seventh Plan Period has not yet been finalised.

Deposits and Credits of Public Sector Banks in States

3772. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the aggregate deposits and total credits of public sector banks in different State (State-wise); and

(b) the present credit policy of Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) Statewise data on deposits and advances of public sector banks as at the end of June 1984 are set out in the statement attached.

(b) The basic objective of credit policy continues to be one of meeting all genuine credit requirements for productive purposes without generating inflationary pressures and ensuring that the deployment of banking system's resources are broadly in alignment with the socio-economic objective of planned development. Some recent changes announced by RBI are :

- (i) lowering of maximum lending rate w. e. f. 1-4-85 from 18% to 17.5%;
- (ii) lowering of rate of interest for certain categories of exports from 14.5% to 14.0%;
- (iii) enhancement of statutory liquidity ratio from 36% to 37% in two

phases effective from June 8, & July 6, 1985;

- (iv) raising the threshold for 100% refinance of food credit from Rs. 4600 crores to Rs. 5800 crores in three phases to Rs. 5000 crores w. e. f. 2nd August, 1985 Rs. 5400 crores w. e. f. 30th August, 85 and Rs. 5800 crores w. e. f. Sept. 27, 1985;
- (v) the increase in certain refinance rates in respect of food credit refinance from 10 to 11.5% w. e. f. 1-10-85 and in respect of stand by refinance from 11 to 12.5% w. e. f. 8-4-85;
- (vi) reducing the prescribed maturity periods for fixed deposits from 9 to 5 w. e. f. 8-4-85. Within a prescribed rate of not exceeding 8.0%, for maturities less than one year individual bank are free to fix rates for maturities from 15 days and above. Further interim rate on deposits of one year and over but less than two years was raised from 8.0% to 8.5%;

Some measures to rationalise and simplify selective credit control were also announced. These are :

(a) enhancing the limit from Rs. 5000/- to Rs. 25000/- for exemption of aggregate advances per borrower against the stock of commodities covered by such controls;

(b) total exemption granted to Roller Flour mills against wheat from provisions of selective credit controls;

(c) In cases where there is a level of credit stipulation the base period for determining the permitted levels of credit was brought forward to a more recent period.

(d) The multiplicity of minimum margins prescribed has been reduced in the case of food grains, pulses, vegetable oils & vanaspati, cotton and Kapas and sugar, gur and khandsari. The present specific exemptions from minimum margin stipulations would continue. In the case of oilseeds, however, the existing structure of minimum margin has not been changed. Banks have however, been asked to ensure that inventory norms are strictly observed.

Statement

State-wise deposits and advances of public sector Banks @

(as at the end of June 1984)

(Amount in Rs. crores)

State/Union Territory States	Deposits	Advances
1. Andhra Pradesh	35,14	26,67
2. Assam	6,78	3,12
3. Bihar	27,63	10,93
4. Gujarat	43,29	21,79
5. Haryana	11,49	7,93
6. Himachal Pradesh	3,86	1,71
7. Jammu & Kashmir	3,04	1,19
8. Karnataka	28,81	24,43
9. Kerala	18,87	13,54
10. Madhya Pradesh	21,89	13,01
11. Maharashtra	104,84	99,43
12. Manipur	23	14

@ Comprise SBI and its Associates and 20 Nationalised Banks.

13. Meghalaya	94	23
14. Nagaland	52	20
15. Orissa	6,93	5,91
16. Punjab	33,84	14,85
17. Rajasthan	14,22	10,17
18. Sikkim	31	3
19. Tamil nadu	35,31	34,17
20. Tripura	59	35
21. Uttar Pradesh	60,90	29,62
22. West Bengal	60,58	34,72
Union Territory		
1. Chandigarh	4,75	10,88
2. Delhi	56,15	33,97
3. Goa, Daman & Diu	5,56	1,76
4. Pondicherry	87	51
5. All Others*	94	19
Total	588,28	401,45

Data are Provisional

* Include Andaman Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep and Mizoram.

Upgradation of LIC Office at Agartala

3773. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade the present Life Insurance Corporation of India office at Agartala to a division as Agartala is a State Capital ; and

(b) the criteria for opening of a Life Insurance Corporation division ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) Government have no such proposal at present. There are nine State Capitals where Life Insurance Corporation does not have a Divisional office.

(b) The criteria for opening a Life Insurance Corporation Divisional Office are as follows :

- The volume of new business in terms of policies completed in a financial year should exceed 20,000.
- The number of policies to be serviced should exceed two lakhs.
- The total premium income should exceed Rs. 3.50 crore in a year.

Sale of Confiscated Goods from the Customs Godowns

3774. SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH : SHRI R. M. BHOYE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :-

(a) the total quantity of confiscated goods lying in the customs godowns as on 31 March, 1985 ; the details and value thereof ;

(b) the total quantity of confiscated goods sold to public through various co-operative societies during the year 1984-85 ; and

(c) the value of confiscated goods sold from the customs godowns during the year 1984-85 and the categories of persons to whom the goods were sold ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) The total value of confiscated goods lying in the customs godowns as on 31-1-1985 (for which figures are readily available), is furnished below, indicating also the value of the major commodities :—

(Value : Rs. in lakhs)

Gold	1038
Silver	496
Watches	567
Synthetic fabrics	697
Electronic goods	393
Diamonds and precious stones	582
Currency	274
Other goods	2968
Total	7015

(Figures are provisional)

(b) and (c) Data regarding the total value of confiscated goods sold to various co-operative societies is not maintained separately. However, the total value of the confiscated goods disposed of through various approved channels of disposal including the National Co-operative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd., Co-operative Societies, etc. during the years 1984 and 1985 (upto 31st January, 1985, for which figures are readily available), is furnished below :-

(Value : Rs. in lakhs)

1984	1985 (upto 31-1-1985)
5640	497

(Figures are provisional)

Supply of coal to Power Sector

3775. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a study about the problem of coal to the power sector has been undertaken ;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof ;

(c) the measures suggested for giving top priority for coal supply to the power sector ;

(d) the extent to which the supply of coal to the power sector has improved ; and

(e) the extent to which the power plants have increased their capacity ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) to (c) The Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Mohammad Fazal which was set up by the Government to

look into the problems of coal supplies to Power Houses has submitted its report. The recommendations of the Committee cover various aspects of coal supplies to Power Houses such as linkages to be given to power stations from specific collieries, transportation of coal to power houses, signing of agreement between Coal India and State Electricity Boards etc. The recommendations of the Committee have been examined and most of them accepted by Govt. The coal companies, Railways and other agencies have been asked to take appropriate action on the recommendations of the Committee.

(d) Coal supplies to power houses have increased to 62.21 m.t.+2.15 m.t. middlings in 1984-85 as against 56.11 m.t.+2.00 m.t. middlings in 1983-84.

(e) The power generation achieved during 1984-85, was 156651 Million Units as against the programme of 1,54,000 Million Units. The thermal capacity added during 1984-85 is 2662 Mega Watts including gas turbines.

Views Expressed by India for Negotiations in GATT

3776. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India and almost all other developing countries have communicated that there is no purpose for new round of negotiations in GATT as it is unlikely to yield any positive results ;

(b) whether India has pointed out that any new round would be lacking in credibility and relevance particularly for developing countries, as previously accepted commitments were not being implemented ;

(c) whether India had made another point that a new round at this stage might only involve new obligation for the developing countries and erosion of past commitments ;

(d) if so, the other views expressed by India in this regard ; and

(e) the extent to which India's views have been supported by other developing countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) to (e) In a joint statement presented by India on behalf of developing countries members of the GATT at the annual session of CONTRACTING PARTIES in November, 1984, it was indicated that unless the work programme adopted at the GATT Ministerial level meeting in November, 1982 was implemented, any initiative such as a new round of negotiations would be lacking in credibility and devoid of relevance, particularly for developing countries. The Joint Communication while it referred to the commitment of developing countries to achieve genuine trade liberalisation within the framework of the multilateral trading system, stated that developing countries could not accept that the onus for bringing about trade liberalisation be shifted on to them. The Joint Communication called upon the developed countries to implement their undertaking to lift measures inconsistent with GATT and to refrain from introducing new ones which restrict the exports of developing countries and to agree to engage in serious efforts, on a priority basis to implement other aspects of GATT Work programme of, particular interest to the trade of developing countries. It stated that if those undertakings were accomplished, the developing countries would be in a position to consider, in so far as they were concerned, taking the initiative of proposing specific trade negotiations in GATT, the basic objective of which would be significant enlargement of access for developing countries exports to the markets of developed countries. Such specific trade negotiations must be confined to trade in goods only

High Level Talks on Expanding Indo-American Commerce

3777. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the U. S. Secretary of Commerce is proposing to visit New Delhi during May, 1985 to hold high level talks on expanding Indo-American commerce ;

(b) if so, the likely subjects that will be taken up by the Indian Government with the U.S. Commerce Secretary; and

(c) whether all the issues that are pending and the issues where agreements have not been fully implemented so far by the U.S., will be taken up with the U.S. Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) to (c) The Secretary of Commerce is scheduled to visit New Delhi during May, 1985 and hold discussions with Commerce Minister.

Agenda for the meeting has not yet been finalised. However, bilateral and multilateral issues of mutual interest might be discussed.

Fall in Rubber Prices

3778. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether rubber prices have fallen due to lower consumption ; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to safeguard the grower's interest ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) Rubber price has declined during the period November, 1984 to January, 1985 owing to fall in consumption and increased supply due to peak production season.

(b) Government is keeping a close watch over the supply and demand position in respect of rubber and its price trend constantly. Imports are allowed only to the minimum extent necessary to bridge the gap between supply and demand and thus the interests of rubber growers, including small rubber cultivators, are protected. Various schemes are also being implemented for the promotion of rubber cultivation in small holding sector.

Production and Export of Raw Silk

3779. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether production of raw silk has increased considerably ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the quantity of silk exported during the year 1984-85 ; and

(d) the production target of silk for 1984-85 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a), (b) and (d) Yes Sir. Production of raw silk which was 5249 M. tonnes in the year 1981-82 increased to 5748 M. tonnes in 1982-83 and 6423 M. tonnes in 1983-84. The target for production of silk for the year 1984-85 was 6754 M. tonnes.

(c) Total quantity of silk exported from India during 1984-85 (upto end of February 1985) is 154.12 lakh sq. meters (provisional).

Substantial Reduction in Production in Rourkela Steel Plant due to Power Cut

3780. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether on account of power cut, the production in Rourkela Steel Plant has substantially been reduced ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to meet the power scarcity and to improve the production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Production of Rourkela Steel Plant was considerably affected during 1984-85 due to short supply of power by Orissa State Electricity Board especially during the first three months of the year. As a result, Rourkela Steel Plant suffered a production loss of 1,98,300 tonnes of saleable steel during 1984-85.

(c) To tide over the power shortage, help from neighbouring grids of Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh was arranged during May and June, 1984. With the onset of monsoon from July, 1984 and with the help extended by Andhra Pradesh Grid, power supply to Rourkela Steel Plant was gradually increased from August, 1984 onwards. However, power supply from Andhra Grid has been suspended from 15th

April, 1985, as they cannot now spare power. Meanwhile some help has been extended by Madhya Pradesh Grid to take care of the likely shortage of power during the current summer season. As a long term measure, a captive power plant of 120 MW is also being set up at Rourkela. All necessary steps, to ensure power, to the extent possible are being taken by continuous review at the Inter-Ministerial level.

[Translation]

Changes in Export Policy

3781. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to bring about certain changes in its export policy also ;

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

(c) whether Government expect substantial economic gains as a result thereof ; and

(d) if so, the extent thereof and if not, the reasons for bringing about above changes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) The export licensing policy for the 3-year period ending 31st March, 1988 has been announced only on 12th April, 1985.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Withdrawal of World Bank Aid to Sericulture Development Project

3782. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has withdrawn its aid to the Sericulture Development Project in Karnataka ;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ; and

(c) whether this will not adversely affect the export prospects of silk from India, thereby reducing foreign exchange earnings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Acquisition of West German Technology for Steel Production by TISCO

3783. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tata Iron & Steel Company Limited is in the process of acquiring West German technology for steel production that would dispense with the use of power and coal which are deemed to be the principal ingredients in the existing manufacturing process of steel ;

(b) if so, the facts thereof ; and

(c) whether the same process can be used in public sector steel plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. TISCO have informed that they are negotiating a technology transfer agreement with KORF of West Germany for introduction in India of the EOF (Energy Optimising Furnace) Process which does not require direct power or Coking Coal to make steel. The process has the basic features of an electric arc furnace. The fuel used is pulverized coal alongwith injection of Oxygen through the burners which are installed along the periphery of the furnace wall. This process, however, is not intended for their Integrated Steel Plant at Jamshedpur

(c) No, Sir.

Evasion of Excise Duty by M/s. Glaxo Laboratory Limited

3784. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that some manufacturers of "Vicks" are evading excise duty showing "Vicks" as Ayurvedic product ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the excise duty paid by M/s. Glaxo Laboratory Limited on the "Vicks" during 1984-85 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir. Excise duty on "Vicks" products is being paid under Item No. 14 E of the First Schedule

to the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944, as patent or proprietary medicines not containing alcohol, opium, Indian hemp or other narcotic drugs or other narcotics other than those medicines which are exclusively Ayurvedic, Unani, Sidha or Homoeopathic.

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

(c) The product "Vicks" is being manufactured by M/s. Richardson Hindustan Ltd., Bombay M/s. Glaxo Laboratory Limited, Bombay, do not manufacture any "Vicks" product.

Violation of Excise Duty By M/s. Vazir Sultan Tobacco Company

3785. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have taken any action against M/s. Vazir Sultan Tobacco Company in regard to the alleged violation of excise duty regulations on the cigarettes manufactured by them ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any recovery of dues has been made from the company ; and

(d) whether the representatives of M/s. Vazir Sultan Company have recently approached Union Government for waiving the excise duty payable by them and for the early disposal of their case ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No violation of the provisions of Central Excise Law by M/s. Vazir Sultan Tobacco Company has been reported.

(b), (c) and (d) Does not arise in view of (a).

Export of Cardamom Husk

3786. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cardamom husk is being exported at present ;

(b) whether it does not affect cardamom itself ;

(c) whether any representation has been received for the abolition of the export of cardamom husk ; and

(d) if so, the decision taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d) The export of cardamom extracts/spent seeds/husk has already been banned through Gazette Notification No. E (C) 0, 1977/AM (297) dated the 13th February, 1985 by amending the Exports (Control) Order, 1977.

Proposal to set up Spices Board

3788. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to constitute a Spices Board ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) (a) and (b) : It has been decided to constitute a Spices Board which will be responsible for integrated development of export of Cardamom, Pepper and other Spices. The Board will also be responsible for functions presently being discharged by Cardamom Board for Cardamom and those by the

Spices Export Promotion Council. It will also promote value addition and consumer marketing of individual and mixed spices.

Loans Advanced by Nationalised Banks in Bihar

3790. SHRI KRISHAN PRATAP SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of loans advanced by each nationalised banks in Bihar State during the last three years ;

(b) the percentage of loans advanced in this State vis-a-vis the position in other States ; and

(c) yearwise total amount of advanced for agricultural sector in the said State during the aforesaid period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Data on State-wise distribution of advances of Scheduled Commercial banks are published by Reserve Bank of India according to bank groups. Accordingly, information in respect of Bihar for the years 1981, 1982 and 1983 are given below,

Bank-group wise advances in the State of Bihar

(Amt. in Rs. lakhs)

	Dec. 81	Dec. 82	Dec. 83
1. S.B.I. Group	32002	42278	48975
2. 14-Nationalised Banks	38392	45706	52928
3. 6-Nationalised Banks	1015	1135	1367
4. Regional Rural Banks	4299	6807	9477
5. Other Scheduled Commercial Banks	408	447	574
6. All Scheduled Commercial Banks	76116	96374	113321

Data are provisional

(b) Statewise advances of all scheduled commercial banks and their percentage share in the aggregate advances for the years 1981, 1982 and 1983 are set out in the Statement Attached.

(c) Advances to agriculture by public sector banks in the Bihar State stood at Rs. 226.8 crores, Rs. 258.5 crores and Rs. 290.9 crores as at the end of 1981, 1982 and 1983 respectively.

Statement

State-wise Advances and their Percentage Share of Total Advances of all Scheduled Commercial Banks (Advances According to Sanction)

(Rs. in Crores)

State/Region/Union Territory	December 1981		December 1982		December 1983	
	Advances	% to total advances	Advances	% to total advances	Advances	% to total advances
I. Northern Region	6906	22.9	7950	22.3	8496	20.6
Haryana	611	2.0	702	2.0	815	2.0
Himachal Pradesh	111	0.4	138	0.4	162	0.4
Jammu & Kashmir	180	0.6	228	0.6	260	0.6
Punjab	1122	3.7	1251	3.5	1477	3.6
Rajasthan	706	2.3	864	2.4	1053	2.6
Chandigarh	644	2.1	666	1.9	726	1.8
Delhi	3532	11.7	4101	11.5	4002	9.7
II. North-Eastern Region	253	0.8	329	0.9	400	0.9
Assam	192	0.6	243	0.7	292	0.7
Meghalaya	12	0.02	16	0.04	20	0.05
Manipur	7	0.02	9	0.03	12	0.03
Nagaland	8	0.03	15	0.04	19	0.05
Tripura	29	0.1	38	0.01	46	0.1
Arunachal Pradesh	2	0.01	3	0.01	5	0.01
Mizoram	2	0.01	3	0.01	4	0.01
Sikkim	1	—	2	0.01	3	0.01
III. Eastern Region	4040	13.4	4937	13.8	5602	13.6
Bihar	761	2.5	964	2.7	1133	2.7
Orissa	357	1.2	486	1.4	604	1.5
West Bengal	2919	9.7	3484	9.8	3861	9.4
A. & Nicobar Islands	3	0.01	3	0.01	4	0.01
IV. Central Region	2903	9.6	3448	9.7	4148	10.1
Madhya Pradesh	866	2.9	986	2.8	1234	3.0
Uttar Pradesh	2037	6.7	2462	6.9	2914	7.1
V. Western Region	8466	28.1	10207	28.6	12407	30.0
Gujarat	1754	5.8	1915	5.4	2139	5.2
Maharashtra	6544	21.7	8115	22.7	10082	24.4
Goa, Daman & Diu	2	0.01	175	0.5	182	0.4
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	166	0.6	2	0.01	3	0.01
VI. Southern Region	7587	25.2	8808	24.7	10240	24.8
Andhra Pradesh	1728	5.7	2046	5.7	2479	6.0
Karnataka	1772	5.9	2125	6.0	2505	6.1
Kerala	1220	4.1	1375	3.9	1616	3.9
Tamil Nadu	2826	9.4	3215	9.0	3590	8.7
Pondicherry	41	0.1	47	0.1	50	0.1
Lakshadweep	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Grand Total	30155	100.0	35679	100.0	41292	100.0

Note :—Totals may not add up due to rounding difference.

Trade Deficit

3791. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA :
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be
pleased to state :

(a) the total trade deficit of the country
as on 31st March, 1985 ;

(b) the details thereof ; and

(c) the proposals of Government to
meet this huge trade deficit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A.
SANGMA) :

(a) and (b) the trade deficit figures for
the year ending 31st March, 1985 are not
yet available. Based on the provisional
data available for the first 10 months of
1984-85, the trade deficit during April 1984-
January, 1985 was Rs. 3863.87 crores as
compared to a trade deficit of Rs. 4294.76
crores in the corresponding 10 months of
the previous year.

(c) All possible efforts are being made
by the Government to step up exports and
explore possibilities of import substitution
in selected areas. The Import and Export
Policy recently announced for a period of
3 years from April, 1985 to March, 1988
has been formulated to give a major thrust
to exports and encourage efficient import
substitution. The new Import-Export
Policy has already been laid on the Table
of the House on 12-4-1985.

Tea Smuggling to Pakistan

3792. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA :
SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased
to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of
tea smuggling to Pakistan in view of substantial
price difference between the two
countries ;

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

(c) the steps taken to stop such smuggling
immediately ;

(d) whether any identification of person
or persons, group or groups involved in the
said smuggling operation has been made ;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANAR-
DHANA POOJARY) :

(a), to (c) Reports received by the
Government do not indicate large scale
smuggling of tea from India to Pakistan.

The Customs field formations on the
Indo-Pak border remain vigilant to check
smuggling activities in general. The preventive
of intelligence machinery of the Customs
Department in the region has been reinforced
in terms of man-power and equipment. In
addition, appropriate anti-smuggling measures
are taken in close co-ordination with
the concerned Central and State Government
authorities. The matter is also kept
under constant review for appropriate
action.

(d) to (f) In view of the above, do not
arise.

**Regularisation of Services of Sweepers
(Safaiwalas) in Delhi Circle of S.B.I.**

3793. SHRI KESHAORAO PARDHI :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased
to state :

(a) the total number of sweepers (safai-
walas) working on part-time basis in Delhi
Circle of the State Bank of India ;

(b) since when these safaiwalas are
working on part-time basis ;

(c) the reasons for not regularising
these part-time sweepers or safaiwalas ; and

(d) when it is proposed to regularise
them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANAR-
DHANA POOJARY) :

(a) As per the information received
from the State Bank of India, as on
31-12-1984, nearly 375 Sweepers were
working in various branches of the bank
in Delhi Circle on part-time basis.

(b) The employment of part-time
Sweepers in the various branches/offices of
the bank is resorted to by the bank be-
cause all its offices do not have full-day's
job. The part-time Sweepers are reported

to be working in their existing capacity for periods ranging between 1-7 years or even more.

(c) & (d) The part-time Sweepers are on regular pay roll on part scale wages corresponding to the hours of work put in by them. The part scale wages are increased to the next higher part scale wages/full scale wages on corresponding increase in the volume of work/area to be cleaned/swept.

Finance from Nationalised Banks to Fishery Sector

3794. SHRI D. P. JADEJA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have accorded priority status to the fishery sector, with respect to finance from nationalised banks;

(b) the steps Government have taken to monitor and direct nationalised banks to pay special attention to the needs of deep sea fishing sector which is totally export based;

(c) whether existing guidelines permit nationalised banks to re-schedule loans granted to fishing companies in economic difficulties and also removal of penal interest, etc;

(d) the details of directives, policy guidelines, given to nationalised banks with respect to assisting sick units in the fishery sector; and

(e) whether any fresh policies have been introduced on this subject since January 1, 1985 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) and (b) Development of Fisheries in all its aspects, from fish catching stage to export, financing of equipment necessary for deep sea fishing, rehabilitation of tanks (fresh water fishing), fish breeding, etc. has been considered as an activity allied to agriculture and thus been accorded priority sector status. The performance of banks in lending to priority sector is reviewed in District Level Consultative Committee/State Level Bankers Committee meetings. THE RBI and Government also issue instructions to banks from time to time in this regard.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Relief measures include rescheduling of loans. In case of viable sick industrial units, the banks are required to implement on merits of each case a rehabilitation programme which includes additional working capital/term loan assistance, concessions in the interest rates and margin requirements, funding of overdues, etc.

(e) The Government has not introduced any new policy after January, 1985.

Difficulties of Imported Fishing Trawler Owners

3795. SHRI D. P. JADEJA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken to increase export of marine products;

(b) whether Government are aware of the difficulties of imported fishing trawler owners who do not have their own processing plants;

(c) the measures being taken to permit imported fishing trawler owners to export indirectly, using the available vast capacity of existing marine product processing plants; and

(d) the details of measures being taken to remove the existing difficulties of imported fishing trawler owners so that they can meet their export obligations by exporting their catch through existing registered exporters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) Steps being taken to increase export of Marine products include promotion of prawn farming, Joint ventures and other schemes for development of deep sea fishing, diversified fisheries, improvement in fishing gear and crafts, modernisation of processing plants and encouragement for value added items.

(b) to (d) With a view to removing the difficulties faced by the imported fishing trawler owners in fulfilling their export obligations, Government have decided to treat the supplies made to the processors of marine products by the owners of fishing

trawlers who had undertaken export obligation at the time of import of these trawlers as deemed exports, for purpose of fulfilment of export obligation. Necessary instructions in this regard have been issued to the licencing authorities.

Such trawler owners are permitted to make use of the existing plants for processing their own catches for export purposes.

Seizure of Foreign Currency at Madras Airport

3796. SHRI D. P. JADEJA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether numerous air passengers with Indian passports have been apprehended with foreign currency at Madras Airport in 1983 and 1984;

(b) if so, the number of people thus apprehended at Madras Airport in 1983 and 1984 respectively by the Customs authorities; and

(c) the total amounts seized in this manner in 1983 and 1984 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) to (c) The details showing the number of air passengers holding Indian passports apprehended at Madras airport, during 1983 and 1984 and the value of the foreign currency seized by the Customs authorities from them, are furnished below :—

Year	Number of air passengers apprehended	Value of foreign currency seized (Rs. in lakhs)
1983	65	9.66
1984	81	16.76

[Translation]

Steps to Check Illegal Mining in Pithoragarh and Dehradun Districts (U P)

3797. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that mining work is being carried on continuously by

certain mine owners in Pithoragarh and Dehradun districts of Uttar Pradesh in contravention of the mining laws; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to check this illegal mining ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) Contravention of mining laws has been detected in Pithoragarh and Dehradun districts.

(b) The State Government have taken action to terminate the leases prematurely as well as refuse renewal, wherever violation of mining laws have come to their notice. The lessees have gone to the Court and have obtained stay orders. Inspections are being carried out by the concerned authorities under the mining laws.

Issue of Licences to Nationalised Banks for Opening New Branches

3798. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that many nationalised banks do not actually open their new branches even after obtaining licences from the Reserve Bank for this purpose :

(b) if so, the reasons for this indifferent attitude of banks regarding opening of new branches and the action being taken in this regard; and

(c) the State-wise number of licences issued for this purpose which are lying pending with various nationalised and recognized banks and since when these are pending ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) to (c) A statement showing State-wise and population Groupwise number of licences/authorisations pending with commercial banks as on 28-2-1985 for opening branches in the country is attached. The reasons for such large pending licences/authorisations with banks are that a good number of authorisations under the branch expansion programme for the period April 1982 to March 1985 were issued towards

the end of the policy period. Besides, many of the centres identified did not have basic infrastructural facilities. This has necessitated identification and allotment of alternate centres. With a view to expediting

opening of branches at allotted centres, Task Forces consisting of representatives of State Governments, NABARD and Reserve Bank have been set up at each of Reserve Bank of India's Regional Offices.

Statement

State-wise & Population Group-wise No. of licences/authorisations pending with commercial banks as on 28-2-1985@

State/Union Territory	Rural/Semi-urban	Urban/Metropolitan Port Towns	Total
Andhra Pradesh	379	37	416
Assam	387	2	389
Bihar	740	6	746
Gujarat	262	38	300
Haryana	70	10	80
Himachal Pradesh	63	1	64
Jammu & Kashmir	68	2	70
Karnataka	236	55	291
Kerala	116	22	138
Madhya Pradesh	558	27	585
Maharashtra	449	154	603
Manipur	34	1	35
Meghalaya	27	1	28
Nagaland	15	—	15
Orissa	229	12	241
Punjab	151	15	166
Rajasthan	493	8	501
Sikkim	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	132	38	170
Tripura	28	—	28
Uttar Pradesh	1434	45	1479
West Bengal	866	119	985
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	1	2
Arunachal Pradesh	29	—	29
Chandigarh	2	3	5
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—
Delhi	1	61	62
Goa, Daman & Diu	3	—	3
Lakshadweep	—	—	—
Mizoram	31	—	31
Pondicherry	1	1	2
Total	6805	659	7464

@ Based on allotments made upto 28 Feb 85 and intimation of branches opened, received by this office upto January end.

[Translation]

Supply of Good Quality Coal to Thermal Power Plants in Uttar Pradesh

3799. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received complaints from the Uttar Pradesh Government that the thermal power plants situated in Uttar Pradesh are not getting supplies of good quality coal in time; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by his Ministry to ensure the supply of good quality coal in time to the thermal power plants situated in Uttar Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) The Uttar Pradesh Government had complained about receipt of coal of low calorific value and of presence of extraneous materials in the coal, and also about inadequate supplies to some of the power stations of Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board.

(b) To ensure proper sizing and removal of extraneous material, coal handling plants are being constructed at the collieries. In the meanwhile the coal companies have been directed to ensure manual breaking of bigger pieces and picking of extraneous materials. Strict supervision at all levels has resulted in remarkable improvement in quality.

As regards quantity, Railways have been requested to move coal on priority to power stations having low stocks. The position of coal stocks is constantly reviewed at various levels to build up stocks.

[Translation]

Opening of A Branch of SBI at Chilyanola in Almora District

3800. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to open a branch of State Bank of India at Chilyanola in Almora district in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the time by which this branch is likely to be opened ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that it has recently received a proposal from the State Bank of India for opening its office at Chilyanola, District Almora, Uttar Pradesh. This proposal will be considered by Reserve Bank under its branch licensing policy for the Seventh Plan period which is being finalised.

[English]

Efforts made to take Final decision on Recommendations made by Tripathi Committee.

3801. SHRI S. M. GURADDI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any further attempt or efforts are being made to consult the Chief Ministers to take a final decision on the Tripathi Committee's recommendations on the replacement of sales tax by additional excise duties on five commodities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) and (b) At the Chief Ministers Conference held on 2-11-1983, it was unanimously resolved that efforts should be continued to bring about consensus among the State Governments on Tripathi Committee's Report. As sales tax is mainly a State subject of taxation, any reform in the sales tax system can be undertaken only in consultation with and cooperation of the States. Efforts made so far have not resulted in reaching a consensus.

Gold Deposit in Neelambur Area of Kerala

3802. SHRI G. G. SWELL : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a good deposit of gold was found in the Neelambur area of Kerala recently ;

(b) the other areas of the country where gold has been discovered ; and

(c) whether the deposit in Neelambur is commercially viable ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) No, Sir. During 1964-65, Geological Survey of India had established a reserve of about 8 million cubic meters of gold bearing gravel in the Nilambur area, containing approximately 1972 kgs. of gold. Surveys carried out by the State Government have indicated reserves of about 30 million cubic meters of gold-bearing gravels in the Nilambur valley in Kerala, having an average grade of 0.1 gram per cubic meter. The quantity of gold is estimated at 300 kgs. Primary gold occurs at Maruda near Nilambur where 0.3 million tonnes of gold ore has been estimated with an average grade of 4 grams/tonne of gold.

(b) Gold had also been located at Chigargunta and Mallappakonda in Chittoor district and Kottapalle block in Anantpur district of Andhra Pradesh and in extension of the Hutti and Gadag Gold Fields in Karnataka. Investigation for gold has also been taken up in Sonapet area in Bihar; Salaikana, Kalima and Talkoi area in Orissa; parts of Raigarh district of Madhya Pradesh; Dharampuri district in Tamil Nadu; parts of Siwalik belt in Uttar Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh where gold mineralisation has been reported.

(c) A mobile plant is reported to have been designed by the State Government of Kerala with assistance from UN experts for pilot scale mining to establish the feasibility of alluvial mining of gold. The exploitation of these deposits on a commercial basis will depend upon their technological viability.

[Translation]

Action Against Officers involved in Fraud Cases in Nationalised Banks

3803. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the class-wise number of officers against whom action has been taken for their involvement in fraud cases in nationalised banks for the last three years ;

(b) the number of cases, out of them, disposed of so far ; and

(c) the number of the cases in respect of which action is still going on and since when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY):

(a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India has reported that as per information readily available the number of officials awarded punishment, including conviction, for their involvement in fraud cases during the years 1982, 1983 and 1984 (upto 30-6-84) was 528, 609 and 338 respectively. As on 30th June, 1984, the number of employees against whom prosecution was pending in courts was 473, and departmental proceedings were pending, as on that date, against 1283 employees.

[English]

Opening of Branches of Banks in Adivasi Areas

3804. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any target was fixed during the Sixth Five Year Plan to open branches of various banks in Adivasi areas ;

(b) if so, whether bank branches have been opened as per the targets fixed in this regard ;

(c) if not, the names of the banks which have not opened their branches as per the targets ;

(d) whether any action has been taken against the concerned bank officers for not achieving the targets ; and

(e) if so, bank-wise particulars of the officers against whom action has been taken together with details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) to (e) The main thrust of the branch licensing policy for the period April, 1982 to March 1985 was on improving banking facilities in rural areas with greater emphasis on ensuring proper spatial distribution of bank branches. It aimed at achieving a coverage of one bank office for a population of 17,000 in the rural and semi-urban areas by the end of March 1985. Hilly Regions, regions which are sparsely populated and tribal areas have been given special consideration and expansion in such areas has been allowed on a comparatively liberal basis taking into account the exis-

ting gaps in the availability of banking facilities, the need for meeting the banking requirements of identified groups, growth in economic activities etc.

Available information relating to the

number of licences/authorisations pending with commercial banks as at the end of September, 1984 for opening branches in the country is given below :—

Bank Group	No. of licences/authorisations pending	of which number of licences/authorisations for rural/semi-urban centres
State Bank of India	611	502
Associates of State Bank of India	148	86
20-Nationalised Banks	1418	1021
Regional Rural Banks	3652	3650
Private Sector Banks	163	101
Total	5992	5360

With a view to expediting opening of branches at allotted centres, Task Forces consisting of representatives of State Government, NABARD and Reserve Bank has been set up at each of Reserve Bank of India's Regional Offices.

[Translation]

Vacancies in Posts Reserved for SC/ST in Nationalised Banks

3805. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts of different categories reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes lying vacant in the various nationalised banks :

(b) since when these posts have been lying vacant ; and

(c) the steps taken to fill these posts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) and (b) As per information readily available, the backlog as on 1-1-1985 is as follows :

	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe
Officers	1659	1744
Clerks	3857	4808
Sub-staff	1544	1497
	<u>7060</u>	<u>8049</u>

(c) With a view to improve the intake of candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) in the banks, the banks and the Banking Service Recruitment Boards have taken various steps. These include :

- Holding of pre-recruitment/promotion training courses for SC/ST candidates ;
- Giving special relaxations in service criteria to candidates belonging to SC/ST candidates in the process of recruitment/promotion ;
- Interviews of SC/ST candidates are held in separate sittings when the Boards co-opt an SC/ST Member on the Interview Panel ;
- Holding of exclusive tests for recruitment and promotions of SC/ST candidates ;
- Filling up of vacancies reserved for SC/ST by appointing SC/ST candidates only and not appointing any general candidates against the said reserved vacancies without prior approval of higher authorities.

As a result of such special measures, the intake of SC/ST candidates in the banks has improved considerably.

[English]

Setting up of New Division of LIC in Orissa

3806. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the places where Life Insurance Corporation Divisional headquarters are located ;

(b) the State having only one division functioning now ;

(c) whether there is any proposal for setting up new divisions in the country particularly in States like Orissa working with single division ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) Divisional headquarters of the Life Insurance Corporation are located in the following 43 cities :—

Delhi, Jullundur, Chandigarh, Ajmer, Jaipur, Lucknow, Kanpur, Meerut, Agra, Varanasi, Indore, Jabalpur, Raipur, Calcutta, Jalpaiguri, Asansol, Gauhati, Silchar, Patna, Muzaffarpur, Jamshedpur, Cuttack, Bangalore, Udupi, Dharwad, Hyderabad, Cuddalore, Visakhapatnam, Masulipatnam, Madras, Thanjavur, Madurai, Coimbatore, Kozhikode, Trivandrum, Rajkot, Ahmedabad, Surat, Bombay, Satara, Pune, Nasik and Nagpur.

(b) States of Orissa and Punjab have one divisional office each.

(c) to (e) The question of setting up of new divisional offices in the country is to be decided by Life Insurance Corporation on merits of each case.

Environmental Hazard Due to Mining of Bauxite Ore in Gandhamardan Hills

3807. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that there is strong local apprehension in Sambalpur district of Orissa regarding environmental hazards due to mining of bauxite ore in Gandhamardan hills where a famous temple is situated on a perennial stream;

(b) whether a master plan for environmental protection has been drawn up for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government are considering a proposal for creation of an Environmental Protection Committee in the locality with representatives of Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd., the State Government and the local people to monitor and supervise implementation of this programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Department of Environment of the Government of India is the competent authority to give environmental clearance and on the guidelines of that Department, BALCO has prepared a comprehensive Environmental Management Plan. This is under examination of the Department of Environment. The plan comprises study of the pre-mining ecosystem, including geological and geomorphological features of the deposit, flora and fauna, climatology, hydrographic system, habitation etc. besides impact due to mining operations. The Plan contains environmental protection measures, including prevention of pollution of existing streams and water resources, control of air pollution and blasting hazards and reclamation scheme with proper manpower and organisation for environmental management.

(d) Since all proposals for release of land (forest and non-forest) are first considered and cleared by the State Government and then examined by Department of Forest and Department of Environment, Government of India, the setting up of a local Environmental Protection Committee is not considered necessary.

Representation to Orissa on the Boards of Banks and Financial Institutions

3808. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is following the conscious policy of giving proper representation to different States particularly backward States in nominating

non-official Directors to the Board of Banks and All India financing institutions.

(b) if so, the public sector Banks and All India financing institution which have non-official Directors from Orissa; and

(c) the steps taken to give greater representation to Orissa ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a), (b) and (c) Appointment of non-official Directors on the Boards of nationalised banks are made in accordance with the criteria for selection and procedure laid down under Clause 3 of the Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Scheme, 1970 and 1980. Likewise, the nomination of Directors on the Boards of Financial Institutions are made in accordance with the provisions contained in the respective Acts. It may, however, be mentioned that the terms of most of the non-official Directors on the Boards of nationalised banks, as had completed a three year term, have been terminated by the Government. However, State Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development do have persons from Orissa on their Boards of Directors.

Setting up of Regional Rural Banks in Tamil Nadu

3809. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details regarding the number of Regional Rural Banks set up by Union Government in Tamil Nadu in consultation with the National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development;

(b) whether Government of Tamil Nadu approached Union Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the location, headquarters and area of operation etc. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) Tamil Nadu has one Regional Rural Bank at present namely Pandyan Grama Bank. It was set up on 9-3-1977 when the steering functions with regard to Regional

Rural Banks were performed by the Central Government.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The headquarters of Pandyan Grama Bank are located in Sattur, and its area of operation extends to two districts namely, Ramanathapuram and Tirunelveli.

Scheme for Advancing Loans by State Financial Institutions

3810. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government propose to instruct the State Governments to prepare schemes for advancing of loans by the State financial institutions to weaker sections of the society having no means of livelihood;

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

(c) the other measures being taken to help the weaker sections of the society under the 20-Point Programme; and

(d) the details of the Central assistance being given to the State Governments to implement those schemes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) to (d) The State Financial Institutions function under the overall guidance and supervision of the concerned State Government. As far as scheduled commercial banks are concerned, they were advised to provide, by the end of March '85, at least 10 per cent of total bank credit to weaker sections comprising of (a) small and marginal farmers, landless labourers, tenant farmers and share croppers, (b) artisans, village and cottage industries, (c) Integrated Rural Development Programme beneficiaries, (d) Differential Rate of Interest beneficiaries, and (e) SC/ST beneficiaries. An important programme of the Government aimed at helping the weaker sections to raise their income is the Integrated Rural Development Programme. The credit extended under IRDP totalled Rs. 2838.74 crores and the subsidy Rs. 1509.38 crores by the end of January, 1985.

The New 20-Point Programme has a greater thrust in improving the standard of living of the rural poor and other weaker sections of the society and creating the necessary infrastructure and other facilities vital for the purpose. The banking system has been assigned an important role in assisting the fulfilment of the aims and objectives of the programme by orienting its credit policy.

Production of Thermal Grade Coal

3812. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States where thermal grade coal is located;

(b) the approximate deposits of thermal grade coal in Orissa; and

(c) the steps taken to increase thermal grade coal production ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) Coal deposits are not classified as thermal coal deposits. These deposits are, in fact, grouped into various categories of reserves based on the analysis as per Indian Standard Procedure and the coals of Class III and IV are generally utilised for thermal power generation. Coal suitable for thermal purpose occurs in some of the coalfields in West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Khasi Jayanti Hills.

(b) As per the Geological Survey of India report (September, 1984) approx. total reserves in Orissa State are estimated to be 29,534 m.t. (In Valley : 11,145 m.t. and Talcher 18,389 m.t.). Approximately 995 m.t. of reserves are in the proved category which can be utilised for thermal power generation.

(c) Improvement of coal production suitable for power generation is a part of Plant for increase in total coal production to meet the demand. The following steps are being taken for increasing the coal production :—

(i) Re-organisation of existing mines.

(ii) Opening of new mines.

(iii) Large scale introduction of open-cast technology.

(iv) Gradual mechanisation of underground workings.

(v) Opening of longwall faces in underground mines

Training of Leather Footwear Technicians and Export of Leather and Leather Products

3813. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether twenty leather footwear technicians have been selected for training in Italy;

(b) if so, the other measures contemplated to train leather footwear expert in India and abroad;

(c) the details of the measures being taken to improve export of leather and leather products;

(d) the details of the export of leather and leather products in the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) the details of the incentives, loan facilities allotment of sheds, training etc. being given to the small artisans and small-scale industries in the job of manufacturing leather products ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Training abroad under bilateral assistance and in India through the network of Small Industries Service Institutes, their Extension Centres and Central Footwear Training Centres are the other measures contemplated to train leather footwear experts.

(c) Easy access to essential inputs for export production of value-added leather products, apart from publicity, participation in overseas trade fairs, sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams, market surveys etc. are some of the measures being taken to improve export of leather and leather products.

(d) Exports of leather and leather products during the last three years viz.,

1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84 were around Rs. 415,400 and 440 crores respectively,

(e) Shoe uppers, leather foot-wear, leather garments and leather goods are reserved for exclusive development in the small scale sector and the industry is also selected for modernization programme. All the incentives and facilities that are available to the small scale and tiny sector units are available to leather and leather products industry which include concessional finance, industrial sheds, supply of machinery on hire purchase basis, technical assistance and training facilities arranged through government agencies.

Opening of New Branches of Commercial Banks in Madhya Pradesh

3814. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new branches of commercial banks were proposed and opened in different districts of Madhya Pradesh during the Sixth Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether all the proposed branches at various places could not be opened during the stipulated time mentioned in their licence by Reserve Bank of India;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to open these new branches ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) to (d) The branch licensing policy covering the period April 1982 to March 1985 aimed at achieving a coverage of one bank office for a population of 17,000 in rural and semi-urban areas by the end of March 1985. To achieve this objective, 693 additional bank offices were required to be opened in the rural/semi-urban areas of Madhya Pradesh. As against the above requirement, 1074 rural/semi-urban centres in the State were allotted to banks for branch opening during the policy period. In addition, 44 urban centres in Madhya Pradesh were also allotted to banks for branch opening. During the period April 1982 to September 1984 for which information is available, banks have opened 791 branches in Madhya Pradesh. With a view

to expediting opening of branches at the remaining allotted centres, a Task Force consisting of representatives of the Government of Madhya Pradesh, NABARD and Reserve Bank has been set up at Reserve Bank of India's Regional Office, Bhopal.

Representation of Andhra Pradesh Government Regarding Establishment of Spinning Mills

3815. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a representation was made by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to include Andhra Pradesh in priority category A & B as it satisfied the norms prescribed;

(b) whether the State Government have represented for establishment of two spinning mills in weavers sector at Satyaverdu in Chittoor District, Narasannapeta in Sreeakulam District and two in growers sector at Paruchur in Prakasam District and Nandyal in Kurnool District; and

(c) if so, the action taken on the representation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) Some districts/areas in Andhra Pradesh are included in the Category 'B' backward areas as notified in the press Note No. 4/1/81/BAD (Vol. III) dated 27-4-1983. No representation has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh thereafter for the inclusion of any area in Category 'A', 'B' and 'C' backward areas.

(b) and (c) A representation was received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh suggesting setting up of two spinning mills in the Handloom Weavers Cooperative Sector at Satyaveedu in Chittoor District and another in Srikakulam district. Financial Assistance could not be extended to these two units during the Sixth Plan due to resource constraints. National Cooperative Development Corporation have already sanctioned assistance for two units in growers sector at Paruchur in Prakasam District, under the Centrally sponsored scheme and Nandyal in Kurnool District under NCDC-III Agro Industrial Project.

Supply of Coal to Bihar

3816. SHRI LALITESHWAR SHAHI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that North Bihar industries are suffering for want of coal ;

(b) whether Government are aware that Bihar is getting coal at higher cost than other places due to non-transport by rail ; and

(c) the steps, if any, proposed to be taken to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) to (c) With the increased coal production in Coal India, there is no difficulty in meeting fully the demand of consumers in North Bihar. However due to difficulties in rail movement the consumers having lower priority in rail movement are not getting their full requirements by rail. Consumers have been allowed to obtain their rail shortfall by road from specified collieries. Coal is also being made available at consuming points in different states through Coal India Ltd.'s stockyards as well as by arranging ex-wagon deliveries.

Government only fix pit head prices. The consumers' price of coal varies from place to place depending not only on the cost and mode of transportation but also on varying rates of royalty and other statutory charges.

Revision of Coal Prices

3817. SHRI LALITESHWAR SHAHI: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of times coal prices have been revised since 1972-73 till date ;

(b) the price of coal in 1972-73 and its price now ; and

(c) the ratio between wages and price rise ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL : (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) Since nationalisation of coal mines, coal prices have been revised six times.

(b) At the time of nationalisation, the average pit-head price of coal was Rs. 37.50 per tonne. At present the average pit-head price of coal produced by Coal India Limited is Rs. 183.00 per tonne and that of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited is Rs. 192.00 per tonne.

(c) The average earning per man-shift of workers at current price in 1973-74 was Rs. 16.49 and in 1983-84 was Rs. 81.51. Compared with 1973-74 both the wages and prices have increased by about five times.

Note Sent by Unions of L.I.C. Employees Reg. Splitting of L.I.C.

3819. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation of India Employees unions have sent him a note pointing out that splitting up of the Corporation could have dangerous consequences ;

(b) if so, his reaction thereto ; and

(c) whether he proposes to consider greater decentralisation of L.I.C. work among branches as an alternative as suggested in the note ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) and (b) Government have received a number of representations from several quarters regarding the possible implications of a reorganisation of LIC and have noted the contents thereof.

(c) Decentralisation of L.I.C. work to the Branches from procurement of new business to settlement of maturity claims has already been effected in all the Divisions except Bombay and Calcutta.

Benefits to Service Exports

3820. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he expects the volume of "Services Exports" to grow in the coming years;

(b) if so, whether "Services Exports" also will be eligible for the same type of benefits as are available to export of commodities and manufacturers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) Foreign exchange earnings from consultancy services were about Rs. 1 crore in 1973-74 and have increased to about Rs. 62 crores during 1983-84. Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) has proposed to raise the level of consultancy exports to about Rs. 250 crores by 1989-90.

(b) and (c) The following incentives and facilities are available to Indian Consultancy Organisations :

- (1) Consultancy services exporters whose annual foreign exchange earnings by way of export at services are not less than Rs. 5 lakhs, are eligible for foreign exchange facilities for business development, purchase of tender document, payment of commission, bid bonds etc.
- (2) In order to cover risks, ECGC has designed policies to cover specific transactions of service exports.
- (3) Ad-hoc applications for import of designs and drawings, office equipment, instructions, tools and accessories and other items may be considered from technical consultancy firms, construction agencies, and design engineering firms.
- (4) Marketing Development Assistance is provided to consultancy organisations which are registered with FIEO for undertaking market studies, opening of foreign offices, publicity campaigns and feasibility studies.
- (5) Under Section 80-0 of the Income Tax Act, consultancy organisations are entitled to the deduction upto 50% of the net foreign exchange earnings in computing total income.
- (6) EXIM Bank has introduced a scheme under which deferred payment facilities are available from EXIM Bank in respect of consultancy jobs to be undertaken from India.

Purchase of Conveyor Belts by Bokaro Steel Plant

3821. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :
Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bokaro Steel Plant had placed orders for purchase of conveyor belts in the month of February, 1985;

(b) whether orders were placed on much higher rates than the lower offers received causing a loss of about four million rupees to the plant;

(c) whether the firms which gave lower offers were the approved suppliers of Bokaro Steel Plant; and

(d) if so, the reasons for placing orders at higher rates ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Orders are placed on lowest technically acceptable offers from parties who could supply proven quality. Since Conveyor belts are critical items, orders are divided between the lowest, the second lowest and in some cases upto third lowest suppliers depending upon the quantities.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) For critical applications only three suppliers were considered proven sources by the Plant. For non-critical applications all suppliers on the approved list are treated on identical footings and order is placed considering rate, delivery and service performance. Lower offers were not accepted on account of their being either technically unacceptable or being from sources not proven earlier. In some cases orders were divided to diversify the sources of supply.

Orders Placed by Bokaro Steel Plant in February, 1985.

3822. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :
Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bokaro Steel Plant had placed several orders to purchase different items in February, 1985;

(b) whether Tender Committee was constituted in all the cases;

(c) whether the chairman of all these Committees was GM (W) who was due to retire on 28th February, 1985;

(d) whether all these orders were placed on higher rates than the lowest offers received;

(e) whether it was brought to the notice of higher officers that irregularities have been done in purchase of all the items by Bokaro Steel Plant in February, 1985; and

(f) if so, the action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are Standing Tender Committees to examine the tenders valued at more than Rs. 40 lakhs. In respect of other cases, purchase proposals are approved by competent authority in accordance with powers delegated. Depending upon the items to be purchased the Standing Tender Committees are presided over by GM (Works) or GM (Projects). The Tender Committees consist of members from Materials, Finance as well as from other Departments depending upon the items;

(c) General Manager (Works) was the Chairman of the Standing Committee in respect of the following tenders, orders for which were placed in February, 1985 :—

(i) Purchase of Carbon Blocks;

(ii) Purchase of Conveyor Belts.

The incumbent to the post of General Manager (Works) Chairing the above Tender Committee retired on the 28th February, 1985.

(d) In some cases orders were distributed amongst lowest two or three acceptable tenderers with a view to diversify sources of supply;

(e) and (f) Certain irregularities were alleged in one of the cases referred to in (c) above. These allegations are being enquired into.

Increase in Trade with Italy

3823. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether steps have been taken by Government to increase trade with Italy?

(b) if so, the various items on which Indo-Italian trade has been established;

(c) the performance of Indo-Italian trade in 1984-85; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) and (b) It is a constant endeavour of the Government to increase trade with other countries, including Italy. India and Italy carry on trade in a number of commodities on a continuing basis.

(c) and (d) Indo-Italian trade during 1984-85 increased as per the provisional figures available for April-September :

	April-Sept. 1983	April-September 1984
Exports	72.75	94.82
Imports	100.43	103.87
Total	173.18	198.69

Shortage of Coal Faced by Non-core Consumers

3824. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether non-core sector consumers are experiencing shortage of coal;

(b) if so, the reasons of short supply of coal to the non-core sectors; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to meet the demand of coal in the non-core sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) to (c) With the increased coal production in Coal India Ltd., there is no difficulty in meeting the demand of consumers linked to CIL. However, due to difficulties in rail movement, the consumers having lower priority in rail movement are not getting their full requirements by rail.

Consumers have been allowed to obtain their rail shortfall by road from specified collieries. Coal is also being made available at consuming points in different states through Coal India Ltd.'s stockyards as well as by arranging ex-wagon deliveries. However, the consumers in South India linked to Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. are facing difficulties in getting their full requirements, due to inadequate production of coal by SCCL. To such consumers, coal is being supplied to the extent feasible from CIL sources. Steps are also being taken to increase production of coal in SCCL.

Industrial and Trade Relations with Hungary

3825. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to establish better industrial ties and trade relations with Hungary ;

(b) if so, the specific items on which trade relations are proposed to be established between these two countries ; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) to (c) Indo-Hungarian trade and industrial relations cover cooperation in a number of fields. Efforts are continuously made to promote India's Industrial and trade relations with Hungary with the objective of growth and diversification of trade. With this end in view, meetings of Joint Commission, Permanent Working Group, Joint Business Council and participation in Trade Fairs etc., are periodically held in order to promote trade and industrial cooperation

U.S. Offer for Modernisation of Bullock-Cart

3826. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any United States offer has been received for modernisation of bullock-cart ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration. However, according to the information of Department of Agriculture and Co-operation, a member of a certain US delegation had made an offer that he could supply process reject, tubeless tyres and axle assembly. The suggestion has little research and development value. It only seeks to promote marketing of rejected tyres and wheel assembly available in the country.

Raids by Excise/Customs Authorities in A.P.

3827. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the raids conducted by the Excise and Customs Authorities on smugglers in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years ; and

(b) the value of goods seized in Nellore District ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) The number of raids and searches conducted under the Customs Act, 1962 in Andhra Pradesh and the value of the goods seized as a result thereof, during the years 1983 and 1984, is furnished below :-

(Value : Rs. in lakhs)

1983		1984	
Number of raids/ searches	Value of goods seized	Number of raids/ searches	Value of goods seized
640	66.33	799	115.18

(Figures are provisional)

(b) The value of contraband goods seized, as a result of raids and searches, from Nellore District under the Customs Act, during 1983 and 1984, is furnished below :-

Year	Value of goods seized (Rs. in lakhs)
1983	6.46
1984	16.55

Discrimination between Cooperative and Commercial Banks Regarding Credit Authorisation Scheme

3828. SHRI SUBHASH YADAV : Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any discrimination between the Cooperative and Commercial Banks in regard to Credit Authorisation Scheme ;

(b) if so, the nature of discrimination, when and where this discrimination started ;

(c) the reasons for discrimination ;

(d) whether due to this discrimination, cooperative banks have been experiencing great difficulties ;

(e) whether any representation has been made by the Cooperative Banks to NABARD to remove this discrimination ; and

(f) if so, the time by which this discrimination in regard to Credit Authorisation Scheme will be removed between cooperative and commercial banks in India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) Credit Authorisation Scheme envisages obtention of permission from RBI in case of commercial banks and from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development in case of Co-operative Banks for sanction of working capital or block capital finance above certain prescribed limits. These limits are referred to as 'cut-off-points.' At present the 'cut-off-points' prescribed for cooperative and commercial banks are different. The existence of such a difference does not amount to discrimination in view of basic difference in operational and functional requirements of the two structures.

(b) In October, 1983, RBI increased the 'cut-off-point' for sanction of working capital limits from Rs. 300 lakhs to Rs. 400 lakhs to commercial banks. This relaxation was, however, not extended to the Cooperative Banks, whose cut off point continued at Rs. 300 lakhs. In April, 1984 RBI increased the cut off point for sanction of term loans (block capital) by

commercial banks from Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. 100 lakhs. This relaxation too was not extended to the cooperative banks which continued at Rs. 50 lakhs.

(c) The reasons for not revising the cut off points for cooperative banks are as follows :-

1. The size of internal loanable resources of cooperative banks are much small than that of commercial banks.
2. The rationale of the CAS, as applicable to the cooperative banks, is to ensure proper and judicious management of their limited resources and is distinct from the scheme as applicable to the commercial banks.
3. The recent upward revisions in the cut off points by the RBI for commercial banks was done after an independent and in-depth review of the working of the scheme for these banks from the points of operational aspects.
4. The 'information system' prescribed by the Tandon Committee on inventory control and refined by Chore Committee as well as the Bucher Committee recommendation regarding grant of participation in term loans, which is the present kingpin of the discipline under the CAS for commercial banks, has not been introduced for the cooperative banks so far.

(d) The Cooperative Banking Sector does not appear to be experiencing difficulties on account of different cut off points. Authorisations are granted to them in as short a time as possible. Delays if any in granting authorisation is mainly due to inadequate/incomplete data furnished by the banks in the proposals.

(e) Except two State Cooperative Banks, which had made representations for relaxation on the lines allowed by the RBI to commercial banks, no other State Cooperative Bank has made any reference to NABARD in this regard. Recently the National Federation for State Cooperative Banks has requested for upward revision of cut off points.

(f) The representation from the Federation of the State Co-operative Banks is being examined.

Delay in Grant of Approval by NABARD under Credit Authorisation Scheme

3829. SHRI SUBHASH YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development takes more than three months in granting the approval under Credit Authorisation Scheme for block capital loans required by terms lending institutions thereby resulting in escalation of the block capital expenditure of different projects in the cooperative sector ;

(b) if so, the number of applications in the 1983-84 which took more than three months for granting approval by NABARD and the number of applications which are pending for more than three months at present ; and

(c) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to compensate the loss due to cost-escalation and for the approval of pending applications ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has to ensure the eligibility of the proposal on the basis of the prescribed formula and has also to ascertain whether the term lending institutions have appraised the project and sanctioned their share of the term loan. The concerned cooperative banks are granted authorisation to sanction term loans for block capital purposes only when the proposal conforms to RBI guidelines.

(b) and (c) During 1983-84, 31 block capital proposals were received by the National Bank for authorisation under Credit Authorisation Scheme. Out of these, 18 were sanctioned, 10 were rejected due to non-fulfilment of the prescribed criteria and two were voluntarily withdrawn by the banks. Of the eleven proposals authorised after 3 months, seven related to grant of authorisation due to temporary ineligibility. There is only one proposal relating to

1983-84 and two proposals received in 1984-85 which are pending for over 3 months in respect of which details are awaited from Banks. Pegging the capital outlay requirements at normative cost is mainly responsible for gap in the financial tie-up arrangements which delays the completion of the projects and results in cost over-runs.

Block Capital to Cooperative Agro-Based Industries

3830. SHRI SUBHASH YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has since received a proposal for providing block capital to cooperative agro-based industries;

(b) if so, when;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the proposal has neither been placed before the Board of Directors of NABARD even though a number of board meetings have been held after the receipt of the proposal nor the board have been apprised of the proposal;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(e) the time by which the proposal is likely to be brought up before the Board of NABARD and finalised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development have not so far received any proposal for providing block capital to cooperative agro-based industries.

(b) to (e) In view of (a) above the question does not arise.

Functioning of Nationalised and Foreign Banks in the Country

3831. SHRI E. S. M. PAKEER MOHAMMED : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased state :

(a) the total number of nationalised banks in the country and the number of banks thereof in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the number of licenced foreign banks functioning in the country;

(c) whether Government propose to give licence to foreign banks in the near future; and

(d) the number of non-nationalised banks functioning and their total deposits ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) Presently, 20 nationalised banks are functioning in the country out of which the Head Offices of 2 banks are in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(b) 19 Foreign banks are functioning in the country at present.

(c) Applications of Foreign banks seeking licences for opening branches in India are examined by the Reserve Bank of India on merits and the licences issued where these are considered justified.

(d) At present 53 non-nationalised banks (including foreign banks) are functioning in the country. Their total deposits (excluding inter-bank Deposits) as on 15-3-1985 were estimated at Rs. 5958.60 crores.

Appointment of CBI Cell in Nationalised Banks

3832. **SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to appoint a separate C.B.I. Cell to enquire into the mal-practices, corruption and misappropriations committed by bank managers and officers in various nationalised banks;

(b) whether protection is given to the honest bank employees if they made public the mal-practices going on in their respective branches; and

(c) whether the bank employees are permitted to make allegations against the higher-ups regarding misappropriations, and other mal-practices going on in their banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) There is already a cell in CBI to deal with important cases relating to frauds committed in the nationalised banks.

(b) and (c) The bank employees are required to take an oath of secrecy and they cannot, therefore, make public any matter which comes to their notice during discharge of their official duties. It is, however, the duty of a bank employee to bring to notice of his/her management any malpractices or fraud which may come to his/her notice.

News Item Captioned—'Biggest Seizure of Contraband and Textile'

3833. **SHRI SOMNATH RATH :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Biggest seizure of contraband and textile" in the 'Times of India' of 31st March 1985; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to put an end to racket in contraband textiles ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The drive against smugglers has been intensified. The preventive and intelligence machinery of the Customs Department has been reinforced in vulnerable areas in terms of man-power and equipment and remain vigilant with respect to areas vulnerable to smuggling and commodities, including synthetic fabrics sensitive to smuggling. In addition, appropriate anti-smuggling measures are taken in close co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government authorities. The matter is also kept under constant review for appropriate action.

U. S. Government Restriction on Export of Indian Garments

3834. **SHRI ANAND SINGH :**
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of USA has decided to impose unilateral restrictions on the export of Indian garments to that country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) and (b) The US Government had imposed unilateral restrictions on seven garment-categories during 1984. The Government of India took up with the Textiles Surveillance Body of the GATT Textile Committee against the imposition of unilateral restrictions on three garment categories. Textiles Surveillance body recommended withdrawal of the restrictions on all the three categories by the Government of USA. The Government of USA withdrew the restrictions on two categories, while they did not do so in the case of one category and called for further consultation. The Government of India held consultations with the US Government in March, 1985 on the unilateral restraints imposed on the five categories when Government of India pointed out that there was no justification for such restraints.

Steps for Reduction in Trade Deficit Gap

3835. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have tried to reduce the trade deficit gap of the country;

(b) if so, the performances of Government in reducing India's trade deficit gap in 1983-84 and 1984-85; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in 1985-86 in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) and (b) All possible efforts are being made by the Government to step up exports and promote efficient import substitution so as to reduce the trade deficit. The export, import and balance of trade figures for the years 1980-81 to 1983-84, and for the first 10 months of 1984-85 (which are the latest available provisional figures), with comparative figures for the corresponding 10 months period of the previous year, are given below :—

(Rs. crores)

Year	Exports	Imports	Balance of Trade
1980-81	6711	12549	—5838
1981-82	7806	13608	—5802
1982-83	8908	14355	—5448
1983-84*	9872	15763	—5891
April— Jan. 1983-84@	7808	12102	—4294
April— Jan. 1984-85@	9258	13122	—3864

* Updated till January, 1985.

@ Provisional and subject to revision.

It may be seen from the above table that there has been a decline in trade deficit in recent years except in 1983-84. It is worth noting that the trade deficit as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) decline steadily from 4.6% in 1980-81 to about 3% in 1983-84.

(c) The Import and Export policy recently announced by the Government for a period of 3 years from April, 1985 to March, 1988 has been formulated to give major thrust to exports and encourage efficient import substitution. The new Import-Export Policy has already been laid on the Table of the House on 12-4-1985.

Opening of Accounts of Non-Resident Indians by Cooperative Banks

3836. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some co-operative banks set up in the State sectors have requested the Union Government to allow them to open accounts of non-resident Indians;

(b) if so, the number of state co-operative banks which have sent applications to Reserve Bank of India for this purpose;

(c) whether Reserve Bank of India has allowed those co-operative banks to open and maintain non-resident accounts; and

(d) when those co-operative banks have been allowed to open and maintain non-resident Indian accounts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) to (d) The facility of maintenance of non-resident external accounts in rupees and foreign currency non-resident accounts in pound sterling and U. S. Dollars was earlier available only through banks authorised to deal in foreign exchange in terms of Section 6 of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973. The Reserve Bank of India had been receiving representations off and on from Urban Co-operative Bank that they may also be permitted to maintain non-resident accounts in rupees. After careful consideration it has been decided that Urban Co-operative Banks with a minimum working capital of Rs. 10 crores plus an 'A' audit classification conferred by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies for two consecutive years and all State Co-operative Banks should be permitted to maintain Non-Resident (External) Accounts and Ordinary Non-Resident Accounts in rupees. Notification to this effect amending the Non-Resident (External) Accounts Rules, 1970 was issued on 21st February, 1985 and published in the Gazette on 9-3-1985.

Devaluation of Indian Rupee

3837. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of times Indian Rupee has been devalued since independence; and

(b) the real value of a rupee now in comparison to pre-independence ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) Since independence, the Indian rupee was devalued twice, that is on September 22, 1949 and on June 6, 1966. The value of the Indian rupee since September 1975 is determined with reference to a basket of currencies of India's major trading partners, and in a regime of floating exchange rates, the value of the Indian rupee has moved both ways in relation to the major currencies of the world.

(b) The purchasing power of the rupee, measured as the reciprocal of the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial

Workers (with the current 1960 base shifted to 1949=100), was 14.06 paise in February 1985. There is no index of consumer prices with August 1947 as the base.

Export of Diamond and Import of Diamond Rough

3838. SHRI B. K. GADHVI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of diamond exported every year from 1980 to 1984;

(b) the quantity of diamond rough imported in the country;

(c) whether importers of diamond rough claim about 70 per cent as processing loss;

(d) whether any methodical study has been made to estimate the correct percentage of loss; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) Export of cut and polished diamonds from 1980-81 to 1983-84 were as follows :—

(Lakh Carats)

1980-81	41.51
1981-82	40.60
1982-83	46.56
1983-84	56.47

(b) The quantity of rough diamonds imported in the country from 1980-81 to 1983-84 was :—

(Lakh carats)

1980-81	187.08
1981-82	263.55
1982-83	253.96
1983-84	283.79

(c) Manufacturing loss is estimated to be in the range of 60 to 85 per cent depending on several factors, such as quality and shape of roughs, the cleaving, sawing and grinding processes, the quality and type of equipment employed in cutting and polishing and also the skill of the cutters.

(d) and (e) There are widely varying qualities of diamonds for which there can

be no specific standard for determining the extent of manufacturing losses.

Quota for Indian Garment Exports

3839. SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA: Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the annual levels of quota for each category and country for EEC countries and USA in respect of garments exports from India during 1984 and 1985 alongwith the actual exports in each country during 1984 and till date in 1985 ; and

(b) the percentage of Indian garments exports subjected to quota restriction in 1982, 1983 and 1984 alongwith total exports to each country giving break-up of exports under quota and exports not subject to quota to each country in each of the above year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) and (b) Statement 'A' and Statement 'B' giving the requisite information are annexed.

Statement—A

Details of Annual Levels and Actual Exports to U.S.A. and EEC during 1984 and January, '85

(Qty. in '000 PCS)

Country/Category	1984		1985 January	
	Base Level	Actual Export	Base Level	Actual Exports
U.S.A.				
335	1654	1599	1753	536
336	3029	2861	3241	772
338/39/40	13173	13083	13568	5038
341	28831	28260	29696	9618
342	3954	4121	4191	1158
347/48	2568	2642	2748	821
Total	53209	52566	65197	17943
Overall Gr. II	107.00	109.22	114.49	36.04
	(In Myse)	(In Myse)	(In Myse)	(In Myse)
West Germany				
4	2645	3079	2524	719
6	1116	1144	1137	274
7	9454	3801	9505	654
8	9118	4330	9166	713
15-B	557	636	603	142
17	591	328	626	21
26	1856	988	1938	90
27	1643	933	1686	117
29	1496	259	1519	46
Total	28476	15498	28704	2776

Note : (In Myse) ;—In Million Square Yards Equivalent.

(Qty. in '000' PCS)

Country/Category	1984		1985 January	
	Base Level	Actual Exports	Base Level	Actual Exports
France				
4	1613	1702	1652	429
6	527	323	558	68
7	3028	2010	3127	297
8	1189	686	1284	90
15-B	401	112	424	14
17	457	8	473	1
21	399	48	411	9
24	650	117	689	36
26	1800	1299	1817	186
27	1147	659	1177	104
29	591	210	632	61
30-A	262	48	278	8
Total	12064	7222	12522	1303
Italy				
4	1013	774	1049	129
6	530	343	553	8
7	1705	1163	1763	100
8	3676	898	3746	335
15-B	152	18	179	3
17	205	8	236	3
26	860	362	911	27
27	772	175	804	18
29	403	90	442	2
Total	9316	3731	9683	625
Benelux				
4	931	1028	953	319
6	348	335	354	50
7	3705	1007	3734	148
8	2954	3072	2993	563
15-B	210	85	222	4
17	773	43	279	4
21	708	131	729	21
26	1027	140	1037	16
27	731	254	743	20
29	225	54	247	6
Total	11112	6149	11291	1151

(Qty. in '000' PCS)

Country/Category	1984		1985 January	
	Base Level	Actual Exports	Base Level	Actual Exports
Denmark				
4	306	203	313	73
6	137	162	139	33
7	561	471	570	65
8	594	391	601	99
15-B	67	80	70	13
17	55	47	60	2
26	209	83	216	20
27	200	200	204	22
29	82	86	90	22
Total	2211	1723	2263	349
United Kingdom				
4	2719	2635	2767	704
6	512	728	539	149
7	11632	5316	11679	527
8	9019	10129	9094	2406
15-B	716	157	723	22
17	493	87	522	10
26	2014	1748	2048	130
27	1570	1443	1599	124
29	1110	400	1131	29
Total	29785	22443	30102	4101
Ireland				
4	60	16	64	14
6	38	8	40	neg.
7	120	67	124	1
8	196	187	201	36
15-B	8	2	9	1
17	23	—	24	—
26	25	10	27	3
27	33	9	35	neg.
29	24	7	26	—
Total	527	306	550	55
Greece				
4	47	28	52	—
6	52	9	54	neg.
7	80	69	86	5
8	40	9	49	—
15-B	9	1	12	neg.
17	23	5	26	—
26	43	44	46	2
27	41	39	44	5
29	21	21	23	3
Total	356	225	392	15

Source : AEPC (Apparel Export Promotion Council)

Statement—B

The Percentage of Indian Garment Exports Subject to Quota Restriction in 1982, 1983, 1984 Alongwith Total exports to Each Country

(QTY. IN '000' PCS)

Country	Year	Exports of Restrained Items		Exports of Non-Restrained Items		Total Exports	
		Qty.	%	Qty.	%	Qty.	%
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
U. S. A.	1982	41470	84.93	7361	15.07	48831	100.00
	1983	68558	97.81	1535	2.19	70093	100.00
	1984	75421	96.05	3101	3.95	78522	100.00
West Germany	1982	17482	77.53	5067	22.47	22549	100.00
	1983	14779	77.57	4273	22.43	19052	100.00
	1984	15498	68.17	7235	31.83	22733	100.00
France	1982	6872	75.96	2175	24.04	9047	100.00
	1983	6715	73.66	2401	26.34	9116	100.00
	1984	7222	66.66	3612	33.34	10834	100.00
Italy	1982	3735	67.37	1809	32.63	5544	100.00
	1983	4600	74.06	1611	25.94	6211	100.00
	1984	3731	69.08	1670	30.92	5401	100.00
Benclux	1982	5819	87.31	846	12.69	6665	100.00
	1983	4689	81.41	1071	18.59	5760	100.00
	1984	6149	74.97	2053	25.03	8202	100.00
Denmark	1982	1506	69.59	658	30.41	2164	100.00
	1983	1646	65.53	866	34.47	2512	100.00
	1984	1723	60.20	1139	39.80	2862	100.00
U. Kingdom	1982	18234	88.09	2466	11.91	20700	100.00
	1983	16679	83.05	3405	16.95	20084	100.00
	1984	22443	76.53	6882	23.47	29325	100.00
Ireland	1982	240	85.11	42	14.89	282	100.00
	1983	263	92.28	22	7.72	285	100.00
	1984	306	75.93	97	24.07	403	100.00
Greece	1982	80	70.18	34	29.82	114	100.00
	1983	119	100.00	nil	100.00	119	100.00
	1984	225	90.36	24	9.64	249	100.00
Sweden	1982	3467	99.63	13	0.37	3480	100.00
	1983	3287	97.19	95	2.81	3382	100.00
	1984	4318	99.38	27	0.62	4345	100.00

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(8)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Finland	1982	386	21.40	1418	78.60	1804	100.00
	1983	1012	83.29	203	16.71	1215	100.00
	1984	883	83.72	172	16.30	1055	100.00
Austria	1982	690	43.95	880	56.05	1570	100.00
	1983	252	15.72	1351	84.28	1603	100.00
	1984	243	19.52	1002	80.48	1245	100.00
Canada	1982	4097	92.38	338	7.62	4435	100.00
	1983	5100	89.85	576	10.15	5676	100.00
	1984	7367	67.05	3621	32.95	10988	100.00
Non-Quota	1982	—	—	59795	100.00	59795	100.00
Countries	1983	—	—	48340	100.00	48340	100.00
	1984	—	—	54385	100.00	54385	100.00
Grand Total	1982	104086	55.66	82902	44.34	186988	100.00
	1983	127691	66.01	65749	33.99	193448	100.00
	1984	145529	63.12	85020	36.88	230549	100.00

Source : Apparel Export Promotion Council.

Meetings of AEPC and Sub-Committee

3840. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to lay a statement showing the following information separately for each meeting of the Executive Committee of the Apparel Export Promotion Council and Sub-Committees held during 1983, 1984 and 1985 upto 28th February, 1985 :—

(i) date and venue of the Meetings;

(ii) amount of TA/DA paid to members ; and

(iii) expenses incurred for lunch etc. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

A statement showing the required information is attached.

Statement

Details of Expenditure on Meetings During 1983

No.	Meetings	Date	Venue	TA (Only Air fair reimbursement) Rs.	Lunch Expenses Rs.	Total Rs.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1. Executive Committee Meeting		24-01-83	Bombay	19852.00	3072.00	22924.00
		26-03-83	Calcutta	29772.00	5002.60	34774.60
		13-05-83	Bombay	21678.00	2338.00	24016.00
		14-07-83	Delhi	13438.00	2777.75	16215.75
		20-08-83	Ashok, Delhi	20878.00	3121.00	23999.00

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
		29-10-83	Delhi	22544.00	34.50	22578.50
		16-11-83	Delhi	10696.00	724.70	11420.70
		14-12-83	Delhi	10638.00	1901.25	12539.25
		30-12-83	Bombay	31996.00	2470.00	34466.00
2.	Finance & Budget Sub Committee	07-02-83	Delhi	5428.00		5428.00
		13-06-83	Delhi	1666.00		1666.00
		10-10-83	Delhi	3332.00	30.00	3362.00
3.	Probe Committee	31-03-83	Delhi	5646.00	660.50	6306.50
		27-05-83	Bangalore	8258.00	1913.95	10171.95
		24-06-83	Delhi	3470.00	846.45	4316.45
		03-09-83	Madras	4356.00	—	4356.00
		22-12-83	Madras	8670.00	1328.60	9998.60
4.	Advisory Committee (Export Promotion)	07-02-83	Delhi	3842.00	—	3842.00
		16-04-83	Delhi	1666.00	108.50	1774.50
	Exhibition and Delegation Abroad	13-06-83	Delhi	8046.00	219.25	8265.25
		25-08-83	Delhi	1666.00	—	1666.00
		02-09-83	Bangalore	5344.00	1057.10	6401.10
		24-12-83	Madras	6304.00	4442.00	10746.80
5.	Legal Sub Committee	27-05-83	Bangalore	4888.00	—	4888.00
		04-06-83	Delhi	1666.00	—	1666.00
		14-07-83	Delhi	9604.00	—	9604.00
		23-07-83	Bombay	6570.00	1160.20	7730.20
6.	Incentive and Draw- back Sub Committee	07-04-83	Bombay	4998.00	—	4998.00
		22-07-83	Bombay	9466.00	—	9466.00
7.	Quota Advisory Committee	16-04-83	Delhi	7362.00	—	7362.00
		13-07-83	Bombay	4998.00	617.50	5615.50
		29-07-83	Madras	11036.00		11036.00
		20-09-83	Madras	10242.00	1249.00	11491.00
		19-11-83	Bombay	13046.00		13046.00
		07-03-83	Bangalore	434.00	1027.25	1461.75
8.	Appeal Sub Committee for 1980 Cases	22-02-83	Bombay	3754.00	—	3754.00
		04-04-83	Bombay	1498.00	—	1498.00
9.	Staff Committee	06-07-83	Delhi	6398.00	166.15	6564.15
		15-09-83	Delhi	2366.00	12.25	2378.25
		17-11-83	Delhi	2256.00	—	2256.00
Total				349768.00	36281.80	386049.80

Details of Expenditure on Meetings During 1984

No.	Meetings	Date	Venue	TA (Only Air fare reimburse- ment) (Rs.)	Lunch Expenses (Rs.)	Total (Rs.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1.	Executive Committee Meeting	06-01-84	Delhi	15654.00	4386.40	20040.00
		23-03-84	Bombay	27973.00	3641.50	31614.50
		04-04-84	Delhi	18487.00	2597.00	21084.00
		16-06-84	Delhi	23412.00	70.00	23182.00
		27-07-84	Delhi	18681.60	2385.01	21066.61
		09-08-84	Bombay	8142.00	3420.20	11562.00
		20-09-84	Delhi	4032.00	—	4032.00
		05-10-84	Bombay	16472.00	3014.00	19486.00
		13-10-84	Bangalore	3618.00	—	3618.00
		22-11-84	Delhi	18968.00	2509.65	21477-65
2.	Quota Advisory Committee	30-01-84	Delhi	13288.00	384.00	13672.00
		22-03-84	Bombay	4904.00	462.00	5366.00
		04-05-84	Delhi	4032.00	45.50	4077.00
		09-08-84	Bombay	6720.00	3206.00	9926.00
		20-11-84	Bombay	6664.00	3161.00	9825.00
3.	Export Promotion Committee	21-01-84	Jaipur	6310.00	2218.85	8528.85
		29.05.84	Bombay	1666.00	2325.00	3991.00
		15-10-84	Bangalore	6422.00	2642.10	9064.10
		10-12-84	Madras	10698.00	1835.85	12533.85
4.	Probe Committee	17-04-84	Madras	3938.00	123.70	4601.70
		28-12-84	Delhi	4932.00	—	4032.00
		15-06-84	Delhi	—	132.00	132.00
5.	Finance and Budget Sub Committee	05-03-85	Delhi	5924.00	28.00	2952.00
		16-07-84	Delhi	2366.00	—	2366.00
6.	Appeal Sub Committee for 1980 Cases	30-03-84	Bangalore	456.00	1009.00	1465.00
		06-03-84	Delhi	6398.00	—	6398.00
7.	Legal & Membership Committee	23-02-84	Delhi	6890.00	297.71	7187.71
		18-04-84	Delhi	1666.00	—	1666.00
8.	Staff Committee	26-04-84	Delhi	1666.00	490.24	2156.24
		06-10-84	Bomhay		523.00	523.00
9.	Incentive and Draw-back Committee	16-08-84	Delhi	3332.00	—	3332.00
10.	Quota Audit Sub Committee	17-01-84	Bombay	3332.00	—	3332.00
Total				255843.60	40907.51	296751.11

*Details of Expenditure Incurred on Meetings During 1985
(Upto 28th February, 1985)*

No.	Name of the Meetings	Date	Venue	TA Rs.	Lunch expenses Rs.	Total Rs.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1.	Executive Committee Meeting	08-01-85 26-02-85	Bombay New Delhi	22463.00 25366.00	3314.00 2287.50	25777.00 27653.50
2.	Probe Committee	04-02-85 14-02-85	Delhi Delhi	4032.00 2366.00	— —	4032.00 2366.00
3.	Quota Advisory Committee	05-01-85	Delhi	2348.00	—	2348.00
4.	Export Promotion Committee	08-02-85	Calcutta	1892.00	—	1892.00
Total				58467.00	5601.50	64068.00

Source : Apparel Export Promotion Council.

Inter-State Racket of Hashish Smugglers

3841. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Inter-State racket of High Quality Hashish smugglers have come to the notice of Government particularly in the Jammu and Kashmir region ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) and (b) During the period from 19-2-1985 to 18-3-1985, a total quantity of 64.400 kgs. of hashish and 700 grams of opium was seized and thirteen persons including three women were arrested by the Police of the Jammu and Kashmir State.

Smuggling Activites in Tripura

3842. SHRI G.G. SWELL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a tiny market village, Bat Tola in Tripura has become a big smuggling radial point for a big range of electronics and hard drugs and medicines ;

(b) whether there are a number of other such centres in the North-East and that insurgent groups in that area are increasingly finding sustenance for their activities in drug running into India ; and

(c) the steps, if any Government have taken or are taking to combat the menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) and (b) According to reports received by the Government, foreign consumer goods, such as, electronic items, cosmetics, etc. are sold in some of the markets in the North-Eastern region including Bat Tola. However, there are no reports about open sale of hard drugs and smuggled medicines.

(c) The drive against smugglers has been intensified. Mass raids of shops dealing in smuggled goods are conducted with the help of the police and para-military forces. The preventive and intelligence machinery of the Customs Department in the region remain vigilant with a view to curb all smuggling activities. In addition, the trends and pettern of smuggling are kept under constant review and appropriate anti-smuggling measures are taken in close

co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government authorities.

Deputation of Officials of Public Sector Undertakings

3843. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA :

KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided not to send Government officials to Public Sector Undertakings on deputation as reported in the 'Economic Times' dated 20 March, 1985 ;

(b) if so, the reasons for this decision;

(c) whether Government have any alternative plan to man the Public Sector Undertakings ;

(d) whether Government officials already working in Public Sector Undertakings will be called back to their parent branches; and

(e) if so, the date with effect from which such new system will come into force ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) Govt. have already issued instructions that as a matter of general policy, Govt. officials wishing to join public sector can do so only on immediate absorption in the concerned public enterprise i.e. after resigning from their posts in Government. However, in the following cases deputation of Govt. officials to public enterprises has been permitted.

(i) Deputation may be permitted for a maximum period of three years in the case of Chief Executives and regional/zonal chiefs of Central public enterprises who require continuous liaison and coordination with State Governments and where expertise acquired in the State Government is needed for organisational efficiency.

(ii) Deputation may also be permitted in the case of Chief Vigilance officers in all Central public

enterprises ; the tenure of officers of Organised Services appointed to posts of CVOs in the public enterprises should be the same as the tenure that would be permissible in their cases on their deputation to the Centre.

(b) The basis of general policy of immediate absorption in the public enterprises laid down for the Govt. officials is to secure better commitment from them for the public enterprises in which they are to serve.

(c) The selection policy of the Government for full-time Board level posts is that unless markedly better candidates are available from outside, the vacancies will be filled up by promotion from within the public enterprise and if internal candidates are not available, preference will be given to candidates working in other public sector undertakings. Failing availability of suitable candidates from public sector, selections would be made from other sources like Government and private sector. For below Board level posts the public enterprises make their selections.

(d) In respect of Govt. officials who are already on deputation to Central public enterprises, the existing terms and conditions will operate. However, no extension of deputation beyond the period specified in their deputation orders would be permissible, except in the case of CVOs in public enterprises whose terms of deputation will be regulated on the basis of tenure that would have been permissible to them if they had been on deputation to the Centre.

(e) The date of effect is March 6, 1985.

Yeleru Reservoir Project in Andhra Pradesh

3844. SHRI N.V. RATNAM : Will the MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Centre for a loan assistance of Rs. 50 crores to complete Yeleru reservoir project ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the above project is essential for supply of water to Visakhapatnam Steel Plant ; and

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in granting the above loan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) :

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In 1978, the Government of Andhra Pradesh gave an assurance that it would make water available in bulk at the plant boundary at its own cost. So, the investment approved by Central Government for the steel plant did not include provision for any expenditure for the supply of water (at the plant boundary). Therefore, the Department of Steel had informed the Government of Andhra Pradesh that it would not be possible for the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant Project or the Department of Steel to provide any loan assistance for the project. *(Interruptions)*

12.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : Don't shout. Please don't shout. I will listen, but don't shout. I will listen properly. Don't shout. If there is anything, I will listen. If everybody speaks at the same time, nothing can be done.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY (Buxar) : This morning, a very shocking news has come from Amritsar. An ex-Member of this House and the General Secretary of AICC, Shri R.L. Bhatia was badly wounded in a shoot-out by extremists. Every day important persons are being killed in Punjab. The Home Minister is here, fortunately present in the House. *(Interruptions)* He should make a statement. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I appreciate the anxiety of the House. I appreciate it. I know it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Prof. Tewary's concern should be taken note of. The citizens' lives have become unsafe. The Home Minister must give an assurance that all possible steps will be taken to ensure the safety of the citizens. He is an ex-Member of Parliament who was a colleague of ours in the Lok Sabha and we must ensure...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen. You must understand certain things. When I give an assurance that I will listen to you, why should you do like this? This is a very important thing.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : There is growing extremism there.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : The Home Minister should make a statement...

MR. SPEAKER : One thing I must say : It is not a question of statement, it is a question of action. What I mean is that the life even of an ordinary citizen is important. Life is given once. If it is lost, it cannot be revived. So simple it is, that we have to take care of it. The Home Minister is here. He will realize the gravity and the importance of all this. I think he will take necessary steps.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why don't you let me finish? Why are you getting agitated about unnecessarily, when I am there to espouse your cause here? I am saying that it is very important that the Minister takes care of these people who go about with unlicensed arms. How long are you going to allow these people to do like this? What is going to happen? You have to take stringent steps.

It is upto the Minister to take the House into confidence on Monday. If he has got the information today, he can give it. I have asked him. He has not got the latest information with him. Mr. Bhatia is in the hospital. I do not know what his condition is. We can only pray for his recovery, and our sympathies are with him. But until and unless the Minister takes care,—these people who carry illicit arms do not have any moral force, they are immoral people, whosoever they are.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : If you allow people to carry arms, there will be no safety.

MR. SPEAKER : Why can't you do something about it?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Yes; let us do something about it. Whether they are licit or illicit arms, in Japan it is prohibited carrying of arms. If any arms are carried, life will be unsafe.

MR. SPEAKER : The whole House must take cognisance of this issue. I charge this whole House with this responsibility, to take care of this matter.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, I now wish to bring to your notice a matter about which all the Members of this Parliament will be concerned. It is a question of dignity of Members of Parliament. I have myself checked it. It concerns two sitting Members of Parliament. Officials mainly belonging to the Directorate of Estates went to their house in 220 Vithal-bhai Patel House ; and when they were taking food, actually the food utensils were thrown away. Their entire luggage was brought. He said, I am an M.P. The officers had the temerity to say, we have seen so many M.Ps. It does not matter even if you are an M.P. Today, it is a member of the opposition ; tomorrow, it can be a member of the ruling party. We stand on the dignity of the Members of Parliament and therefore I want you to take a serious note of that. Though I had given an adjournment motion, at least his privilege motion should be admitted.

MR. SPEAKER : I will look into it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He is a member who had suffered at the hands of the officers. Lift to myself, I would have offered physical resistance to the officers. He did not do it. He should be allowed to have the privilege motion. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have to safeguard the honour of my colleagues, my members ; they are very honourable people ; and yesterday I looked into the whole matter and did whatever I could yesterday itself. Whatever way you like me to do I will do it that way also. We have got also responsibility on our shoulders. I think I will speak to you in private also and discuss it ; and then we shall take whatever steps you suggest. I am in your hands ; I told you I will go along with you, whatever the House says.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, no, not like this. I will never allow this thing like that.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : It is a question of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER : Right. Even privilege has to be established before a matter of privilege could be raised. No. I have the

highest regard for all this ; I also hold the highest regard for my rules and regulations and I will do it whenever I am satisfied.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Nobody challenges your rules. It is the method which is being adopted....

MR. SPEAKER : I will do it, when I am satisfied.

DR. A. K. PATEL : Under rule 388, I have given a notice. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will see *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK : rose.

MR. SPEAKER : I think you are a new member. I will look into it and I will talk with you and then I will let you know. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have not rejected it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I have requested about his privilege motion. When there is a *prima facie* case let the concerned member who is an affected party be allowed to say something.

MR. SPEAKER : I will let you know when I will talk with you. If anything has happened, then I will allow everything ; even and I shall allow it to be sent to the Privilege Committee.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Well, you keep his privilege motion under consideration.

MR. SPEAKER : That is what I have said ; I have not rejected it.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : He may be allowed to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : Not today. You are an old member. I never do it like this. Did I ever allow this thing ? Am I going to part with precedents ? Not allowed.

*(Interruptions)***

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK : Yesterday. *(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed you. You are unnecessarily spoiling our case. That is what I said, our case. Please sit down. *(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER : I shall look into it. Don't worry about it.

DR. A.K. PATEL : I want to say something about Ahmedabad police atrocities.

MR. SPEAKER : No. I will find out. I cannot do it like this. I cannot take cognizance of it like this.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Detailed Demands for Grants of Department of Posts and of the Department of Telecommunication for the year 1985-86

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

Statements showing the action taken by Government on various Assurances and Undertakings etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : I beg to lay on the Table the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing the action taken by the Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Lok Sabha :

- (1) Statement No. XX—Eighth Session, 1982.
[Placed in Library. see No. LT-737/85].
- (2) Statement No. XV—Ninth Session, 1982.
[Placed in Library. see No. LT-738/85]
- (3) Statement No. XV—Tenth Session, 1982.
[Placed in Library. see No. LT-739/85]
- (4) Statement No. XIV—Eleventh Session, 1982.
[Placed in Library. see No. LT-740/85]
- (5) Statement No. X—Twelfth Session, 1983.
[Placed in Library. see No. LT-741/85]
- (6) Statement VIII—Thirteenth Session, 1983
[Placed in Library. see No. LT-742/85]
- (7) Statement No. VII—Fourteenth Session, 1984.
[Placed in Library. see No. LT-743/85]
- (8) Statement No. III—Fifteenth Session, 1984.
[Placed in Library. see No. LT-744/85]
- (9) Statement No. II—First Session, 1985.
[Placed in Library. see No. LT-745/85]

Seventh
Lok
Sabha

Eighth
Lok
Sabha.

Annual Report and Review on the working of the Rubber Board, Kottayam (Kerala) for the year 1983-84; Statements showing the reason for delay in laying the papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rubber Board, Kottayam, (Kerala) for the year 1983-84.

MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : On behalf of Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of Posts for the year 1985-86. [Placed in Library. see No. LT-735/85]

- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) for expenditure of the Central Government on Department of Telecommunications for the year 1985-86 along with Appendix. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-736/85].

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of Rubber Board, Kottayam (Kerala) for the year 1983-84.
- (2) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Rubber Board, Kottayam (Kerala) for the year 1983-84 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (3) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing the reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) and (2) above. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 746/85].

12.08 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

- (i) **Famine conditions in Maharashtra and need to take relief measures for farmers.**

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Chimur): There has been famine in Maharashtra continuously for the last four years with the result that the farmers there have been facing starvation. Not only are they not being provided assistance by the Government, they are also being forced to repay their loans. The amount of the loans along with interest thereon has increased fourfold. Money is being collected from them in the name of Survey Tax, E.G.S. Tax, Irrigation Tax etc.

The condition of the farmers has become so miserable that they are not in a position to buy seeds even. I, therefore, request the Government to direct the Maharashtra Government to postpone immediately all recoveries. The Central Government should make available seeds and fertilisers to the farmers for sowing purposes and the loans of the banks and other financial institutes in their names should either be written off or at least the entire amount of interest should be waived and recovery of the loans stopped forthwith. At the same time reconstruction of small ponds should also be started promptly under the Employment Guarantee Programme.

- (ii) **Need to establish industries in Khagaria (Bihar) for its development**

DR. C.S. VERMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Khagaria is an underdeveloped district of Bihar. There is total lack of industries there. Irrigation facilities are also not adequate. The raw material available in that area too has not been exploited fully and industries based on those materials are also not being set up there. One of the reasons for the backwardness of Khagaria is that the Master Plan has not been enforced there. I, therefore, appeal to the Government that the Master Plan should be enforced there and industries should be set up for its development. The Central Government can develop the area by bringing Khagaria Parliamentary Constituency under its Plan. Otherwise this area will remain underdeveloped.

[English]

- (iii) **Need to direct the Government of Rajasthan to help farmers whose crops were damaged by hailstorms**

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : There have been widespread hail storms in the State of Rajasthan in the last week of March and the first week of April, 1985. Hail storms had caused hundred per cent to 75 per cent damage to the crops of farmers of districts of Alwar, Bhartpur, Sikar, Jhunjhunu and some other districts also. Farmers invested huge money in purchase of hybrid seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and diesel oil for their agricultural operations. Farmers whose irrigation wells are electrified have to pay the electricity charges now. Farmers who had taken on loan, diesel-engine pump-sets, or electric motors from the Land Development Banks or other Commercial Banks have to pay instalments of loan. Village Co-operative Societies' dues are also to be paid by them in the instant month or next month.

But total devastation of crops by hailstorms has rendered the farmers penniless.

Provisions of existing famine Code not provide for financial assistance or compensation for damages unless the damages to crops had exceeded more than fifty per cent of the total area of crops sown in a particular Revenue Village. There is no provision in the Famine Code to compensate a farmer on the basis of damages to his crops grown over individual holdings.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to amend the Famine Code and also to send a study team immediately to assess the damages caused by hail-storms. I also request the Government of India to direct the Government of Rajasthan to pay compensation immediately to the farmers of the State whose crops had been damaged by hail-storms and to suspend recovery of all sorts of loans either of co-operative societies and Cooperative Land Development Banks or of Commercial Banks.

[Translation]

- (iv) Need to start works under NREP in Bundelkhand (Madhya Pradesh) to provide jobs to people

SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI CHATURVEDI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the crops in Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur, Panna districts of Bundelkhand Division have almost been damaged due to failure of rains. In these districts there are no other sources of irrigation also. People there live in abject poverty. There are no other means of livelihood. If relief works are not started immediately on a large scale under NREP in those areas, the poor people will become victims of unemployment and starvation.

I, therefore, urge Government that in order to start maximum relief works in those areas, they should provide more and more money to the State Government so that the people may be provided with livelihood and food.

[English]

- (v) Menace created by the tigers around the Sunderbans Tiger Project in West Bengal and need to take measures to save people and cattle.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) : The Sunderbans Tiger Project in West Bengal is quite a laudable venture and a great tourist attraction. But presently the rise in the tiger population in the area has posed a great threat and menace not only to the human beings but also to the cattle going astray. This area mostly lies in my constituency. Recently, there have been some fatal incidents where not only cattle grazing in the jungle but also a number of villagers have fallen victim to the ferocity of the tigers. A stage has come when the people are mortally afraid to go into the forest either to bring back forest

produce or fish from the streams flowing there or take their cattle for grazing. This has also spread some sort of terror in the minds of the village folk surrounding the forest reserve. It is high time that Government took some positive steps to resettle the villagers living on the periphery of the forest or alternatively provide some warning system and position some forest guards to protect the people living in close proximity of the forest reserve.

[Translation]

- (vi) Famine conditions in hill areas of Uttar Pradesh and need for relief measures.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the hill areas of U.P., acute famine conditions have arisen. In the areas which depend on rains for agriculture, the foodgrains production is already less than the requirement but with continuous drought for two years, the situation has become grave, Rabi crop has been only 15%. The prospects of Kharif crops are almost nil. Even fodder is not available. The drinking water resources are getting dry. I, therefore, urge Government that :

1. the quantity of wheat and rice being sold per unit through fair price shops in this area should be doubled ;
2. Work-days under the NREP and RLGP should be increased to the maximum possible extent ;
3. the afforestation programme in this area should be enforced as a crash programme ;
4. these areas should be declared as famine affected areas and large scale relief works should be started here ;
5. the Central Government and the State Government should provide special grants for the supply of drinking water ; and
6. the recovery of loans from the people should be postponed.

- (vii) Need to open a Postal Division in Orissa

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTHAIK (Kalahandi) : * Kalahandi district in Orissa

*The Speech was originally delivered in Oriya.

has remained backward in some fields and more particularly in telecommunication sector. There are many villages in this district without branch post offices. Similarly the work load has increased in many branch and sub post offices. It is very necessary to upgrade those post offices. But it is a matter of great regret that no step has been taken for the upgradation of those post offices.

The reasons are not far to seek. It is all happening due to the absence of postal division in Kalahandi. Postal divisions have been set up in all districts in the State of Orissa except Kalahandi. The people of this district are very much agitated over the inordinate delay in opening postal division.

Kalahandi is rich in minerals and forest wealth. There are many cultural and educational institutions in this district. If the existing post and telecommunication system is not improved, the people of the district will continue to suffer.

In view of this I demand that a postal division should be opened for Kalahandi district without any further delay.

[English]

(viii) Acute shortage of power in Uttar Pradesh particularly Shahjahanpur and need to divert power from other States.

SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA (Shahjahanpur) : I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the acute shortage of power in the State of Uttar Pradesh and particularly in the District of Shahjahanpur, U.P. which is getting electricity for not more than six to eight hours a day.

Due to shortage of power lakhs of tons of potato being damaged in cold storages. There is acute scarcity of drinking water in urban areas. Harvesting operations of wheat are being hampered and irrigation of standing crops is not being done. Crime rate has increased and industries are facing permanent closure.

I demand that immediate steps be taken by the Central Government to divert power from other States without delay so that the situation faced by the entire State and particularly Shahjahanpur district is avoided.

12.20 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL) 1985-86 [Contd.]

[English]

(i) Ministry of Industry and Company Affairs—Contd.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Howrah) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the new industrial policy, after 1980, we are expecting very shortly now, and before the industrial policy is formulated, I will make certain suggestions for the consideration of the hon. Minister.

This is the year of centenary of Indian National Congress and I hope the Government will take it seriously to see that the dreams of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru for a modern India, and a self-reliant economy, which was the dream of Indira Ji and which is now being pursued by the present leader Rajiv Ji, are taken into account to see that in the new industrial policy which is being formulated, major emphasis will be given on public sector. I am sorry to mention it because there is a talk going on in the press for the last two and a half months that possibly we have suddenly become a little apathetic towards the growth of the Public sector and that we are thinking of laying much more emphasis on private sector. Well, I am not opposed to the idea of encouraging the private sector for rapid industrial growth and productivity, but not at the cost of expansion and growth of the public sector. I have also to mention here that a tendency has developed over the last few years to discourage all kinds of nationalisation, to discourage all kinds of take-overs, to discourage all kinds of management control by the Government. After all, what is the private sector ? The private sector in India is no more a private sector in its true sense of private capital, as you find in any European or Western part of the world, the private sector concept in India is the concept of the public sector in the sense that the money that you put into the private sector units, is largely from the public financial institutions and the banks. The only thing is that the managerial efficiency and the control do not lie on the Government, they lie on the private people. So, I do not understand giving more emphasis on private sector by putting more of the people's money without having

[Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munshi]

the Government control there, and thereby discouraging the nationalisation and take-over. How does it help us to reach our goal of a just society, if not a socialist society? I, therefore request the hon. Minister not to get tempted or be carried away with the idea that mere nationalisation will not help the country. On the contrary, I can say that if the financial control and administration is very efficient and the perks and other benefits which are provided in private sector, are provided in the public sector undertakings also, I am confident that we will yield much more result as compared to the private sector. The private sector is yielding all the results at the cost of the public sector. The actual benefits of the key industries in the public sector where the Government is keen to see results, go to the private sector which does not invest its own capital but get the money from the public financial institutions and deprive the public sector of that benefit. Therefore, I will request that while the Government formulates the national industrial policy, it should at least see that in the centenary year of Congress, the major emphasis is given on the public sector, thereby ensuring the people that we are not deviating from our path and from the commitments of late Pandit Nehru and Indira Ji.

I will deal with only one aspect in this debate and that is about the sick industries. For the last one month I have been reading in the newspapers that somehow the Ministry is thinking of saying good-bye to the sick units. Why? Who made the units sick? What is the responsibility of the Government? I can tell you that it is not just because of political reasons that the State of West Bengal has been adversely affected by sick units. I may have my differences with the West Bengal government led by CPI (M), I may have quarrels with them, I may make responsible for many other things, but I want to tell you one thing for which the Government of India cannot shirk its responsibility, and that is that the crime that West Bengal has committed is that it was never parochial, it never talked of caste, it never talked of communal passions, it never talked of regional passions. I can substantiate with all the documents that during last ten years, there have been many parts of India which started regional movements, which started communal

campaigns, which started linguistic and chauvinistic movements, and then out of those movements, in compromise with the Government, they got number of industries. Is it the way that you are going to solve the problems? What happened in Assam? What is happening in Punjab. We are trying to compensate the problems not only politically but also economically, by making much more announcements in railways and other sectors. What I am trying to emphasise is that it is West Bengal whose economy once gave life to the entire nation's wealth, right from the days of the national struggle, and it is because of that that the East India Company went there to rob and plunder the whole wealth. But what is happening now? After the partition of India the textile units started winding up from that part of the country because of many problems. The key industries could not stand because of lack of financial support.

Mr. Minister, if you kindly read out the figures in your reply, it will be obviously found that the investment that the Industrial Credit Corporation of India made in Western India, North India in comparison to the East India is much more. I can substantiate that it is low in East India, because West Bengal does not believe in parochialism, chauvinism and communalism. That is why you are not showing much interest to solve their problems. Had it been the case of any other part of India, you would have faced a severe rocking situation in the country. But it does not mean that we will be facing the penalties year after year. Investment by the IDBI, investment by the ICICI is marginal so far as Bengal is concerned and in totality it is the lowest in Eastern India. This is not helping you to achieve national unity, which is our desired goal. You have to look into this aspect and do not blame every time this thing and that thing. Therefore, my request to you is to take care of the investment programme of these institutions so far as Bengal is concerned.

I am grateful to Indiraji that when in 1971 West Bengal went into great turmoil, it was Indiraji who went to West Bengal. She had seen serious situations of the industrial employees and the people suffering there. She instituted an institution called the IRCI known as the Industria

Reconstruction Corporation of India and now known as the IRBI. Sir, I was shocked to know last month when I met them. They say that they have changed their policy to monitor any unit any more. They will give the money and that is all. They will not monitor. How can they avoid this responsibility? This is not the reason for which the IRCI was made. This is not the reason for which the IRBI was made. This is absolutely nonsense. I can cite you one instance. I represent Howrah constituency, which is the largest industrial city and most skilled labour are available there. In that constituency there are a number of Government units also. I will come to them later. There the IRCI financed units which are making profits. When they start making profits, IRCI winds up its show. I give you one instance of Indian Machinery. It was founded by the great industrialist called Lala Mohan Das. Indian Machinery was financed by the IRCI. It competed with Avery India and produced and manufactured good number of machines and showed profits last year and competed with all the private sector. And when I told them, now that it has earned profit and a good establishment is there, why don't you go and back them up, they have started withdrawing from the scene. Is it the way to help the industries? Is it the policy of the Government? So, I would request you to compel the IRBI once again that wherever they put money, they should also see that the financial control is also provided by them. Besides technical assistance should also be provided by the IRCI to manage the whole unit. Otherwise it is no use just to give money to the private management, who will take the whole money, siphon the whole amount and thereby make the unit sick. This is what is happening in West Bengal. One after another banks have come forward, Public financial institutions have come forward providing money to the old management, who are just trying to take the money home back and make the units sick. This is not fair. Therefore, I have got three suggestions to offer to the hon. Minister. First you kindly appoint a committee immediately involving the representatives of the Finance Ministry, Commerce Ministry, Ministry of Supplies, because DGS&D is the most important wing so far as the sale of the

small-scale industries' product is concerned and have a coordination bureau to examine the establishments of all the closed and sick units of Bengal. And then take decisions like this: First, the units which you find viable, provide them with resource and assistance with the new management provided that the technical and financial authority is from the Bank or the public financial institutions and not with the old management. As our Prime Minister and the Finance Minister have said bad management is like bad currency and we should throw them out. Do it appropriately as far as the sick units are concerned. Secondly the units which you find are not exactly viable and they produce out-dated products, kindly see whether some diversified arrangement through modernisation can be made to make them viable. If you do not do it, I am telling you in this House, I am afraid Bengal will witness the same serious turmoil with violence which it had witnessed during 1961 and 1971 risking the life of a number of people through the so-called Naxalite movement after the frustration of the young people. You should not have the tendency to treat them as if such a movement has been destroyed and is over. If you do not look into these problems you will provide them another opportunity to create turmoil and the same kind of thing can be repeated once again. So, kindly see from above the barrier of political party and politics and take care of this problem seriously.

In my constituency there are prestigious engineering units called Hooghli Dock Engineering and Port Engineering. They have shown results. I visited last week my constituency and had been to those units. The Executive Directors appointed there will retire after three to four months and are not taking interest in the expansion of these units. I will request the hon. Minister to visit these units after the session and see what is actually happening there with the help of the bureaucracy. I am sorry to mention that some Members of the bureaucracy in the Ministry of Industries have their own personal interest and gains. I do not like to mention their names. They are tagged with some officials and Chairmen of some bodies in Bengal and are working

[Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsi]

for their personal gains. I can substantiate, if necessary, if the Minister wants confidentially, how nefarious these deals are being struck so far as the Tyre Corporation of India is concerned, so far as Andrew Yule is concerned, so far as India Paper Pulp is concerned. Wide-scale fissiparous tendencies are there, a gang of people are there just to loot the money of the Government of India and to make these units sick. A number of people are visiting the countries of the world in the name of industrial tours just to make their personal gains. This is happening. You kindly take care of these units. I also request that you do take initiative to nationalise India Machinery which are showing some profits with the help of IRBI.

Sir, about the Burn Standard company, in your Report of the Heavy Engineering you have said, this unit is very good, but it depends on wagon supply of the Railway. Now the Railway is not giving you wagons. This unit is going to die. How can you help this unit? So, I would request the hon. Minister once again without referring to any other aspects: Please do save Bengal from the industrial crisis, please do have a Committee to examine the sick units programme, please do see that the public financial institutions change their habit and the policy and they make a total departure from the past to take up the comprehensive issues of the sick industries and to appoint the financial monitor as well as the administrator.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will only refer to one issue and then conclude within a minute.

In respect of textile industry a kind of importance is given by the Government of India. But So far as Jute and Tea industry is concerned, I am sorry to say—don't misunderstand me as parochial—you don't give that much importance as you give for sugar and textiles. Why is it so? Why time and again 13 dying units of the textile industry in Bombay are taken over and 14 units of sugar are given incentive and jute, tea and engineering units in Bengal are deprived of such treatment? If you go on doing it, the

political parties will defend the country for integration, but don't rule it out that forces are working with the help and machination of other fissiparous forces around North Eastern India, they may inject their bad blood in Bengal. So, time is there. Kindly save it, and also make an inquiry in one textile unit, the Reliance Textiles. They have established collaborations outside and are trying to take advantage of the Government, and I demand a positive inquiry into the licence they have obtained which they are using for their expansion programme of collaboration with outside countries so far as Reliance Textiles is concerned, mostly are fake names.

With these words I conclude and I request the hon. Minister, if not request, I beg of him : Kindly you yourself visit Bengal and sit with the Government of West Bengal, with other trade unions and the M.Ps. of this House who are from Bengal and see how you can save the industrial climate of West Bengal and specially the sick units of Bengal.

[Translation]

*SHRI P. APPALANARASIMHAM (Anakapalli) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are discussing Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Industry and Company Affairs. I want to say a few words about the Industries.

Sir, industry is next only to agriculture. So the development of industries in the country is highly essential. Unfortunately, there are many states in the country which have not witnessed industrial progress. That is one reason why we are so much backward economically as compared to the industrialised nations of the West. Prosperity of any nation is dependent on the industries it has.

The major industries, medium industries and minor industries—all are important in their own way and hence all the steps must be taken to develop these industries in the country.

One of the burning problems of the country is that of unemployment. This problem can be solved to a great extent by going for a massive industrialisation programme. Industrial estates must be established

throughout the country. It must be the endeavour of the government to see that at least hundred major industries are established in the States and that every village in the country will have atleast one small scale industry. There will be uniform development of the country by doing so.

Sir, there are many persons in Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh who were issued licences to start new industries. But these persons are not getting any assistance from the financial institutions. So the Government must see to it that the persons who have already been given licences are extended financial assistance simultaneously. Also, Sir, there are many persons who have applied for licences to start new industries. To encourage such persons, the required licences should be issued without any more delay. I feel these steps are very much essential for rapid industrialisation of the country.

Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards one important problem. At present, more land than what is required by Public Sector industry is being acquired by the Government. What is the necessity for the Government to acquire more land than actually required for the industry? Many persons are being deprived of their land for no reason. It should not happen. Hence I request the Government not to acquire even an inch more of land than required for setting up industries.

Sir, K.D. Peta which is in Vizag district of Andhra Pradesh, is most suitable for the establishment of Alumina Factory. Raw material required for this industries is abundantly available in this area. Experts' Report on this Plant also favoured K.D. Peta for the establishment of Alumina Plant. But so far nothing has materialised. I request that steps be taken immediately to establish Alumina Plant at K.D. Peta.

I take this opportunity to plead for the establishment of Coach Factory at Kazipet in our State, which is the most suitable location for this purpose.

Sir, barring Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, all the States in the country are backward. Rapid and uniform industrialisation of all these States is very much

necessary if the country is to become economically sound. Our beloved leader Shri N.T. Rama Rao toured United States last year in order to encourage the Indians especially Telugu people to come forward and contribute for the industrialisation of the land of their origin. Needless to say, the response from them was overwhelming. So also, at the Central level, the Government must take steps to encourage the Indians settled abroad to set-up industries here. It will also go a long way in rapid industrialisation of the country.

Sir, I conclude by thanking you for giving me this opportunity.

[English]

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW (Dum Dum) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Industry and Company Affairs is the most important thing. In the Eastern region, most industries, particularly a large number of heavy industries and a large number of small scale industries are either sick or becoming sick. I request the hon. Minister that more allocation should be made, more grants should be made to the sick industries. The burning question today in Eastern India is what is to be done with all these sick and closed units. The situation has worsened to such an extent that within a few months more industries will be closed due to sickness unless proper financial assistance is given to those industries.

Sir, in West Bengal, particularly from the constituency wherefrom I have come, Dum Dum, is known as the most important industrial belt in West Bengal. About 3,000 small or medium-size industries are closed or sick or becoming sick. Heavy industries which are situated in the industrial belt of West Bengal, particularly in my constituency, are either sick or are not functioning well.

I can give you an example of one of the most important and renowned industry that is Jessops & Co. In this Company previously, the total working strength was 12,000. It has now been reduced to 9,000. Whereas the managerial posts have gone up from 600 to 1200, the workers' strength has gone down from 8,000 to 6,000. The policy that we are

[Shri Asutosh Law]

adopting today, to streamline the industry and to save the sick industry, requires that more allocation should be made.

Now when we are discussing the Grant of the Ministry of Industry, one has to take a pragmatic view. If we find that all those sick industries or closed industries cannot be revived through the help of financial institutions or through the help of Government, the private sector should be given more incentives and some allocation of money should be made in the Grant so that the private sector can come forward to take up those sick industries. If they find that any of those sick industries which are sick can be made viable, they can take up those sick industries or they can amalgamate them with their profit-making industries if possible. But obviously no private sector will come forward to take up any sick industry unless and until a proper allocation is made so that some incentives either financial or help through financial institutions or by the Government is given to the private sector.

One more thing that the hon. Minister should consider is the re-education of the industrial worker. In case a company or a factory is closed or it is closed for some time, then a scheme should be formulated for the skilled labour to give them education which I am defining as re-education so that, if necessary, during the period of closure or during the period of lay-off, the workers may be trained in some other field or industry and, if possible, they could be absorbed there. That will minimise the burden of labour; that will minimise the misery of the workers. You will appreciate that if a factory or some small industry or a big industry is closed for years together, what the misery of the workers how many people suffer and what is the position of their families. Therefore, I request the Minister concerned to consider to allocate some money so that in case of closure of a company, the workers can be re-educated and the cost of re-education could be provided by the Government as also by the employer so that, in future, these workers will not suffer if a company is closed.

Another suggestion that I want to make is that in order to revive the industrial atmosphere and to revive the sick and

closed units—particularly, I am referring to the eastern region of the country—some drastic change in company law or corporate law is also necessary. Although it is out of place, I feel it necessary to suggest that there is a need for an amendment in the Company law. Without amending the Company law, we will not be in a position to save sick industries or closed industries.

We find that in the present Budget sufficient incentives have been given to the corporate sector, But we cannot presume that these people are good boys and they will plough back money, if they make profit. Taking advantage of this Budget, whatever profit they will make, it cannot be presumed that they will plough back this money. Some restriction has to be put so that these industrialists when they make profit cannot take away the money from the company. They will have to plough back this money towards the benefit of the country and the further development of the industry.

It is most important that in order to revive the sick industries and the closed units, a High Power Committee should be appointed by the Government with a time-bound programme. Merely appointing a Committee will not do. This Committee should go deep to see what are the reasons and problems. This Committee must come up with the report within a time-schedule and the report should be submitted so that in future we will be in a position to know what are the reasons for so many small-scale industries to be closed in the Eastern region.

Another important point that I would like to mention is that the erratic policy of the banks is creating trouble in the industrial field. If the hon. Minister kindly considers this position and looks at the reports of the various companies and industries, he will find that due to the erratic policy of the banks, most of the small units and some of the big industries are either becoming sick or closed. The banks and the financial institutions should also consider whether the accrued interest on the loan taken by the sick industries can be written off. This would help the industries in our country, particularly in the Eastern region.

The Eastern region particularly West

Bangal, is backward in industrial growth. If we cannot save West Bengal and the Eastern region, the impact will ultimately come to the entire industrial policy of the country. Therefore, more allocation of funds should be made to the Eastern region for the development of industries. If it is found that the sick industries should be given more financial assistance, it should be given.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN (Cooch Behar) : Sir, India's economy is based on mixed economy and our industrial policy is also based on that economy. At least on paper and also in its pronouncements, the Government has said so long that the public sector is the core of India's industrial development though in practice it is helping the multinationals and the FERA Group. It has now come twice openly to help the multi-nationals and the FERA Group. There is no hide and seek policy in this regard.

On 15th April, 1985 at the Round Table Discussion organised by the European Marketing Federation Foundation (EMF) the hon. Prime Minister openly invited the foreign industrialists to India foreign inflow to India. It is now crystal clear that India's industrial policy has divorced the public sector and is in favour of the multi-nationals and the FERA Group. The industrial lobby of USA, France, Italy and Japan are very much happy with the new industrial policy of India. Through you, Sir, I would like the hon. Minister to take note of what the Wall Street journal has stated; the journal is so happy that it has labelled India's industrial policy as 'Rajiv Reagan industrial policy'. I think, it is a correct label that has been given by the Wall Street journal; it has given correct Ag Mark, Right label.

Now let me come to non-industry districts. I come from a no-industry districts—Cooch Behar. There is a policy regarding no-industry districts. In this connection I would like to draw the attention of the House to what the hon. Minister has stated in reply to Qn. No. 363 dated the 9th April; he has stated that in this country there are 90 no-industry districts. And if you go through the list minutely, you will find that 37 districts are in the backward areas of north Bihar,

north Bengal, Sikkim and the north-eastern region, i.e., Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura. Since 1956 they have been announcing that it is their motto, it is their aim, to set up industries in backward areas, in no-industry districts, to remove regional imbalances. But you cannot deny that the eastern region, particularly the north-eastern region, is the most neglected area in this respect. If you go through the figures, they will find that, in 1979-80, there were 102 no-industry districts and in 1985-86 there are 90 no-industry districts. Certainly, it is not a good or rosy picture. In the last six years, only 12 no-industry districts have been turned into industry districts. There are still 90 no-industry districts. How long will it take to turn them into industry districts? At the rate of two per year, which is the present rate, it will take 45 years. So, by 2030 there will be no no-industry districts of course, if no new no-industry districts come up in the meantime. This is your efficiency. You have been promising in this august House since 1980 that you will make all no-industry districts into industry districts, but you have failed in this respect. It is clear that you have no intention of making the no-industry districts into industry districts in the backward areas.

Now let me come to another point, namely, sick industries. It is a fact that West Bengal is on the top of industrial sickness. What is the reason for it? As my friend, Mr. Priya Ranjan Das Munsi has stated, it started since 1950 when you made freight equalisation in respect of coal and steel. You will be astonished to know that till now coal and steel prices in West Bengal and particularly in my constituency of Cooch Behar or in Darjeeling in North Bengal are higher than the prices in Punjab. Coal producing area is in West Bengal. Steel producing area is in West Bengal. But they will have to pay much more than the people at the other end. Whether it is Punjab or Rajasthan, they pay less. That is the main reason. From that day in 1950 when freight equalisation was made, we are suffering. The main sufferer of all this is the jute industry and it is already stated in this august House that at present 15 jute mills are closed. Besides these 3 are permanently closed. What is the reason for this? The main

[Shri Amar Roypradhan]

reasons, as I have studied, are: shifting of the funds of jute mills to some other industries which the owner consider to be more profitable, the management of the jute industry has all along shown an apathy towards modernisation. Then, another reason is that the economics of the jute industry has resulted in deprivation of the jute-growers of remunerative price for their raw jute. One other reason is that the management's policy all along is marked by exploitation of the jute workers. These are the main reasons. So, the Government of West Bengal wants and they have again appealed to the Central Government that the jute mills should be nationalised. The West Bengal Assembly passed a unanimous resolution. It is not a question of Forward Bloc, CPI (M) or RSP or CPI. Even your Congress people there supported this resolution. It is a unanimous resolution—let there be an Act to nationalise all the jute mills. Why don't you pay heed to it? Why don't you care for it? I know where the shoe pinches. You are hobnobbing with the Birlas. You are hobnobbing with the Bajorias. You are hobnobbing with the Goenkas. So you do not want it.....(Interruptions) The West Bengal Government is in favour of nationalisation.

You should know, Sir how much we are suffering in the matter of industrial growth. You will be astonished to know. The West Bengal Government asked for Haldia Petrochemical Complex costing about Rs. 800 crores on the basis of 40-40-20 ratio, but you said 'No'. But you say 'Yes' to Maharashtra Government when they came to you for a petro-chemical complex costing about Rs. 1200 crores. You said 'Yes' to UP. When we ask for a ship-repairing yard at Haldia, you say 'No'. When we ask for electronics industry in Salt Lake, Calcutta, you say 'No' because Calcutta is on the border of foreign countries! But you say 'Yes' to Haryana and Punjab and you say 'Yes' to UP. Are these areas away from the border? That is the main thing. You want to deprive West Bengal in every way. When we ask for a cement industry and a paper mill in North Bengal you say 'No'. How can I support this Budget when they say 'No', 'No', 'No' and always a 'No' not only to West Bengal but to the whole of

the Eastern Region? I can say 'Yes' only when you sanction a petro-chemical complex for Haldia, a ship-repair yard at Haldia, an electronic industry in Salt Lake and a cement plant and a paper mill in North Bengal. Then I can assure you that I will support your budget but not now.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH (Jaunpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful that you have given me an opportunity to speak on the demands for grants of the Ministry of Industries. I support and welcome the demands presented by the hon. Minister of Industries.

Sir, in 1962, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru had constituted a committee under the chairmanship of the then Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Shri B. R. Patel, to find out the extent of poverty in four very poor districts, i. e., Jaunpur, Ghazipur, Azamgarh and Deoria.

In 1964, the Patel Committee had submitted its report in which it was stated that heavy industries should be set up there to give employment to more and more people. The Committee had also recommended the setting up of textile mills, fertiliser plants and heavy engineering plants in these districts. The Patel Committee had stated that the private sector would not set up industries in these backward districts, and as such even if losses had to be borne, industries should be set up there (by the public sector.) But it is a matter of regret that so far no plant has been set up there. Just as a sub-committee of the Union Cabinet has been constituted for the development of the North Eastern States and Kashmir, a sub-committee of the Union Cabinet should be constituted for the development of Eastern U. P. also. The backwardness of these districts can be imagined from the fact that the educated unemployed persons of these districts can be seen in search of livelihood in any corner of the country.

As per my information, there is a scheme to set up a cable factory in district Jaunpur. After survey, land has also been acquired in Mugra Badshahpur but no mention of it has been made in the Budget. No mention has been made as to when it will start and what its cost will be.

The responsibility for implementation of the points Nos. 18 and 20 of the 20-Point Programme is that of the Industrial Development Department. It is true that the Central Government want to encourage the setting up of industries.

I want to congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi that he has paid attention to the development of backward areas and has stressed the need to set up industries in those areas where there are neither small-scale nor large-scale industries. You have also announced the best entrepreneur award every year to give incentive to the small-scale industries. I suggest that the self employment scheme, which was started by our late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi should be continued so that we are able to give more and more relief to the educated unemployed, rural artisans, women and handicapped persons.

We are sorry that due to lack of coordination between the Industries Department and the banks, the self employment scheme is not proving as useful as was envisaged by Shrimati Indira Gandhi. I also suggest that the local people should be given preference in the matter of jobs so that their unemployment problem is solved.

The goods manufactured by us are not of good quality. It is the responsibility of the officials of the Industries Department to ensure, in the interest of the country, the production of such high quality goods as may have great demand in the market and thereby satisfy the consumers also. I suggest that in the Seventh Five Year Plan special attention should be paid to the development of the backward areas of the different States and particularly of Eastern U. P.

Sir, Jaunpur is a 'No-industry' district. The unemployed people of the area can be seen in Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi etc. They go to far off places in search of livelihood. Sir, when I was a member of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly, I used to stress this point there also. But I know that the State Government have limited resources within which they try to do whatever is possible. I would like to submit to the Minister for Industries that some big factory may be set up there. Jaunpur is a

backward district and there is also no big factory in the adjacent districts of Ghazipur, Ballia and Azamgarh because of which poverty and unemployment problems are very acute there. I would like the hon. Minister for Industries to pay attention towards it. The hon. Minister of State is from Uttar Pradesh and he is also sitting here, whom I used to request and I request again that some big industry should be set up in district Jaunpur. We have come to know that a cable factory is proposed to be set up there. It would cost Rs. 54 crores and land has also been acquired for it. If the cable factory is set up there, people will be able to earn their livelihood.

With these words, I support the Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Industry

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, I shall try to be as brief as possible. The previous speaker has made my job a little easier.

Sir, from the Treasury Benches and Opposition, one after another, the Members from West Bengal are rising on one point, that is, the degeneration of West Bengal's industries.

The eastern region has got some very serious problems. I think the hon. Minister should take note of it. It will not do any good for them just to go on blaming this or that State Government. The West Bengal Industry has some endemic problems. Very vigorous and constructive approach from the Centre is need for really reviving the industry.

While I will not go on elaborating all these things, I shall fully support the contention made by my previous speakers Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsi and also by Mr. Amar Roy Pradhan.

I hope that the Central Government will come out with a constructive proposal for helping the sick units of West Bengal. I must take this opportunity of raising the question of the Bengal Potteries. The Government has extended the time of take over only by two months. I hope that after two months the Government will really go in for nationalisation without much ado about it, after listening to the

[Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee]

- Members both from the Treasury Benches and from the Opposition. Of course, among your Members there is differences of approach, Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsi has spoken supporting the public sector vigorously. Mr. Asutosh Law spoke in favour of private sector. It shows the situation that the ruling party is in. However, I welcome the plea made for helping the industry in West Bengal and for revival of the sick units.

I cannot just speak about West Bengal and sit down. Therefore, since my time is limited, I will place on record my protest against the new industrial policy—which is said to be in the offing, but which has virtually come into existence. Now, the direction of this new industrial policy is already very clear that newer and newer subjects are being reserved for the private sector. The public sector is really given less and less opportunity and less and less importance. As far as private sector is concerned, there is a virtual go-by given to physical control, licensing, capacity-utilisation control etc. Newer and newer avenues are being provided for the private sector and they are being given a lot of concessions.

Sir, according to the recent Budget passed in the House, the Government is allowing a very high level flow of foreign investments as also liberal import of technology and equipments. This way the Government is encouraging the private sector industries and not the public sector industries. This way the Government is encouraging the big private monopolists. Sir, in the name of helping the small scale industries, the ceiling has been raised. But in reality, this ceiling benefit is reaped by the large-scale industries owned by the private monopolies.

Another point I would like to submit is that in the name of rapid industrial development, Government has allowed a lot of concessions to the sophisticated technology like electronics, etc. But who will benefit from this concession? Again the big houses are engaged in electronic goods manufacturing industries. Moreover, the common poor people would hardly have any use of the sophisticated electronic goods. It will benefit a handful of affluent people.

Sir, now the Government has adopted a new industrial policy. But in practice the Industrial Policy enunciated by the Government earlier was for the benefit of a majority of masses and this idea has been changed in the new industrial policy. There is a new direction given in the new industrial policy so that the country can usher in the 21st century. But the Government has forgotten to take into account the conditions that would prevail vis-a-vis the common poor people in the country in the 21st century. I would therefore stress that the policy should be to see that the masses get the essential industrial goods at reasonably low prices. The policy should be to encourage the small-scale sector and also modern techniques so that a very large quantum of job opportunity is created. The policy should aim at both from the point of view of increasing economic activities and from the point of view of creating vast employment opportunities and making available sufficient quantity of consumer goods. The public sector units should involve themselves in achieving the results. The policy should be towards attaining the goal of self-reliance.

Now, in regard to finding internal resources, it should be in relation to our own situation and our own capacity to absorb. Sir, I think that the present Government has already deviated from the earlier policies and those policies have now been changed. The present policies will not do any good to the country and the poor people at large. Therefore, I oppose the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Industry and Company Affairs.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Government have given an assurance in this Parliament and outside many times that a law will be enacted to protect small-scale industries. The Board constituted for the development of the small-scale industries and many other organisations have demanded that a law be enacted to protect small-scale industries and more and more facilities and concessions be given to them. But in spite of all these demands, Government have not taken any step so far in this regard. In order to develop and protect

small-scale industries, Government had appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of late Shri A.R. Bhatt, who was called the messiah of small scale industries. It had submitted its report 13 years ago, i.e., in 1972. But it is a matter of surprise that the said report has been lying in cold storage for the last 13 years. No steps have so far been taken to implement it. In U.S.A. and Japan, laws have been enacted to protect small-scale industries which are called small trade there, but no attention has so far been paid in this regard in our country.

Despite all these things, the small-scale industry sector is progressing on its own. It is not wrong to say that Government have not taken any action to develop it. But, according to my views, the small-scale industries have made so much progress because Government have no control over them. More than 50 per cent small-scale units do not approach the Director of Industries for securing provisional or permanent registration. What are the reasons therefor? It is true that such type of registration is optional, but the units, which get themselves registered, are provided with many facilities and concessions by Government. Why do they not take advantage of the facilities and concessions provided by Government? The reason is that they have some sort of apprehension in their mind. If they approach the Director of Industries, they will have to bear certain consequences, e.g., The employees of the Directorate adopt various methods to extract money from them. They have to go to his office many a time. They do not want to get themselves registered to escape these rigours.

Through you, Sir, I would like to submit a few things before the hon. Minister. First, the form to be filled up for provisional registration should be simplified. Even graduates and engineers are unable to fill up the existing form. How can a common man fill up that form? It is a very lengthy and complicated form. Government say that registration is done within seven days. If it is so, why do the people not come forward? What are their difficulties? They know that during that period of 7 days, they will have to visit the concerned office 10 to 12 times. Even after that the work will not be completed.

It will remain incomplete. The facilities and concessions being provided by Government are given to the units favoured by them. That is why the common man does not want registration. You can very well imagine the difficulties which will be experienced in getting permanent registration, when one has to face so many difficulties in getting even provisional registration. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister that the registration procedure should be simplified. Small-scale industries may be asked to furnish information on post-card only instead of in such a lengthy form. They may be asked to write the name of their unit, address, nature of industry and the raw material required by them, and the quantum of power needed on a post-card for getting themselves registered. Provisional registration should be made on the basis of this information. Some sort of arrangements should be made so that they may not have to make rounds of the office of the Director of Industries. The entire procedure should be reviewed and made simple. I want that all these things should be done in a single package and the work relating to registration, raw material, term loan, working capital, subsidy, sales tax registration and power should be completed in one day. The Government of Gujarat have taken steps in this regard. I would like to say that all the State Governments may be issued directives to make arrangements in such a way that all these things are done in a package so that the apprehensions in the minds of the people can be removed and they feel encouraged to get themselves registered and they do not hesitate in going to offices and meeting the officers there.

If you accept my suggestion, there will be no need to enact a new law because whenever a new law comes into force, inspectors are posted to ensure its implementation and various difficulties are experienced in this regard. Hence, there should be the minimum number of laws and whatever law is enacted, it should be for their help. But the laws for enforcing controls should be minimum in number. Government should endeavour to ensure quality production and create an awareness among the people and they may be provided with export services. Efforts should be made to bring about improvement in the

[Shri Shanti Dhariwal]

rudé behaviour of personnel in the office of the Director of Industries.

At present, a large number of small-scale units are sick and are becoming sick. If any unit of the large-scale industries becomes sick, Government take immediate action to take it over. At present crores of rupees are invested in small-scale industries. If any unit becomes sick, Government make no efforts to rehabilitate it, to help it or to provide facilities to it and it is left to its own fate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, small-scale industries do not get payments for the goods supplied by them in time. Through you, Sir, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister to issue directives to the Boards of Directors of the public sector undertakings that whenever they purchase goods from the small-scale industries, they should identify the small-scale industries in their monthly meeting to which payments are due for the goods supplied by them. If payments are due, they should not be withheld for more than one month because the small-scale units become sick and close down due to non-circulation of money. If the payments are made in time, the units would continue to operate. Hence, Boards of Directors of the public sector undertakings should be issued directives that the payments of small-scale units should not be withheld for more than one month.

Similarly, in the private sector also banks should be issued directives that if the big industries withhold payments to small-scale industries for more than a specified period, i.e., one or one and a half months, the small-scale industries may send their documents direct to the banks and payments be made to them from their (big industries) bank accounts. It should be the duty of Government to ensure timely payment.

Besides, I would like to request the hon. Minister, that the concessions given in hilly areas should be extended to desert areas also. Similarly, you have set up a Task Force Committee at district level under the self-employment scheme to which the hon. Member, who spoke before me, made a reference. It should be changed

radically. The job of selection should not be entrusted to officers, who have come from outside. They are not aware of the local conditions. In Kota district, from where I come, out of 800 to 1000 persons selected by them, many are the wives of officers and a number of persons out of them own more than 100 bighas of land. Hence, local representatives should be included in the Task Force Committee. If Government want smooth functioning of this scheme, those people should be given representation who are known to the candidate and his parents and can certify that they are poor people and they have got the capability of running their own business with a loan of Rs. 25,000.

Rajasthan is industrially very backward, I have come to know that I.C.I. has been issued the letter of intent to set up a cement factory. There are rich deposits of lime-stone in Bundi and Chittor. Broad gauge railway line is also there. Hence, I suggest that 4 to 5 cement factories may be set up there so that the local people can get employment.....(Interruptions)...

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the condition of industrial estates is very miserable. Electricity, water and roads have not been provided there by the Industries Department.....(Interruptions)**.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record now. I am going to call the next speaker. Shri Ramachandran.

[English]

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) : Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the demands for grants of the Ministry of Industry and Company Affairs.

The progress of a nation to a great extent depends on industrialisation. All the developed countries have made progress, only through rapid industrialisation.

During the British regime, no earnest effort whatsoever was made towards industrialisation of India. India, on the other hand, was used to market the products. This was practised by all colonial powers to suppress progress in their colonies.

At the time of attaining independence therefore, we had nothing by way of our own industry. Even bare necessities like wearing apparel came from Lancashire and Manchester.

Even when the freedom struggle was going on, men of eminence like Jawaharlal Nehru had dreamt of a planned society and the industrialisation of India. Although India had nothing worth the name of industry at the dawn of freedom, the progress that it has made thereafter in the field of industry evokes envy. Thanks to the foresight and far-sighted dreams of late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, when he was trying to formulate an industrial policy for India, the prophets of doom had predicted that Jawaharlal Nehru was an Utopian and criticised him tooth and nail. The adversaries of Nehru were of the opinion that India was essentially an agrarian society and its industrialisation, if at all necessary, could commence in time. However, Panditji insisted that agricultural development could be made side by side with industrial programme.

In his early talks, Panditji had often reiterated that India shattered by British imperialism was to be made to stand on its own feet and able to make tremendous strides forward only by way of industrialisation. Nehruji considered industry to be the biggest temple, mosque and gurudwara that man could build. Thus, it was Panditji who laid a solid foundation for the very growth of industry in India.

The policies put forth by late Indiraji and our present Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, are no less laudable in so far as it envisages a poverty-free India and seeks to overcome the problems of unemployment etc. while keeping in mind the progress of the nation.

I may be permitted to stress the part that can be played by the Central Government in industrial progress with special reference to Kerala. Kerala is rich in resources, rich in electricity, rich in transport facilities, rich in literacy and rich in manpower. But it lacks in capital and efficient entrepreneurs.

Kerala has got the longest coastal line which can be put to use to promote marine products and allied industries. Fishing

technology could be modernised on the lines adopted by Norway and Japan.

Cashew, coir, handloom, beedi and tiles are the main traditional industries in Kerala. Sixteen per cent of the people are employed in industry in the field of Cashew, coir and handloom. Cashew consisting of 1.26 lakhs, coir 5 lakhs, handloom and others 5 lakhs.

The standard of living of the labourers in these traditional industries, however, is in a indeplorable condition. Most of them are half starving and vigorous efforts to revive these traditional industries should be made.

One-fifth of the Indian tobacco output goes into the manufacture of beedis. But the lot of the workers in beedi factories is pathetic. In this respect, I would like to make a special mention of my district Cannanore. Here, we find that the beedi workers and their children are under-nourished and living in sub-standard conditions. Seventy per cent of the beedi workers in Kerala live in Cannanore and they are prone to disease like tuberculosis. Earnest efforts to raise their standard of living should be made. It would be of immense help if they are brought completely under the scheme of industrial cooperative without any delay.

It is also noteworthy that ninety-five per cent of the Indian rubber production is from Kerala. There is much scope for development of rubber industries in Kerala. It is pertinent to note that rubber constitutes raw material for 50,000 varieties of products.

As far the traditional handloom industry in Kerala, over four and a half lakhs of employees and their families are dependent on the same. But, the condition of the industry is very poor and it is on the brink of collapse because of want of marketing facilities, scarcity of yarn and lack of sufficient funds. The Central Government's help to revive and uplift these units is, therefore, essential. I wish to stress here that in Cannanore, Calicut and Trivandrum most of the people employed in the field are handicapped.

Kerala has made much progress in the field of Electronics. However, it is regretfully noted that no electronic indust-

[**Shri Mullappally Ramachandran**]

rial units are started in Kerala by the Central Government like BEL and Electronic Corporation of India Limited etc. I would like to stress that there is ample scope for starting a unit of Bharat Electronics Limited in Cannanore district in view of the existing Electronics complex there called KELTRON.

Then there is the matter of clay excavated in Kerala. Experts say that it is of higher quality but the same is being mostly exported. In Cannanore District the entire output is exported. This excavated clay could be put to umpteen usages ranging from potteries, household utensils, textiles, pencils and sanitary wares and cement.

The source for tapping electricity is also abundant in Kerala. Though 3,000 KW of electricity can be tapped from Kerala, unfortunately only 900 KW has been tapped so far.

In formulating the new industrial policy, Government must take into serious account industrially backward States like Kerala. Drastic measures should be adopted to industrialise my State.

Lastly, our watchword for industrial policy must be—'industrialise or perish'.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur) : As far as industrial development is concerned, rural areas have to be developed because 75 per cent of our population resides in rural areas. We have to encourage small scale industries, cottage industries and mostly agro-based industries. By encouraging agro-based industries, transport cost will be reduced and we will be taking the industries right to the doorsteps of the villages where the produce is available. It will also help in creating a lot of employment opportunities in the villages for those people both educated and uneducated.

For example in Rayalaseema, groundnut is grown in large areas. Especially in Anantapur District groundnut is available in large quantities. Unfortunately for grinding, crushing and making oil out of it, it has to be taken to one hundred miles or two hundred miles or three hundred miles far away places. It is converted there into oil in the shape of Vanaspati and some other things like cakes, biscuits or soap. Then

these are brought back to Rayalaseema and sold there. This transport cost is of no use to the ryots. So, instead of making all these things somewhere, if we are able to locate an industry in Kadiri in Anantapur District, where the crop is grown in large areas it would help. So I request you to start a big industry in public sector spending a hundred crores or even three to four hundred crores to extract oil from the groundnuts to convert it into edible oil in the shape of Vanaspati and also to make some other things like cakes and soap. In this way if you start so many industries in that area, that will help the area to develop.

Similarly in Kadiri of Anantapur District, sericulture is practised in large areas. But there are no twisting and reeling units. In Dharmavaram and Hindupur there are a large number of weavers. Dharmavaram saris and Muddireddypalli silk saris are very famous. Though the silk cocoons are available, they have to be sent to Bangalore or some other far off place to get the silk yarn. Why cannot Government think of starting a twisting and reeling unit at Kadiri? It will facilitate the weavers of Dharmavaram and Muddireddypalli a lot. So I request the hon. Minister to consider these two proposals—(i) to start a factory based on groundnut and (ii) to start one factory based on silk-worms at Kadiri in Anantapur District.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am happy that a large number of hon. members participated in the debate and made several useful and valuable suggestions. Some of the hon. Members expressed their concern over regional imbalances in the industrial development of the country. Some of them expressed grave concern over the growing industrial sickness. Some other Members gave their suggestions for starting new industries in their own constituencies and also in their States.

I need not say how important this subject, viz. Industry is. But I do not know what to say, when I find myself addressing the House which is almost empty. Anyhow, because during the course

of the debate some hon. Members, maybe for record's sake, had made certain observations and certain criticisms, as Minister in charge of Industry it becomes my duty, from the Government's side also, to explain the position, and to clarify the position. So, I want to meet most of the important points, within the time at my disposal.

To start with, I can say that as far as industrial growth and performance of the industrial sector during the 6th Plan are concerned, they have been satisfactory. I need not remind the hon. Members that in 1979-80, I think for the first time in the history of our country, the industrial growth was minus 1.4%. So, we started with minus 1.4% in the year 1980; and during the 6th Plan period, I am happy to say that the industrial growth that has been achieved, is about 6%, I need not again remind the hon. Members that although there is a lot of regional imbalances, there are areas where there are not industries and no industrial activity, we find that industrial activities are concentrated only in certain pockets. Even then, India ranks as one of the ten most industrialized countries of the world.

India ranks third in the world, in respect of scientific manpower. We may be poor people, but we are poor people of a rich country. Our country is rich in natural and human resources, and now it is for us to exploit these resources. If we exploit these resources efficiently, there is no doubt that we are going to become one of the big economic Powers of the world. To achieve this laudable object, I think we have to concentrate on more production, and production in all fields. Whatever irritants are there hampering growth, have to be removed. All possible incentives have to be given, and the entrepreneurs have to be encouraged.

I want to outline our priorities for the next few years. They are :

Optimum utilization of installed capacity ; maximising production and achievement of higher productivity through upgradation of technology, and research and development ; increased employment ; correction of regional imbalances ; strengthening of agricultural base by according preferential treatment to agro-based indus-

tries ; faster promotion of export-oriented and import substitution schemes ; prevention of concentration of economic power ; consumer protection against high prices and bad quality ; development of small scale and village industries, as they have high employment potential ; achievement of international levels of quality, reliability and competitiveness, and an overall growth rate of more than 5% per annum, with a 7% growth rate for the industrial sector.

The priority sectors identified for achieving these objectives which I outlined, are as follows :

Electronics, power equipment, industrial machinery, machine tools, petrochemicals and oil exploration. Existing core sectors such as cement, coal and telecommunications are proposed to be speedily modernized. Frontier areas such as micro-electronics, bio-technology, non-conventional sources of energy etc. would receive special attention.

In order to achieve this object. Government has already taken several steps. I would like to mention, in brief, the steps that have been taken by the Government. In March 1985, 25 broad categories of industries have been de-licensed. The investment limit for small scale industries has been raised from Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 35 lakhs, and for ancillaries from Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 40 lakhs. The threshold limit of MRTP companies has been increased from Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 100 crores. Procedure for clearance regarding employment of foreign technicians has been streamlined. To provide flexibility to the manufacturers to adjust their product-mix depending upon the market, the broad-banding scheme has been announced in respect of the following :

- (a) Machine tools ;
- (b) Motorized two-wheelers ;
- (c) Motorized four-wheelers ;
- (d) Paper and pulp, including paper products ; and
- (e) Chemicals, pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, and fertilizer machinery industry.

So far as broad-banding is concerned, I think it will help the hon. Members if I illustrate as to what exactly we mean by broad-banding. In the case of two-wheelers,

[Shri Veerendra Patil]

there are several units which are manufacturing two-wheelers. In respect of motorized two-wheelers, some are manufacturing Mopeds, some are manufacturing scooters and some are manufacturing motor cycles. According to this scheme, within the licensed capacity, if any particular unit manufacturing Mopeds wants to switch over to scooters, it can do so, without approaching Government for a licence or for permission. Similarly, if a scooter manufacturer wants to switch over to motor cycles, he can do that; or if a motor cycle manufacturer wants to switch over to other two-wheelers, he can do that.

That is the liberty which has been given. Similarly, in the case of four wheelers, a unit which is manufacturing trucks can switch over to passenger cars or a unit which is manufacturing passenger cars can switch over to commercial vehicles, a unit which is manufacturing light commercial vehicles can switch over to heavy duty commercial vehicles. These are facilities that have been given and these units need not approach government and undergo the lengthy cumbersome time-consuming procedure in order to get the licence.

Introduction of single window clearance system which is time bound, fixing the time limit which ranges from 60 to 90 days for MRTP, non-MRTP, for capital goods clearance, foreign collaboration clearance, goods of NRI, hundred per cent export-oriented goods. I have mentioned how we have tried our best to simplify the procedure, liberalised the procedure in order to see that the entrepreneurs who want to take effective steps for increasing the production or diversification, they can do so under this liberalization policy. Similarly, with regard to the taxes also, several concessions have been announced. I do not wish to go into details because the Finance Minister has already explained in detail the tax concessions that have been offered and the tax structure how it has been rationalised and all that.

Recently, the Finance Minister, who is incharge of Commerce Ministry also announced the import-export policy for the first time for the period of three years so that there should be some stability, some certainty. So far as these liberaliza-

tion programmes are concerned, I know that a good number of hon. Members here in this House have welcomed it and I know that they welcome these measures; and at the same time, I am aware of the fact that some of the hon. members feel about it as yesterday one hon. member felt. Unfortunately, that hon. member is not here today. His name is Mr. Unnikrishnan. He sees in all these measures of liberalization that we have announced so far the revival of Swatantra ideology or the capitalistic ideology. Yesterday, pin-pointedly he asked me to spell out as to what is our attitude towards public sector. Unfortunately, there is an impression that we are moving away from our industrial policy that we have been following all these years since 1956; and government is inclined to think more and more of private sector than public sector. The impression is there among some members. I do not dispute that point; it may be a genuine feeling. I don't say that they are entertaining these feelings for political purposes. I do not want to blame them; this may be a genuine feeling. But I want to make it clear that so far as industrial policy is concerned, so far as the attitude of the government towards public sector is concerned, there is absolutely no change in the policy of the government; the policy continues and will continue.

Yesterday, Shri Unnikrishnan was referring to the speech made by our Prime Minister. I have got the cutting of whatever the Prime Minister has said with regard to the public sector; he strongly defended the role of public sector saying that it was the core of India's industrial growth. Referring to the losses suffered by some public sector units, Mr. Gandhi said, this should be seen in the proper perspective. In fact, the public sector was working in a non-industrial area and acting as a catalyst for industrialisation.

So, this is the policy of the Government, the policy of the Industry Ministry, the policy of our Prime Minister and we will continue this policy. Some hon. Members wanted to know, why all of a sudden...

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
From commanding heights it has come to catalytic agents,

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : So far as the public sector is concerned, it will continue to be only commanding heights, it will continue to play a very crucial and dominant role in the economic development of our country. There need not be any doubt about our attitude towards the public sector.

Some Members wanted to know why this foreign collaboration is there; and free entry of foreign goods in specific fields is there. I want to make it very clear that we do not want to leave, or we do not want to see that our country lives in the cart age, or cycle age. We want it to develop, we want to catch up with other developed countries. So, far that if we require to import technology, we should not hesitate, we should not feel shy about it. What is the condition with regard to foreign technology? The condition is that whatever foreign technology we want to import, those who are going to supply that foreign technology, they have to supply that technology and we are gearing up our organisations, so that whatever foreign technology is imported it is absorbed here and becomes our property within the course of five or six years. So if sophisticated technology is not available in our country, if it is not developed in our country or if our technology is outmoded, if our technology is not up to date, then I want to mention, that we are allowing our people to import technology and that too for a particular period and, so far as foreign collaboration is concerned, hon. Members are aware of the fact that as a policy we are not allowing more than 40 per cent equity foreign participants to come, with foreign capital to us,

Their equity cannot be more than 40 per cent. And we are allowing them only in the area where we require high technology and we do not want to destroy the technology that is developed in our country and we do not want to allow any technology to be imported at the cost of the technology that is developed in our country. But where we think that our technology is not uptodate, we feel that in the interests of the country sophisticated technology has to be imported to that extent we are allowing this technology and I must say and I must make it very clear that so far as the policy of importing of technology is con-

cerned, it is one of selective technology. And proper care would be taken to see that whatever technology is there in the country it should not be destroyed by importing the technology.

We have, as I mentioned just now, allowed so many concessions. And now I feel, that having allowed so many concessions, within such a short period, now the ball is in the court of the entrepreneurs. It is for them to show the results and I do not think that they can make any excuses hereafter that they are not in a position to show the results, because Government is reluctant to provide facilities which are required for growth. And I hope, very soon they will come forward and show to the entire nation and to the Government that these are the results that "we have produced by the facilities that the Government has offered to us". If they do not produce results, I can only say that not only they are disappointing the Government, but they are disappointing the entire nation also.

13.55 hrs.

[MR. SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair*]

Hereafter they will lose their right to approach the Government for any concessions and they will be giving an impression to the Government that these entrepreneurs are only meant to extract more concessions and not to deliver the goods. I hope and pray that they would not give any room for such complaint in future.

Another object of giving concessions or liberalising our policy is that we feel that monopoly breeds complacency which leads to inefficiency. I agree that protectionism for some time is all right, but protectionism for all time is not in the interest of the country because, I feel that efficiency can be achieved only through competition. We want competition. We do not want any monopoly of anybody in the market. I want to know as to who is the victim of this protectionist policy. I quote one or two instances. You take the case of automobiles, the four wheelers. All of you would agree that for 35 to 40 years they were enjoying the monopoly because there were only a few industries which were producing these four wheelers. Unfortunately, there is a feeling in the country

[Shri Somnath Rath]

among these industrialists that they need not produce any quality goods because any rubbish that is produced in the country has a market as we have given them so much of protection. I was referring to four wheelers. I want to know from any hon. Member of this House whether in the last 30 to 35 years they moved an inch to improve the quality. They did not do anything at all. I must say, again it is only the public sector and that too our Maruti, which made these four-wheeler manufacturers to stand on their toes. You know how they are running about. Everybody says that he will become fuel efficient or he will change his model. Now there are several people who are coming in the field. We have allowed them. We have said, all right, you are most welcome. Now everybody is vying with each other. There is a competition. I am quoting this instance because so long as there is no competition nobody bothers about improving the quality because they know that whether the quality of the vehicle that they are producing is bad or good, the buyer is there and the market is there and they need not bother. I want to know how long you want the consumer to suffer. Are we here to safeguard the interest of the producers or the consumers who are in millions? Producers may be a few hundred. Now a time has come when we have to seriously think of safeguarding the interest of the country.

About public sector, some hon. Members were critical about the performance of the public sector. I agree that after all, public sector is there because it is the tax-payers money which is invested in the public sector. So, the public sector is accountable to everybody to the tax-payer, to the Parliament, outside the House and inside the House. I am not holding any brief for public sector but I must say that public sector is not always meant for making profit because a great responsibility is cast on the shoulders of the public sector, because they are meant for creating infrastructure in the country. The other day, one hon. Member from Andhra was asking why we are investing so much in public sector or in large-scale sector, and why only so much is being invested in small-scale sector. I need not reply because for generating power, we cannot think of small-scale sector, for

infrastructure we cannot think of small-scale sector. Major sector has to come there, major industries have to come there. I can give some figures but I do not wish to go into the details to show how the public sector is performing. In 1980-81, the total capital employed in public sector was of the order of Rs. 18,207 crores and the percentage of gross profitability to capital employed was 7.79. I do not want to quote the figures for 1981-1982. I have got the figures but the time is not there to go into the details. But I can give the latest figures for 1983-84. In 1983-84, the number of enterprises was 214, the capital employed has gone up from Rs. 18,207 crores to Rs. 29,896 crores, the gross profit was Rs. 3,569 crores, and the percentage of gross profitability to capital employed was 11.94. So, these figures will speak for themselves. I feel it is not correct to say that the performance of the public sector is miserable or it is very bad or it is not up to our expectation...(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, Mr. Panika, I have already said that please hear the Minister. Kindly do not disturb. There can be no sentence by sentence debate while the Minister is replying.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Several hon. Members have mentioned about the regional imbalances. I agree that although we have developed our industries, although we are one among the ten highly industrialised countries of the world, but still there are so many areas which are very backward industrially, where there are no industrial activities at all. So, the Government is committed to remove these regional imbalances, Government is committed to develop the backward areas. The hon. Members are aware of the fact that steps have been taken, the measures have been adopted by the Government in this direction. Although the scheme of removing regional imbalances and developing backward areas is there since 1971, but a new scheme came into force on 1-4-1983 categorising these areas into three—'A' category, which includes no-industry districts also ; 'B' category ; and 'C' category. According to these categories, several incentives have been given to entrepreneurs to go to those backward areas and develop those areas. The Central

subsidy i.e. the cash subsidy is being given at the rate of 25 per cent of the investment with a ceiling of Rs. 25 lakh in the case of A category areas. In the case of B category, it is Rs 15 lakhs or 15 per cent. In the case of C categories, it is Rs. 10 lakhs or 10 per cent. In addition to that several concessions have been given like the concessional finance, tax concession, transport subsidy etc. And in order to develop the infrastructure, the Government of India came forward and committed Rs. 2 crores as development subsidy for every A category district and said Rs. 2 crores will come from the financial institutions. And it is only Rs. 2 crores that the State Governments have to provide for developing the infrastructure in those areas.

This scheme was going to expire on 31st March, 1985, but the Government thought that the purpose of the scheme has not yet been fulfilled. Therefore, the scheme has been extended by one year.

Some hon. Members are under the impression that after the expiry of one year the scheme is going to be abandoned. It is not so. The scheme will remain there. But as the hon. Members are aware, there are differences of opinion about the scheme. For instance there are differences of opinion about the no-industry area unit. There are honest differences of opinion among the Members also. Some Members feel that district should not be taken as one unit while some others say why not one district. Some say why don't you take block as a unit or an area as a unit. Then there are recommendations of the Shivarman Committee, were they have said it should be growth centre. So, some of these matters are under consideration. Therefore, Government has decided in order to find out as to what should be the unit for industrial growth of backward areas, an inter-Ministerial Committee to be constituted which will look into this matter. Pending their recommendations we thought for the time being it should not be discontinued. Therefore, we have continued this scheme for another year. Before expiry of the one year-period as per the recommendation of the inter-Ministerial group, the whole scheme will be reviewed and if found necessary we will take effective steps or modify the scheme

in order to ensure quicker growth of these backward areas. To that extent the scheme will be modified and will be brought into force. I want to reiterate that there is no question of giving up this scheme at all. On the other hand the Government is very keen to go ahead with this scheme.

Now, I come to the question of industrial sickness, which is naturally agitating the minds of the hon. Members, particularly the hon. Members from West Bengal. Before, I say anything about the industrial sickness, I want to give you the picture of industrial sickness in the country to apprise the hon. Members about the magnitude of the problem. Because there may be so many definitions of industrial sickness. I would like to define what it is. We are going by the definition which has been made by the Reserve Bank of India. Statistics which are prepared are also based on that definition. According to the Reserve Bank of India, an industrial unit is classified 'sick', if it has incurred a cash loss for the last one year and is likely to continue incurring cash losses in the current year as well as in the following year. And if there is worsening trend in debt-equity ratio. According to this definition, the number of units which were large sick units in December 1980, was 409 and the number of small-scale sick units was 23,148; the total number of sick units in the country in December 1980 was 24,550. The position obtaining on December 1983 i.e. the latest figure I have got, shows that the number of large-scale sick units was 491 and the number of small-scale sick industrial units was 78,363. The total number was 80,110 units.

Sir, the amount that is locked up, the amount of the institutions, the amount of the banks that has been advanced to these sick units is as follows :

In December 1980 it was Rs. 1324 crores for large units and Rs. 306 crores for small units and the total amount of all these units is Rs. 1809 crores.

In December 1983 the total amount of all sick units is Rs. 3,101 crores—the advance that has been given by the banks and different financial institutions.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : How many of them are of Government ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Later, not now.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL ; I am talking of only sick units which are large units, which are small-scale units.

Now, we need not go in search of reasons for these units becoming sick. One is bad management and lack of infrastructure facilities, financial problems, lack of market, surplus of labour and high wages etc. These sick units can be brought under two categories. There are sick units which can be revived. There are sick units which cannot be revived. So far as the sick units which can be revived are concerned, there is no difficulty, it is the responsibility of the Government and the financial institutions to make them healthy. The problem is, what to do with regard to the sick units which are not going to be viable at all, which cannot be revived. That is engaging the attention of the Government. Yesterday, the hon. Member, Mr. Unnikrishnan, was referring to the speech made by our Prime Minister and he read only one sentence out of context. Therefore, I want to read the whole thing so that you may know what is the mind of the Government and what is the working in the mind of the Government. This is the speech of our Prime Minister made on 22nd March 1985. I would like to read that portion of his speech as follows :-

"The last point I would like to raise is sickness which is something which is dragging our industries down. We are not going to put up with sickness and this will be very clear to you in the coming weeks. We will make it very expensive to go sick and you must also respond by seeing that industry does not go sick or does not go towards sickness."

This is addressed to the National Conference on Engineering Exports. I think most of the industrialists, the entrepreneurs, were there. He was addressing them.

"Certain industries must die. We cannot pretend that all industries must carry on into the 22nd century, which are going on for the last 300 years. But excluding that category we must accept this fact that some industry has to be allowed to die and we must make it penal for somebody who makes

an industry which has no reason to go sick."

Sir, I think on one or two occasions I had made it very clear. According to the survey conducted by the Reserve Bank of India and according to the latest survey also, it is more than 50 per cent ; because of internal factors the industries are becoming sick, maybe because of bad management, maybe because of other internal factors. So, I agree with my friend, Mr. Das Munsu when he said, 'What is private sector or private industrialist or private entrepreneur ? What is his equity, what is his contribution for running an industry for creating an industry ? He may be putting about 15% to 20%. The rest comes from the public shareholders or from the financial institutions. When this is the state of affairs, I do not know what business he has to make the industry sick. If he is making the industry sick, if he is responsible for making the industry sick, then he is liable for punishment and he should be made liable for punishment. What we find is, he makes one industry sick and goes in search of some other green pasture. So, we should not allow these things. I think, our Finance Minister has made it very clear and the Prime Minister has also made it very clear that we should not allow these things to go on like this.

So, what our Finance Minister has said, I want to say with regard to the industrial sickness because I do not want to come to any conclusion because this is a very complicated matter. On page 10 of the Budget Speech, the Finance Minister has said that the Government proposes to introduce a special legislation for sick units :

"It is proposed to set up a Board for Financial and Industrial Reconstruction which will provide a speedy mechanism for amalgamation, merger and to devise such other solutions as may be necessary to deal with the problem of sick industries in the large and medium sector,"

Since this is engaging the attention of the Government, I do not wish to say anything about the sick units. But I want to suggest one thing so that, you can ponder over this problem because I find from both sides the demands are coming that

if an industry becomes sick, either you take over or nationalise it. What I want to know is, by nationalising or taking over that industry, is it going to be healthy? What is the experience so far of the industries which have been taken over and which have been nationalised? Why I am telling you is, it is again the citizen of this country who is paying for the losses that industry or unit is making. Nobody from our pocket is making any contribution to meet the losses. Who is meeting the losses? Who is paying heavily and through his nose for the losses which are being made because of the inefficiency because of so many other factors? It is the tax-payers. It is the tax-payers' money that we are feeding into those sick units. I think, the hon. Members will agree with me that all of us are accountable to the money that we are collecting and the money that is going into the State exchequer. We are not here to fritter away that money in the name of ideologies. After all, whatever money is there, I think, that has to be properly utilised and properly spent and that should be not only in the interest of the country but also in the interest of the tax-payers.

As I said earlier, I do not wish to jump to any conclusion so far as the industrial sickness is concerned because this matter is already engaging the attention of the Government and I hope that Government will come forward with concrete suggestions as early as possible.

It is but natural that whenever an industry goes sick, immediately we think of the workers who are working there. It is but natural. Even when I was in the Labour Ministry, I was also thinking on the same line. When an industry goes sick, we immediately think of what will happen to the industrial workers, if it is wound up or liquidated. What about these thousands of workers who are working in this industry? What about their employment? What about their living when the cost of living is so high? I quite appreciate that point. But I want you to appreciate the other point also. When we are thinking of those who are already working there, who are going to be thrown out of employment, are we thinking of those who are loitering in the street—not one or two, I think, according to the live register, it is more than 20 millions today who are loitering in

the street—who are unemployed, who do not have any means of livelihood? Should we not think about them also along with these people who are working and who are likely to be thrown out of employment. I do not mean to say that, their problem should not be cared at all or their problem should not be taken into account.

About the performance of small-scale industries, I must say that the performance of small-scale industries is very satisfactory. The production in small-scale sector during 1980-81 was worth Rs. 23,566 crores and in 1984-85, it was Rs. 34,065 crores. The employment that has been provided by the small-scale sector in 1980-81 was 71 lakh persons and in 1984-85, it was 90 lakh persons. They are contributing to the foreign exchange earnings also. Their exports are nearly 20 to 25 per cent of the total exports of the country. In 1980-81, the exports from the small-scale sector were of the order of Rs. 1643 crores and in 1983-84, they were of the order of 2159 crores.

I need not tell the House the concession that has been given. They have been given an exemption from excise duty for a particular limit. The financial institutions are also giving a lot of concessions in the matter of easy loans, easy instalments, interest rates, seed capital and price preference of about 15 per cent is given while purchasing for Government purposes. I must say that the growth rate of small-scale sector is quite satisfactory. It is 9.8 per cent as against 5.5 per cent in the case of large-scale sector. It is estimated around 12 per cent during 1983-84 as against the growth of 7 per cent in the large-scale sector.

So, the performance of the small-scale sector is not only upto our expectation but I must say that it is beyond our expectation. We are trying our best to encourage and give all possible help to the small-scale sector for further development in the industrial field.

Some hon. Members mentioned about the backwardness of north-eastern States. I agree that north-eastern States are very backward; they deserve all encouragement and all incentives have to be given. But at the same time, I must say that all the States in the north-eastern region are declared backward, not only backward of

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different categories but backward of "A" category. If any entrepreneur wants to start any industrial activity there, he is entitled to a cash subsidy upto Rs. 25 lakhs and a lot of other concessions also follow. If any electronic component manufacturing unit wants to go to that area, they are entitled to Rs. 50 lakhs maximum ceiling of cash subsidy.

There are 19 industrial estates in the north-eastern region. I think, there is one in Mizoram which is under construction. So, there are 20 industrial estates. There are 42 DICs; 25,160 new units have come up during the last 4 years and under self-employment scheme, nearly 10,000 cases have been sanctioned. A techno-economic survey is being conducted by the small-scale industries organisations in cooperation with the Khadi and Village Industries Corporation, the All-India Handloom Board, the All-India Handicrafts Board, etc. The indications are that the report will have some useful suggestions and, after getting the report, whatever further action is called for, the Government will take further action in the matter.

In addition to that, the Government of India has started some paper manufacturing units also. Some are under production and some are under construction which are going into production very shortly. But there are problems. Although we want to develop that area, infrastructural facilities are not there; the skilled manpower is not available; the technicians are not available. I must admit that the people who are required there, the people who should go there, are reluctant to go there. These are the difficulties we are encountering. But we will try to meet the difficulties and solve the difficulties.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : You organise training centres for those tribal people.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Whatever is necessary is being done because we know the importance of that area and how it should be developed and how the people of that area should be given all the satisfaction.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : What about cottage industries ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : My hon. old friend Shri K. V. Shankaragowda who is not here at present, spoke yesterday

about cottage and village industries. I agree with the sentiments expressed by him. He expressed his sentiments not out of any anger but out of anguish as a true Gandhian. I know him for the last 30 years. He was once my colleague. He feels that cottage and village industries should be developed and further fillip should be given to the Khadi and Village Industries. I entirely agree with him because if you want to solve the problem of rural unemployment, and check the tendency among the rural workers to migrate to the urban areas, I think you can do it only by developing cottage and village industries and nothing else. So we attach all the importance to them. That is why, in 1980-81 we are spending Rs. 85.88 crores and during 1985-86 we have provided Rs. 115.42 crores. We are giving all this assistance. Hon. Members are aware that we are giving the money to the Commission. The Commission in turn is giving it to the individual State Khadi and Village Industries Boards and to the different Cooperative Societies and institutions. I must say that the Government is giving lot of money by way of grants and loans. I do not know how far this amount is being properly utilised because so far as the working of the State Khadi and Village industries Boards is concerned, they are not under our control. We are quite helpless. I am told that there are nearly more than 30,000 cooperative societies which are engaged in khadi and village industries, activities. But according to one survey, nearly 60% of these societies are not working properly and we do not have any control at all over them. They approach us and we give grants and loans and I find from the figures that are made available to me as on 31-3-84 that loans to the tune of Rs. 383.51 crores were outstanding with the implementing agencies. I do not know whether they have utilised these funds properly or whether these funds have gone into the pockets of a few. It is very difficult for me to say because we have to depend upon those institutions for getting and collecting this information. This is the state of affairs.

I agree with the hon. Members when they say that the wages paid to those who are working in Khadi and Village Industries are very meagre. I am in full agreement with them. I have absolutely no dispute over this point at all. There are cases

where even after putting in 7-8 hours of work, they hardly get 3-4 or Rs. 5/-. Government has taken a decision that with the improvement in the designs of the Charkhas and the performance of the wor-

ker, he should be enabled to earn more than Rs. 4 or 5 for working 8 hours. Accordingly, the Khadi and Village Industries Board has increased the wages with effect from 1-4-1985 as under :—

Spinning :

Traditional Charkha, from 75 p. to Re. 1/- per hank.

Old wooden Ambar Charkha. 65 p. per hank

Pot Charkha (a) Single pot 65 p. per hank

(b) Double pot 50 p. per hank

6—Spindle NMC 45 to 55 p. per hank

12—Spindle NMC is to be so fixed so as to ensure an earning of up to Rs. 11 per day.

Muslin Charkha (NMC) to be so fixed as to ensure an earning of up to Rs. 12/- per day.

This is how we have tried our best to improve the wages. I do not wish to take more time of the House.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : What about cement industry ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : About cement, I must say that we are producing sufficient cement. The installed capacity according to 1984-85 is 42.47 million tonnes, but the actual production is 30 million tonnes. It is because many of the cement units are not in a position to utilise their capacity fully for want of power. Now these cement units are thinking of having their own power plants. Their capacity utilisation is not more than 76 per cent. There is at present a small shortage. In fact, in the previous year we were importing a lot of cement, but this year we have not thought of importing any cement; we have made a provision and, if necessary, we are prepared to import. According to the projection of demand and the capacity that is going to be created during the Seventh Plan, we feel that by the end of the Seventh Plan we will not only overcome the shortage but will be surplus in cement. Sufficient capacity has already been licensed. The existing capacity is 42.47 million tonnes. Licences have been given for an additional capacity of 14.31 million tonnes. Letters of intent have been given for an additional capacity of 29.36 million tonnes. There is registration with the DGTD for another additional capacity of 4.73 million tonnes. Thus, by the end of the Seventh Plan, we will be creating capacity for producing 62 million tonnes. It will be much more than the demand that

we are expecting during the Seventh Plan period. The position in respect of cement is going to be very satisfactory during the Seventh Plan period.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : What about factories in Boondi and Sambupura? (Interruptions)

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : The difficulty is that hon. Members want every activity to be done in the public sector. We are prepared to do that. But the difficulty is this. When resources are scarce, we have to go by priority. Whatever funds are available, we have to invest them on priority items like creating infrastructure. Suppose I spend Rs. 100 crores on starting a cement factory. If there is no power, what are they going to do? So, instead of investing those Rs. 100 crores on a cement factory, why not invest the money on power generation? So, whatever scarce resources are there at our disposal, we must invest them on priority item like creating infrastructure which is necessary for industrial development. That is why we are not in a position to think of every activity in the public sector.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY (Nalgonda) : What about Central subsidy for industries in Telengana districts?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I have already made it clear that there are three categories for Central subsidy, for financial institution concession and all that. Unfortunately today there is no A-category district in Andhra, but there are other category districts, districts which come under B and C categories. They are entitled to certain

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concessions and they will continue to get those concessions.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY (Adilabad) : The hon. Minister was speaking about cement industry. There are a large number of licences given to cement factories in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh during the last one year for major as well as mini cement plants. Is he aware that the IDBI has recently imposed a ban on further release of any loan to cement factories in spite of the fact that the DGTD has already given licences? What is the justification for the IDBI imposing restrictions on loans?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : So far as my information goes, the IDBI has said that they are not in a position to give any finance for mini cement plants. But we have taken up that matter. Because we feel that mini cement plants are economical and the middle class people can join together and start mini cement plants, we have taken up that matter and we will pursue that matter.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj) : Sir, the Patel Committee was set up to make studies about the eastern districts of U. P. and it had made certain suggestions. A sample survey was made especially about Jaunpur, Ballia, Ghazipur and Deoria in eastern U.P. (Interruptions)...

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please ask only clarification arising from the reply of the Minister. No statement.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : I would like to ask the hon. Minister if he would consider the question of setting up of any big industry in Eastern U.P. as suggested by the Patel Commission.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : The hon. Member knows that four giant fertiliser units are being set up in U.P.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : None of them is being set up in Eastern U.P.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : There are 11 'A' districts in U.P. There are "No-Industry" districts. I can say only this much

on behalf of Government that industrial development should take place in U.P. also and we would take all the measures which are required. We are asking all the new entrepreneurs to set up their units in the backward areas of U.P., Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. We would persuade them, because coercion would not serve the purpose. All efforts would be made to send them there, but the U.P. government should also create an infrastructure there. Day before yesterday I came to know that 100 per cent power cut has been applied in respect of I.D.P.L. How could infrastructure be created in this manner?

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VJAS : Mr. chairman, Sir, letters of intent have been issued to the Cement Corporation of India for setting up cement plants at Bundi and Tambupura. I would like to know about the action being taken in this regard. These units would have the production capacity of 2.5 lakh and 5 lakh tonnes.

Secondly, the wagon factory of Bharatpur is not receiving the orders and as a result thereof it is getting sick and incurring losses. I would like to know the action being taken in this regard.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I do not know about the proposals of the Cement Corporation of India in regard to Rajasthan, but I would find out about it and would furnish the necessary information to the hon. Member.

[English]

Only one point. With regard to West Bengal there is a feeling that West Bengal is being ignored or that it is a neglected State. It is not so. I give the figures. Share in sanctions of assistance by all financial institutions to West Bengal is 6.8%. Share in disbursements of financial assistance by all India financial institutions is 7.1%. In March 1984 share of West Bengal in total investment of central public sector enterprises was 7.5%. At the same time share of West Bengal in the total employment of the central public sector enterprises was 19.4%.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Howrah) : My question is this. The Minister just now quoted from the Finance

Minister's speech and based on that some Board will be formed to consider the sick industries. My only request to the Minister is—I am confident the Finance Minister will also involve industrialists in this regard—that before you take the opinion in this regard from your Ministry and your officers, will you be kind enough to at least listen to the MPs who represent the industrial areas of the country before you take a decision? Because we would like to provide some information to you which the bureaucrats may not.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government of Orissa have requested the Central Government to include District Kalahandi in the list of 'No-industry districts'. I would like to ask the hon. Minister if he is considering this proposal. Secondly, the industries in Orissa have come to a standstill due to the power crisis in the State. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to discuss it with the Central Electricity Authority and solve this problem in the interest of the state.

[English]

DR. V. VENKATESH : With regard to drought prone areas you have to take some special measures in Gulbarga and Kolar which are drought prone areas.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Sir, Mr. Das Munsi made a suggestion that before we take the Committee that is going into this matter MPs from that area should be given an opportunity. I can only assure him that I will convey his suggestion to my colleague, the Finance Minister. As regards the point made by Mr. Vyas about CCI starting cement units in the area he has suggested in Rajasthan, I do not have

that information readily available with me. I will collect the information and pass it on to him. With regard to my friend from Orissa as to whether any district is going to be declared as no industry district there, Sir, the whole scheme is under review. When we take the decision at that time his suggestion will be taken into consideration.

The hon. Member, Dr. Venkatesh wanted to know about drought prone areas. I think the Ministry of Rural Development is dealing with this matter and I will convey his feelings to the concerned Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put all the cut motions moved to the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Industry and Company Affairs to vote together, unless any hon. member desires that any of his cut motions may be put separately.

All the cut motions were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Industry and Company Affairs to vote : The question is :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1986 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 57 to 59 relating to the Ministry of Industry and Company Affairs."

The motion was adopted.

*Demands for Grants for the year 1985-86 in respect of the Ministry of Industry
and Company Affairs voted by Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 25th March, 1985		Amount of Demand for Grant voted by the House	
1	2	3		4	
		Rs. Revenue	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
57.	Ministry of Industry and Company Affairs	1,85,91,000	16,000	9,29,60,000	84,000
58.	Industries	17,92,08,000	51,14,00,000	89,60,39,000	2,55,70,00,000
59.	Village and Small Industries	34,10,25,000	25,50,67,000	1,70,71,25,000	1,27,78,35,000

(ii) Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 41 and 42 relating to the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies for which 6 hours have been allotted.

Hon. Members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demands for Grants have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Those cut motions only will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of cut motions treated as moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly. In case

any member finds any discrepancy in the list he may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officer at the Table without delay.

Motion moved :

“That the respective sums not exceeding the amount on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Fourth Column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1986 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 41 and 42 relating to the Ministry of Food & Civil Supplies.”

*Demands for Grants for the year 1985-86 in respect of the Ministry of Food and Civil
Supplies submitted to vote of the Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 25th March, 1985		Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the Vote of the House	
1	2	3		4	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies					
41.	Department of Food	2,08,46,30,000	19,11,49,000	10,42,31,52,000	95,57,49,000
42.	Department of Civil Supplies	91,73,000	1,33,84,000	5,58,66,000	7,24,22,000

SHRI H. A. DORA (Srikakulam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies for more than one reason. For one thing, there is no justification for divorcing the Department of Food from the Ministry of Agriculture as it used to be earlier. If food is the outcome of agriculture, it is the by-product of the marital romance of the Agricultural Ministry whereas Civil Supplies is the by-product of the extra marital romance of the Agricultural Ministry. The Department of Food is a natural ally of the Ministry of Agriculture as it has greater relevance to the large Ministry of Agriculture.

Another important point to be noted is that the allocation of the amounts between the Department of Food and the Department of Civil Supplies is totally uneven and lopsided. The figures speak for themselves. I must at once bring to the notice of the august House about the enormity of the disparity. While the Department of Food was allocated about Rs. 1365 crores, the Department of Civil Supplies is allocated a paltry sum of about Rs. 19 crores. This unholy alliance between unequal partners is difficult to comprehend for us and it is beyond the comprehension of this august House.

Coming to the Department of Food, the largest consumer of the Grants is the Food Corporation of India, with Rs. 1100 crores for subsidy on foodgrain transactions ; Rs. 68 crores for storage construction programmes ; and Rs. 15 crores towards reimbursement of interest charges on handling of levy sugar stocks. The lion's share of the Food Corporation of India is manifest from the fact that out of Rs. 1365 crores allotted to the entire Department of Food, the FCI alone accounts for Rs. 1183 crores.

In contrast, the Central Warehousing Corporation was allocated a meagre amount of Rs. 3.52 crores only. I may bring to the kind attention of the hon. Members that the Central Warehousing Corporation is credited with a tall mandate to construct and acquire godowns and warehouses for storage of agricultural products and implements. What is more, this Corporation is also entrusted with the obligation to provide matching contributions in the

share capital of various States Warehousing Corporations. It is indeed a common knowledge of every hon. Member that many precious and valuable foodgrains are exposed to the elements of nature for want of adequate warehousing facilities. Specially, the matching contribution to the State Warehousing Corporation needs to be strengthened and augmented manifold.

Coming to the Department of Civil Supplies, I must express my agony that the so-called Department of Civil Supplies is more concerned with establishment of Directorates Commissions, Institutions rather than Civil Supplies as such. Take, for instance, the Directorate of Weights and Measures. It is supposed to guide and coordinate the work relating to Weights and Measures at the Centre and State levels and to enforce standards laid down in the Weight and Measures Act, 1976. Is it necessary that a Central Institution is to be entrusted to enforce the standards prescribed in the Act ? Are not the State Agencies adequate enough to enforce the standards ?

I wish to bring to the notice of hon'ble Members that this is a clear invasion on the autonomy of States. What is worse is that the change was deliberately engineered and brought about by the Central Government. As the Constitution originally stood, Entry 29 of the State List granted legislative powers to the States on Weights and Measures except establishment of standards. For inexplicable reasons, this entry was omitted from the State List by the Constitution 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 and the same Amendment transformed the subject into the Concurrent List through Entry 33A. This is one of the many instances how the powers of the States are being surreptitiously taken away.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is yet another point in connection with the Department of Civil Supplies. As I have already mentioned earlier, this Department is largely composed of Institutions like Forward Markets Commission, Directorate of Weights and Measures, Directorate of Vanaspati, Vegetable Oils and Fats, Indian Standards Institutions, National Cooperative Consumers Federation, Consumers

[Shri H.A. Dora]

Cooperatives, Super Bazar in Delhi, etc. A notable feature about all these Institutions is that they do not in any way involve themselves with the Public Distribution of essential commodities. With this woeful indifference to the essential commodities, it is beyond comprehension as to what for this Department of Civil Supplies is created. This takes me to reflect on the very important subject of essential commodities. Please permit me, Mr. Chairman, Sir, to reflect briefly on the Constitutional concerns relating to this subject. This has a vital bearing on the Centre-State relations in this vital area. At the outset let me invite your attention to Article 369 of the Constitution. I quote—

“Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, Parliament shall, during a period of five years from the commencement of this Constitution, have power to make laws with respect to the following matters as if they were enumerated in the Concurrent List, namely :—”

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Sir, are we dealing with the Centre-State relations here ?

SHRI H. A. DORA : Sir, I will read out only the relevant portion. ‘...foodstuffs including edible oils and seeds’. But any law made by Parliament, which Parliament would not but for the provisions of this Article have been competent to make, shall, to the extent of the incompetency, cease to have effect on the expiration of the said period, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before the expiration thereof. I would like to bring to the notice of this august House that Article 369 of the Constitution prohibits the Parliament from making any law in respect of foodstuffs including edible oils after five years. It is vested with the Parliament only for a period of five years from the commencement of the Constitution. Therefore, this particular provision clearly prohibits the Parliament to enact any law after 26th January, 1955. In spite of the provision made by the Constitution in respect of foodstuffs, the Parliament is encroaching upon the rights of the State Governments which alone are vested with the power under Article 369 of the Constitution to enact laws in respect of foodstuffs.

Now, I think, it is clear to the hon. Member as to why I am submitting this particular point.

The States are now deprived of this particular power vested in them. The Constitution intended that at the earliest point of time the power to enact laws in respect of foodgrains including edible oils is to be given only to the States, not to the Central Government, or the Parliament. That power is now usurped by the Parliament. That is what I wanted to submit to the House.

From this, the following points may be noted. Commerce within a State and production, supply and distribution of the essential commodities is temporarily given to Parliament to regulate as if they are in the Concurrent List.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Are we discussing the Demands of Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies or Centre-State relations ? The hon. Member is challenging the constitutionality of the Acts of Parliament already passed and in force. Is it allowed ? He is challenging the very Acts of Parliament...(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : It is very relevant. In view of what the hon. Member has stated, your Acts are unconstitutional...(Interruptions).

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : We are not passing any Act...(Interruptions).

SHRI AMAL DATTA : He wants to point out that Grants to your Ministry are unconstitutional. (Interruptions).

SHRI H.A. DORA : As I said it is for the State legislatures to regulate foodstuff after five years of the commencement of the Constitution. According to me, the power is given to Parliament in respect of foodstuffs only for a period of five and it is to be automatically vacated after five years after the commencement of the Constitution.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : These objections must have been considered when all the Acts were passed.

SHRI H. A. DORA : Even prior to independence, there was an Act known as the Essential Supplies Temporary Powers Act, of 1946. That was in force prior to independence...(Interruptions).

15.00 hrs.

It was in operation when the Constitution was framed. This 1946 Act also contains some of the items mentioned in Article 369 of the Constitution. But so far as the items mentioned in Article 369 are concerned, Parliament ceases to have any power to enact on them after five years of the commencement of the Constitution. This cut-off period would come to an end after 26 January 1955. It was on that very date, i.e. on 26 January 1955 an ordinance was promulgated by the President which ultimately came into being as the Essential Commodities Act of 1955. Through this Act, Parliament usurped the power which are otherwise prohibited under Article 369 of the Constitution. How was it achieved? In 1954, Parliament enacted the Constitution (Third Amendment) Act, whereby many items of essential commodities were incorporated in entry 33 of the Concurrent List.

I emphasise the fact that while Article 369 of the Constitution limited the legislative powers of the Parliament on certain items for a period of 5 years, the Third Constitution Amendment of 1954 included those very items in the Concurrent List, entry 33. In other words, what is prohibited directly and explicitly by a substantive provision was sought to be stealthily taken away by amending an entry. If it is not a fraud on the Constitution, what else is it?

Sir, I spoke on this topic at length not in the interest of academic exercise but because of its practical implications.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Can you question that now?

SHRI H. A. DORA : Yes. It is a substantive law. Only the entry was amended. Can the power vested on the substantive law be taken away by an amendment of the entry in the Seventh Schedule?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It could only be discussed at the time of that amendment and not now.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : You can bring a non-official Bill for Constitution Amendment now.

SHRI H. A. DORA : I would like to cite one example which is dear to my State and the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The hon. members are quite aware of the fact that the Government in Andhra Pradesh under the leadership of Shri N. T. Rama Rao and under the banner of Telugu Desam Party, successfully launched Rs. 2/- per kil gram rice scheme. We require large quantities of rice now for the above scheme. Besides we have to meet the rice requirements for our social welfare hostels, mid-day meals and other minimum requirements. Our Chief Minister, Shri N. T. Rama Rao, personally met the Prime Minister and handed over a memorandum as well to impress on him to increase the allotment of rice from the Food Corporation of India.

SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Under what law do you want this allotment?

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY : Under the lawless law.

SHRI H. A. DORA : Under the law passed by the Constitution.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY : The same law under which the Minister entitled to put the question. Centre-State Relations law.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : When you do not accept our laws, why do you expect rice?

SHRI H. A. DORA : The response of the Government of India is still not known. I expect a proper reply would be given at the time of the reply of the hon. Minister. Sir, many arguments were advanced by the Central Government. But I would not like to tax your patience with all the arguments and counter-arguments. What I wish to impress is that there is something radically wrong in the very scheme of things. It is rather odd for a national agency to procure foodgrains from the State, and then re-allot them to the respective States. In the very nature of things, it is constitutionally and administratively effective and efficient, if this process is reversed, and the work is entrusted to the State Governments.

According to me, it will be ideal if the States are allowed to procure foodgrains

[Shri H.A. Dora]

to meet the welfare measures, and a quota may be fixed from that State, for the requirements of the Central Pool. After all, the States have the immediate nexus to the requirements of the respective people, and for a vast country like ours, to entrust this herculean task to a Central agency is bound to be defective and also ineffective.

That apart, I would like to submit that the State Government's requirement of rice under the Rs. 2 per Kg. scheme, including the requirements of Social Welfare Hostels, Mid-Day Meal Scheme etc. is about 22 lakh tonnes per annum, i.e. as far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned. As against this, a quantity of 10 lakh tonnes is being released by the Government of India from the Central Pool, 7-1/2 lakh tonnes of rice are being purchased from private trade at negotiated prices, while the balance of 4-1/2 lakh tonnes are to be purchased from the open market.

At present, the release of 10 lakh tonnes of rice from the Central Pool to the State is conditional upon the rice procurement of 15 lakh tonnes by the State through the sole agency of the FCI. The State Government had earlier proposed to Government of India that it be permitted to procure about 27 lakh tonnes of rice by suitably enhancing the mill levy from the present 50% to 75%. This proposal has already been sent to the Government of India, and the Andhra Pradesh Government is awaiting a reply on this particular aspect.

In addition, I may be permitted to submit that the State Government may be permitted to enhance the mill levy percentage during the ensuing kharif rice marketing season (i.e. October 1985) to 75%, and that the A.P. State Civil Supplies Corporation could also be notified as a public agency to procure rice in Andhra Pradesh, besides Food Corporation of India.

I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :
I beg to move :

"That the Demand under the Head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to check the enormous losses to the Food Corporation of India due to decay of foodgrains stocked in the open./ (2)

"That the Demand under the Head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to discontinue the import of foodgrains from other countries./ (3)

"That the Demand under the Head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to supply rice at a subsidised rate of Rs. 2 per Kg. to people in all the States./ (5)

"That the Demand under the Head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to supply rice needed for public distribution in Andhra Pradesh. / (6)

"That the Demand under the Head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to allow Government of Andhra Pradesh to procure rice needed for public distribution from other States./ (7)

"That the Demand under the Head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to permit free movement of foodgrains throughout India by making India a single zone./ (8)

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : I beg to move :

"That the Demand under the Head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need for opening of fruits and vegetable processing units at Buxirhat and Mathoban ga, in Cooch Behar district in North Bengal./ (11)

"That the Demand under the Head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need for opening of fruits and vegetable processing units at Kumargramduari-Buxaduar, Chamerehi and Nagrakata in Jalpaiguri in North Bengal./ (12)

"That the Demand under the Head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to provide storage and warehousing godowns for agricultural produce in every block in North Bengal districts./ (13)

"That the Demand under the Head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to set up an agro-industrial complex in Doars and Tarai in North Bengal./ (14)

"That the Demand under the Head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to set up community canning and fruit preservations centres at Cooch-Bihar, Alipurduar, Tufanganj of Madarihat in Jalpaiguri district in North Bengal./ (15)

"That the Demand under the Head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to set up food processing and nutrition centres at Birpara and Nathua Hat in Jalpaiguri district in North Bengal./ (16)

"That the Demand under the Head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to provide mobile food and nutrition extension service to all the tea gardens of Doars and Tarai in North Bengal./ (17)

"That the Demand under the Head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to give financial assistance for setting up a super bazar at Alipurduar in Jalpaiguri district in North Bengal./ (18)

"That the Demand under the Head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to set up a training centre under the scheme relating to intelligence enforcement and manpower training for public distribution system at Kalchini in Jalpaiguri district in North Bengal./ (19)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Roberts-ganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir. I rise to support the demands for grants of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies, which are being discussed by the House. It is a fact that the role of our Food Department is very difficult and complex, which includes procurement of foodgrains, their supply in scarcity areas, storage in a scientific manner and distribution thereof. All these functions are very important functions which our Food Department is discharging. We have seen that after 1980, this Ministry has done a commendable job. I remember how the country was affected by serious floods, drought, hail-storm, cyclone etc. in 1982-83, and the promptness with which this Ministry provided relief to nearly 31 crores of people deserves applause. We feel proud that despite all these problems, not a single person died of starvation in any part of the country due to food shortage. Sir, not only this, the functions of this Department have grown continuously. I would, therefore, like to express my thanks to the hon Minister and the concerned Department of his Ministry.

Just now our friends from the opposition benches were speaking and they raised constitutional points which it was not necessary to raise. But I agree with them that the allocation of funds to this Ministry must be increased. When this Ministry is discharging such a onerous responsibility, allocation to this Ministry should definitely be increased.

In my view your Department at present caters to the needs of 12 or 13 per cent of the total population of the country, but this Ministry has to discharge its functions in very difficult circumstances.

With regard to procurement of foodgrains, I would like to say that government have formulated a policy of support price for the benefit of farmers, but the foodgrains of farmers are not procured at support price throughout the country as procurement centres are not opened throughout the country. The farmers do not have storage facility and do not get money in time.

The farmers are facing a very difficult situation with regard to the praddy crop

[Shri Ram Pyare Panika]

of the Rabi season in U.P. Many friends have just now said that in other States also, the foodgrains from the farmers are not being procured at the support price.

The Central Government fix the support price and the State Government are expected to implement this decision. I would like to suggest that there should be a monitoring cell at the central level which should persuade the State Government to implement the decision of the Central Government in this regard. One of my friends was speaking about it. I would like to ask him if his State works according to the guidelines of the Central Government.

I am not talking about Andhra Pradesh only. Our late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi had formulated a 12-Point Programme about the distribution system. The Centre had directed that one fair price shop should be opened for every 200 units in scarcity areas and in problem areas; but you would be surprised to know that fair price shops have not been opened in any of the States as per your guidelines. I do not want to blame you. Because of your monitoring the number of shops has increased to more than 3 lakhs, as against about 2 lakhs in 1979-80. But the increase is not according to the guidelines.

In the hilly areas, flood-affected areas, coastal areas and desert areas, the people have to travel miles to purchase their ration. The fair price shops are being opened on the basis of units whereas it is necessary to prescribe the distance also.

Last year you had spoken about the provision of mobile shops, but the State Governments have provided mobile shops at very few places. The Central Government had given the suggestion, but mobile shops are on paper only.

You had also promised that special shops would be opened for workers and contract labour in the industrial belts, but I know that in my constituency—Mushram Sahab is very much sitting here and would complain that no mention has been made of Madhya Pradesh,—shops have not been opened in the tribal and labour areas. As a result, the businessmen with vested interest are taking advantage of this situation

and the people are getting essential items at high prices.

The F.C.I. has been criticised in this House and outside in other places, but keeping in view the extensive responsibilities of this organisation, I would like to say that the persons engaged in this organisation also belong to our Indian society. They also belong to the same society to which officials of other departments belong, but they will have to improve their working. The people have a complaint that the expenditure they show is excessive. It will be better if some saving is effected.

Sir, our warehousing facilities are inadequate. Although there has been an increase in the storage capacity during the last few years, yet everybody wants that there should be definite improvement in it and at the same time, you will have to adopt a stern attitude against corruption in this sphere. There is no coordination between the agencies engaged in the purchases and those who assist in these purchases, as a result of which, a number of difficulties are experienced. Therefore, you will have to improve them all.

15.16 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

Sir, while you improve the working of F.C.I., you should also improve the working of warehousing.

You have laid down a 12-Point guideline with regard to your distribution system. At State level there are a number of difficulties. The people are not getting ration cards. In Uttar Pradesh, this is being run by the Cooperative Societies. These Cooperative Societies have indulged in serious bungling at many places. The people do get wheat and rice which you provide, but the entire quota of sugar and kerosene is sold in the blackmarket. The same shopkeepers, retailers continue to indulge in bungling since 1980. The people belonging to the Janata Party and R.S.S. with their vested interests have infiltrated into it and all of them indulge in black-marketing. Stringent measures should be adopted against those indulging in profiteering, blackmarketing and smuggling, and if need be, MISA should be used

against them, because there has been no improvement in spite of all our efforts.

Certainly, Government want that the blackmarketeers in the country should be dealt with severely, but, they have not been completely successful in this endeavour. Therefore, strict rules should be framed in this regard. This is a major source of corruption and the State and Central employees indulge in a lot of bawling. It will be better if you frame rules in this regard. The rules will have to be observed very seriously, otherwise, the officers indulging in corruption will further strengthen their stranglehold.

The new budget has apparently led to increase in prices of some commodities, but the increase in respect of some of the commodities has been 15 to 20 per cent. Today, we should bring a budget in consonance with the expectations of the people. We have formulated job oriented schemes to remove unemployment. But it has greatly affected the salaried class, the workers and the poor. They are passing through a difficult time. The prices of diesel, petrol, kerosene, etc. have increased, but the increase registered in these items have offered the big traders an opportunity to increase the prices manifold.

I had been to Mirzapur where the taxi fares have been raised manifold. Similarly, there are other items, which have registered a sharp increase in prices. Last time you issued a statement that you would adopt stern measures. If need be, stern action against such traders, as have raised the prices of consumer goods, should be taken under the Essential Commodities Act.

There is no scarcity of kerosene in the country, because there has been a lot of progress in this field since 1980, but its distribution is not proper. The people engaged in distribution of kerosene, adulterate it and sell it in blackmarket. Kerosene is not available even for lighting a lamp in remote villages and tribal areas. Therefore, it is necessary that you should convene a meeting of the Central Government, the State Governments and the Food and Civil Supplies Departments and observe the guidelines issued by the late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi and implement the distribution scheme having

special arrangement for the poor belonging to the backward areas. Only then the families covered under the scheme will be benefited.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRI: PATHI (Khalilabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies. In the present perspective, Civil Supplies have a great importance in the country and it is next to law and order. This Ministry has to look after the public distribution system, consumer protection and Consumer Cooperative Societies, Vanaspati, management relating to prices and distribution of oilseeds and the matters concerning the Indian Standards Institution which have a direct bearing on the daily lives of the people in the entire country.

Sir, there has been a definite increase in the production of foodgrains and it is a matter of pride that our country which used to depend upon imports of foodgrains 10 years back is now not only self-sufficient in this respect but is in surplus. The production of rice has increased beyond expectations. There has been a tremendous increase in the production of wheat and sugarcane also. But the Central Government have noted that the production of oilseeds has been static for the last 2 to 3 years and despite the many steps taken in this regard, its production has not increased. An import of 11.5 lakh tonnes was made during 1982-83 which went up to 16.34 lakh tonnes in 1983-84. The steps taken for increasing production did not succeed because first, the programmes were not passed on to the farmers in time and secondly, a restriction was imposed on small farmers in this respect. Certain difficulties were experienced, one of them being the restriction that a farmer having one acre of land could not sow gram, mustard or peas in the entire area. He took out his mini kit, consumed the gram and peas and did not sow them in the field. Therefore, the policy needs to be liberalized. These kits should be supplied to big farmers owning 8 to 10 acres of land in which he can sow urad, sunflower, gram, etc., because it is a matter of concern that we have not been able to reduce the quantum of our imports as compared to previous years in spite of so many incentives having been provided to the farmers.

[Dr. Chandra Shekhær Tripathi]

Similar is the problem with regard to sugar. There has been a considerable fall in sugarcane production this year as compared to last year. I would like to submit that there is a sugar mill in my constituency Kalilabad in district Basti of the Jaipuria Establishment in respect of which I want to raise a very serious matter before the hon. Minister. I have received information to the effect that the proprietors of the Jaipuria Establishment went to remove the machines from the mill clandestinely and they want to close down the factory. Arrears to the tune of crores of rupees are due to the farmers there. Government should ensure that the money due to the poor farmers does not become a bad debt. Recently, I had spoken in detail about the fact that the slips issued to the cultivators were being purchased there in blackmarket and even the payment was not being made in time, but that is a different matter. The matter that I have raised before you now is very serious and due attention needs to be given to it.

So far as distribution by the cooperative societies is concerned, I would like to submit that there may be hardly a single society in Uttar Pradesh whose secretary and supervisor have not embezzled lakhs of rupees. My request is that the societies should not be disbanded but at the same time, a parallel arrangement should be made. Allotment of shops should be made at the Gram Panchayat level also and at the same time the distribution work should also be done through the Cooperative Societies. Besides, the rules should be observed strictly. Those over-charging and creating artificial scarcity of goods are exploiting the poor. Such people should be severely punished.

Apart from this, there is a report about the dairies that blindness is increasing due to the deficiency of vitamin A and it is in this light that prevention of blindness has been included in the National Health Programme. I am glad to know that the Ministry has made arrangement to increase vitamin A in the milk from the two dairies, but I want that similar arrangement should be made in all dairies in the country and the content of vitamin A should be increased in the milk supplied. At present, the fat content is extracted from

the milk supplied leading to increase in incidence of blindness.

Arrangement has been made to supply general consumer items to the people through fair price shops under the 20-Point Programme, but there are complaints that the wheat supplied from these shops is of inferior quality and is rotten. I do not have any complaint with me at the moment with regard to sugar, but when I was not a Member of this House, I was shown some samples of sugar in which sand was mixed and which was not fit for human consumption. Sometimes, even wet sugar is supplied which emits foul smell. I would like to request that they should not play with the health of the people. Whatever commodities are supplied through those shops should be of good quality as also nutritious.

The provision of opening shops in remote areas is commendable, but I am sorry to say that not a single mobile shop has been opened there till this date. I hope, the hon. Minister will take special interest in it and make arrangements in this regard.

The consumers in the country have to suffer a lot on account of under-weighing. It should be ensured that there is no foul play in weighing and measuring.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister particularly to cement. Cement is packed in gunny bags. Even if nobody indulges in dishonesty, 10 kg. cement is lost in loading and unloading. I suggest that cement should be packed in polythene bags and then put in gunny bags, so that the consumer could get full 50 kilos of cement. Today, the consumers have to suffer a loss to the tune of crores of rupees.

Sir, I would like to touch one point more. There are malpractices in the purchase of wheat. The wheat that is brought to the purchase centre by the farmer is rejected and it is later on purchased through the middlemen. I would request that improvements should be made in the public distribution system in consonance with the spirit with which it was introduced under the 20-point programme, so that essential commodities could be made available to the people.

With these words I once again support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies.

[English]

RESOLUTION RE : DESERT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME—(Contd.)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now we take up Private Members' Business. Further discussion of the following Resolution moved by Shri Virdhi Chander Jain on the 25th January, 1985:—

“This House is of opinion that there should be parity between the Desert Development Programme and the Hill Areas Development Programme in the matter of provision of funds, facilities and concessions in the Seventh Five-Year Plan.”

Since only 25 minutes are left for this Item, I would request hon. Members to take only 5-6 minutes each. Shri Balkavi Bairagi.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I feel obliged to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Resolution moved by Shri Virdhi Chander Jain.

This is an important resolution. When we see the spirit behind the Resolution, it becomes all the more necessary on the part of Government to pay attention to it. Shri Jain spoke at length about this Resolution and almost all the Members supported it. When Shri S.B. Chavan was looking after the affairs of the Planning Ministry in 1983 he had assured Shri Jain, the mover of this Resolution, that these demands had been made in the middle of the Sixth Five Year Plan and they would be definitely considered when the draft for the Seventh Plan was drawn. He has categorically said this in the House. He also wrote to Shri Jain to this effect. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to consider his assurance at the beginning of the Seventh Five Year Plan. At present the ratio of development as between the hill areas and the desert areas stands at 1 : 9. The Government should remove

this anomaly. Government provide Rs. 100 crores for desert development while they allocate Rs. 900 crores for the development of hill areas. In this context I would like to say that Government have brought 21 districts under the Desert Development Programme. Here, I would like to say a word of caution that by the turn of this century or say after fifteen or twenty years, the Member who will be elected from Mandsaur, will definitely demand that this district may also be included as the 22nd district under that Programme. The reason is not far to seek. If the spread of the desert is not checked, it would advance right upto Malwa. Water is not available even at a depth of two hundred feet. Even today you can see sand particles in our rooms, on the beds in the kitchen and even in our food. The whole scene is changing in district Mandsaur. All of us are aware of how the forests are being denuded ruthlessly. Not only this, their concept of cattle-rearing is also changing. You find more sheep, goats and camels in those places where till some time back only cows and bulls used to be reared. The most important thing that Government should bear in mind and decide with regard to desert is whether you want to give priority to its development or to checking its spread. The desert is marching ahead and is extending to Malwa and if you waited for another 15 to 20 years, the population of the desert area, which according to you is 1.83 crores at present may increase by another one crore as the population of Malwa too shall have to be added because by then the desert would have engulfed this district too. On the one hand it is spreading to Gujarat and on the other side to Rajasthan and from both the sides it is engulfing us. Jhabua, Ratlam and Mandsaur are all affected by the advancing desert. Our food habits are changing, our approach to livestock is changing and the cultivation pattern is also undergoing a change. The acute shortage of drinking water is felt more in our district than in Rajasthan. If you do not treat Mandsaur on similar lines as Rajasthan then a day will come when we shall have to open branches of the Authority there also.

Being a humble Member of the House, I am saying this by way of caution. If

[Shri Balkavi Bairagi]

we neglected this area, I am afraid 25 years later some other Member would complain to you about this.

You are developing forests to check the advance of desert. It is requested that the areas of Madhya Pradesh which are adjacent to the Rajasthan border may also be included in the programme. You cannot complete the programme without associating us with this. Laboratories should be opened in the border areas which are in the clutches of the desert and you would come to know how far the points touched by me are true.

I support this resolution moved by Shri Jain and request Government that the whole matter should be examined afresh because this is the beginning of the Seventh Five Year Plan. Shri Jain had written the letter about three years back and about two to two and a half years back he was asked to remind at the appropriate time. Now, I am reminding at the appropriate time when the Seventh Five Year Plan is being finalised. If you do not pay attention to us at this hour then we shall have to decide later, when to call on you.

I congratulate Shri Virldhi Chander Jain once again for moving this resolution. Government should once again consider and remove the anomaly between the development of the hill areas and that of the desert areas. The attitude that desert areas can be developed at some later stage and the immediate development of the hill areas is essential would not be of much help. The rapidly advancing desert is a far bigger challenge and demands Governments immediate attention.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the outset I should like to thank Shri Virldhi Chander Jain for introducing this Resolution. It has focussed attention on a very important aspect of our national and regional development. I am also grateful to Shri Mool Chand Daga for his intervention and for the amendment he has moved and also to all other hon. Members for the contribution they have made during the discussion,

It has been a very constructive discussion and what is interesting is that there was not a single Member who really disagreed with the substance of this Resolution. Shri Jain has been more or less a crusader for the cause of desert development—one who has been primarily responsible for highlighting this issue of development. I have therefore very great sympathy for his demand but as all the hon. Members know sympathy has to be, in terms of development and planning, transformed into hard cash. Therefore, our responses while positive are within the limits of resources available. Hon. Members have referred to the assurance given by the then Minister of Planning, Shri S. B. Chavan. I have seen that assurance. We stand by that assurance that in the process of planning we would give serious consideration to the requirement of the desert areas.

The main demand is for the equation of funds spent and the pattern of financing of desert areas with that of hill areas. I feel that there is no need to compare these two sectors of development. Desert development can stand on its own merit. There are actually differences between the two problems. Without cutting into or without comparing with the requirements of the hill areas we can find independent solutions for the problems of the desert. That is not only an issue for the State of Rajasthan but it is a national issue because as has been pointed out, the desert of Rajasthan is in a sort of creeping aggression moving towards Delhi itself. Therefore, we have to stop desertification which is an urgent and national necessity. Also for maintaining and restoring the eco system we will have to give considerable thought as well as attention to this question.

Of course, the problem of the people of Rajasthan who are directly affected by desert conditions are very much in our mind. This is not a new subject for the Government of India. Right from 1951-52, the attention of the nation has been drawn to this question. Committees were set up. Various studies were made and various programmes were introduced for tackling the question of desertification and the development of desert regions. As early as 1971, we started the programme of what is called the Drought Area Development Programme. Later on, in 1977-78, we star-

ted the specific desert development programme. By 1980, the two programmes were separated. Many hon. Members have mentioned that this has been a retrograde step as both of them have been not running together in the desert area. As a matter of fact, these programmes were separated because of duplication of the same type of work under separate programmes. After the separation of the two programmes, the desert areas far from being adversely affected, gained more, because there was greater concentration of resources in the areas which were demarcated as desert districts.

I have gone into some of the statistics. I find that after the separation of the two programmes, the amount of money spent on the desert districts and blocks has been actually much more than what was spent together in the same regions for the two programmes, when they were running concurrently. Therefore, this separation was a rational one and decided upon for the purpose of giving a greater thrust to the desert development programme rather than diluting it. Fundamentally, the question is really, first of all, of stopping the advance of deserts and, secondly, of building up infrastructure as well as other measures for a better life for the people in these regions.

One very major issue which has been raised by almost everyone has been that of the problem of drinking water. Now, drinking water is an acute problem for the entire rural sector in India. As you know, we have embarked upon a major programme. In fact, the Approach Paper on the Seventh Plan has adopted the objective of the Decade of Drinking Water and Sanitation according to which by 1990-91, all the villages of India would have drinking water, potable water. Of course, this is a very simple thing. But in terms of investment involved, it is a major task. Someone has calculated—it is a rough calculation—that it would cost around Rs. 11,000 crores for supplying the rural areas of India, all of them, with drinking water.

As regards Rajasthan itself, considerable work has been done though I would not claim that it has been satisfactory. In 1980, about 19,803 villages were declared as problem villages. By "problem villages",

they mean, where there is no source of drinking water within a radius of 1.6 km. Out of these, under the Sixth Plan, it was decided to cover about 15,996 villages with drinking water facilities. The estimate is that at the end of the Sixth Plan, there are about 3,807 villages which remained without water as spill over. I think, it is possible to tackle this problem in this Seventh Plan and even go a little more ahead and deal with not only the problem villages but also for the provision of drinking water in a more satisfactory way in the desert region.

There are also other schemes. Of course, water supply is a State subject. But the Centre gives assistance specially under the minimum needs programme. Besides, there are Central schemes under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Scheme operated by the Ministry of Works and Housing. I have some figures here. During the Sixth Plan, under the minimum needs programme, the States spent about Rs. 115.61 crores on drinking water supply, while the Government assisted the State of Rajasthan to the tune of Rs. 123.77 crores.

I do not claim that this is large enough to deal with the problem. But I think this shows the earnestness and the intention of the Governments both Central and State Governments to deal with this basic problem. Drinking water is not merely a humanitarian need, a physical need or a social need. It is much more than that. I think the provision of drinking water is an economic need as well, in the sense that it would give impetus to the economic development all over the rural sector in India. Therefore, the importance of drinking water for the purpose of making development has to be recognised and the Government is very well aware of this importance.

As regards Rajasthan, one basic problem is really that of lack of sources of water. There is very little underground water. This fact is agreed upon by every one. Many of the hon. Members have also given expression to this fact. Until the Rajasthan Canal is completed, it would be difficult to tackle this massive question in the desert successfully. The Rajasthan Canal is a very ambitious project. It is in the State sector and the hon. Members have demanded that the Centre should study

[Shri K.R. Narayanan]

the proposals made by the State Governments in view of the national importance of this project. Of course, the Centre is already giving some financial assistance. As you know, the first stage of this Canal has already been completed or largely been completed and for the second stage, work is going on. There has been retardation primarily because of the revision of the plan projects two or three times. The latest revision involved some basic questions. Not that they are insoluble questions but, technically, they have to be approved by the Central Water Commission and the enhanced finances are to be found for implementing the scheme. The proposal is at the moment with the Central Water Commission and once it passes through the Commission, it will go to the Committee on Irrigation and Flood Control and thereafter it will come to the Planning Commission for taking a final view on this particular project, I have absolutely no doubt that the ultimate solution for the problem of water in the Rajasthan desert is the completion of this very major project. I cannot give any assurance about it, but I can only say that the policy of the Government of India as well as of the State Government of Rajasthan is to speed up the completion of this major project.

There have been many other issues raised like that of electrification and medical facilities. These are all connected and very vital to the life of the people in this region and part of the desert development programme. I am not trying to evade them. Many steps have been taken by the Central Government to help the State Government in implementing the schemes. I am not detailing those steps because they are well-known. They apply to all parts of India with, of course, variations required for the specific conditions of the desert regions of Rajasthan.

But what is specific to the region are measures connected with ecology, eco-preservation, like preventing soil erosion, afforestation, planting shelter belt plantations, sand dunes stabilisation and such other fundamental schemes for fighting the advance of the desert. In this, some progress has been made though I would not claim that it is very spectacular. According to the information obtained from the Rajasthan Government, during the Sixth Plan

18,393 hectares of land have been treated through water-shed based soil conservation programmes; about 1,136 wells have been constructed—not a very exciting number; dairy societies have been established. These are by way of infrastructure. I have the actual figure about afforestation also. Afforestation has been done on 13,219 hectares of forest land. 1.60 lakh plants have been distributed for farm forestry.

There is another more basic thing in Rajasthan. Some members have mentioned about the Centre for Arid Zone Research at Jodhpur; one hon. Member has mentioned that it is a kind of armed-chair work that goes on there. I have had discussions with the Director as well as scientists of this Institute and I find that they have been doing a new type of work, a constructive type of work. In fact, unless we go ahead with the scientific and technological research and innovations in dealing with desert conditions, there is really no sure way of fighting the advance of desert or trying to improve the standard of living or the living conditions of the people in this unfortunately-situated desert region. I think, we should not try to run down the work done by this Institute. In fact, recently we had a visit from the Planning Minister of Tunisia and I was surprised that one of the things he wanted to see was this Institute; he also wanted to have a cooperative arrangement with this Institute in order to develop similar scientific work in his own country. Of course, one cannot say that what they have devised can be immediately applied. But they have grown special types of plants and fruits, they have found methods of treating the soil and they have also demonstration farms around the Institute. Actually the Director told me that he would like to invite some Members of Parliament to come and visit this Institute and to see the work they are doing, not only in the laboratory but in the entire area around it.

16.00 hrs.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur) : The Government is going so slow that even to invite the MPS to go and visit the Institute, the officers are only thinking.

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN : They have told me. I think I can arrange the

visit very easily, I do not think that they are trying to hide anything.

It is certain that without having recourse to new scientific technology for growing vegetation, for dealing with the soil, for afforestation and other problems, we cannot really fight the advance of the desert. So we have to have some commitment to the methods of science and technology in tackling this problem.

The major question raised was that of funding. Now the pattern of funding is 50-50. That is, 50% by the Centre and 50% to be raised by the State and the Centre's 50% will be given only if the State is in a position to raise its share of 50%. There is a difference, of course, between the Hill Area Development Programme and this. But I think there is no need to compare the two programmes. We can and we ought to fund the Desert Development Programme independently because it stands on its own merits and its own needs and requirements.

I have here—I think this has been used by Members a passage from the Approach Paper on the Seventh Plan, which says :

“In case of Desert Development Programme the need to give a greater thrust to it, if necessary, by remodeling it on the lines of other special area programmes like the Hill Area or Tribal Programmes will have to be examined.”

The Approach Paper is a guideline to the formation of the Seventh Plan. We stand by this guideline. We are examining in the Planning Commission how and to what extent this guideline can be incorporated in the Plan.

As you know, the financial pattern was decided by the National Development Council. There is no constitutional or legitimate way by which the Planning Commission can change the proportion of funding unless the matter is cleared and revised by the National Development Council itself. But we can work towards that following the guideline in this Approach Paper and I want to inform the hon. House that it is the intention of the Government to provide sufficient funds for this programme consistent with the overall availa-

bility of resources for the Plan and within these limits we certainly are prepared to examine the proposition. In fact, inherently it is already stated in the Approach Paper and as has been pointed out, Shri S. B. Chavan has also written saying that he is prepared to examine the question. We are examining it according to the assurance given and we are examining it with a great deal of sympathy and awareness of the importance of the Desert Development Programme not only for Rajasthan but for the whole of India because we have to fight the process of desertification and the improvement of the living conditions for the people of Rajasthan is also a matter of national importance for us.

With these words I would like to request the mover of the resolution to withdraw it because the Government is fully conscious of the objectives of the resolution and are prepared to work towards it.

And I should also like to request Shri Mool Chand Daga—may be I should have done it first—to withdraw his amendment which does not really make much change to the Resolution except that it highlights the lack of funds in the hands of the Rajasthan government. I want to thank all the hon. Members who have spoken on the subject because they have focussed attention on many of the aspects of the livelihood of the ordinary people of India in their presentation through the media of the desert development problem of Rajasthan.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, twelve hon. Members participated in the debate on the Resolution on the Desert development programme moved by me and the hon. Minister has replied to it.

I would like to thank Sarvashri Ananda Pathak, Girdhari Lal Vyas, Annanambi, Mohar Singh Rathore, Mool Chand Daga, Rameshwar Prasad Singh, Ram Pyare Panika, K.D. Sultanpuri, Girdhari Lal Dogra, Priya Ranjan Das Munsi, Balkavi Bairagi and the hon. Minister who have unanimously supported the Resolution.

The reply that the hon. Minister has given does not clarify whether the prob-

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lem of the acute shortage of drinking water can be solved without the Rajasthan Canal.

I would like to submit that it would be better if we find the solution to the problem of drinking water through the Rajasthan Canal. The Rajasthan Government had drawn up a plan involving an expenditure of about Rs 3,000 crores, but they cannot implement it. They do not have the resources to implement it. The problem of drinking water is such, that it cannot be solved without special assistance from the Central Government, which should in any case be more than that given to the hill areas.

Besides the question of drinking water there is the issue of the Rajasthan Canal. The project was approved in 1957. At that time the estimate was that it would cost Rs. 66 crores but at present it is estimated that the five lift canals of the Rajasthan Canal, development of Command Area and taking water upto Gadra Road through a flow canal would cost Rs. 1,500 crores. It can in no way be completed in less than Rs. 1,500 crores, whether you make provision in the Seventh Five Year Plan or the State is asked to provide funds for that. Till you extend special assistance the canal cannot be constructed. The Rajasthan Canal can also serve the purpose of an Ichhogil canal, i.e. it has strategic importance also.

The Rajasthan Canal will bring prosperity to the areas covered by it. The canal will serve the needs relating to drinking water, irrigation, agricultural production and will result in the overall progress and development of the area. The Rajasthan Canal has to play a special role in connection with all the above needs.

I have seen the draft of the Seventh Plan with regard to hill areas of U.P. Special projects have been drawn up for the hill areas. U.P. has taken the lion's share of Rs. 350 crores out of the total Plan allocation of Rs. 560 crores. Kashi-pur, Nainital, Almora and parts of Garhwal are covered under this project which as compared to Barmer and Jaisalmer are far more developed (*Interruptions*) though every area has different problems, Yet there are some common problems too,

on which I would dwell later on. You can get a clue by comparing the density of population in these areas. In hill areas the density of population is 175 persons per square kilometre while in Jaisalmer it is 10 to 15 persons and in Barmer about 75 persons per square kilometre.

Another problem is a friend from Madhya Pradesh was also saying the desert is advancing towards their area also and Vyasji was telling that it was advancing towards their area also. In a way it has become a national problem. So far as the hill areas are concerned, if you pay special attention to forest development there those areas can be developed, but if you want to develop forests in desert areas, it will cost ten times more. Afforestation in that area would be quite difficult. Therefore, I would request that you should view it from the angle that these desert areas are too much undeveloped areas and you can see it yourself if you happen to pay a visit. The officer had gone there in connection with some schemes and they revised the scheme of drinking water. They have raised the supply to 76 liters from 40 litres. Similar changes well made in that scheme in view of the number of cattle heads. A village in that area stretches up to an area of 50 to 100 square miles. Arrangement for drinking water should be made for a block of population of 250. You have identified 3980 problem villages, in respect of which no arrangement has been made. If we treat a population of 250 as a unit, ten thousand villages will come under desert area on the basis of population. What I want to emphasise is that drinking water is still not available in the desert areas. The people have to trudge a distance of as much as ten kilometres to fetch water. When we have adopted a norm that nobody should have to go beyond 1.6 kilometers, this norm should be made operative in desert areas also. Even the medical facilities cannot be made available for want of roads. If a hospital is opened there, no doctor is prepared to go there. There is no arrangement of electricity. There is no arrangement of drinking water. You will have to pay attention to expanding the infrastructure also. So far as electricity is concerned, only 10 to 15 per cent villages have been covered in our State, whereas in other parts of the country the

figure extends up to 60 per cent. What I mean to say is that such is the magnitude of this problem that it is imperative to solve it now.

I also want to tell you that I have also seen the Central Road Research Institute. It has a gigantic and important task. But the benefit of their work is not reaching the farmers. You should make a special arrangement so that this benefit could reach them. Today, there is a need to disseminate knowledge. I have already mentioned that it is a man-made desert and afforestation has been very successful there. There has been a considerable increase in production in the areas where camal has reached. That area has witnessed fast development and a lot of progress has been made there. Therefore, if special financial assistance is not given to Bikaner, Barmer, Jaisalmer and the neighbouring areas, we shall not be able to solve the drinking water problem even in the coming 30 years. If special assistance is not provided, we shall not be in a position to achieve our targets from the Rajasthan Canal even in 30 years. Already, 29 years have passed since construction work of Rajasthan Canal started and it may take another 28 years to complete it if special assistance is not provided. In the absence of special assistance, your target of linking villages up to the population of 1500 by road by the year 1990, will not be achieved. In our State, the cost of construction of roads is double or treble as compared to other areas. We shall also have to pay attention to Primary Health Centres. In this modern age, we want to solve all these problems. Therefore, you should give a thorough consideration to all these things and a proper investigation should be made in this regard. You have the resources. You have made provision for hill areas. You did provide special assistance to hill areas in 1981-82. Now, in the Seventh Plan, the position is that the desert has spread to an area of 2 lakh 36 thousand square kilometres, whereas the hilly area is spread over 2 lakh 31 thousand square kilometres. Their population is 4 crore 2 lakhs, whereas our population as per the 1971 census is only 1 crore 82 lakhs. Their population is double that of ours, whereas our area is more than their area. Our area is too much undeveloped and it is essential to assist it in all respects.

There is a vast scope in the state for animal husbandry if you want to push it up. Even today, the milk reaching Delhi is supplied from our desert areas of Jodhpur and Bikaner. If we pay attention to the development of dairies there the economy of the area can be further boosted and we can march ahead. Our cattle, i.e. cows and bullocks are of the finest breed in the country. There is much scope for progress in this field. An agricultural university on the lines of the one you have at Pantnagar can be set up at Bikaner. The purpose of my highlighting these issues here is that the State Government of Rajasthan are not in a position to take up big schemes like these on their own. As you have also said, this is a national issue and we should get full assistance from the Central Government to solve this problem so that our backward desert area could make progress. This area is also a border area and in this respect also it is necessary to develop it. Neither radio nor television facility exists there. Radio Pakistan is heard in our area as Akashvani does not cover this area. Facility of television has been provided to Ganganagar, but it has not reached other places. Today, there is need to boost their morale by providing such facility. During the war with Pakistan, our area gallantly faced the enemy and worked as border sentinel. Such border areas should be given full assistance to facilitate more and more development.

With these words, I want to request that more serious consideration should be given to it and special assistance should be provided to this area.

[English]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Sir, I seek leave of the House to withdraw my amendment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Has the hon. Member the leave of the House to withdraw his amendment ?

MANY HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

The amendment was, by, leave, withdrawn

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the light of the views I have expressed here and in

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view of the reply given by the Hon. Minister, I believe that this area will be developed by giving it special assistance. I have also talked to the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission in this connection and he has also given me a satisfactory reply. I want that the hon. Minister should visit our area, apprise himself of the situation prevailing there, then he will not find any difficulty with regard to allocation of funds. In view of all these points, I seek leave of the House to withdraw this Resolution.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his Resolution ?

MANY HON. MEMBERS ; Yes.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn

RESOLUTION RE : CONVERSION OF AIR AND DOORDARSHAN INTO AUTONOMOUS CORPORATIONS

[English]

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY (Nalgonda) : Sir, I beg to move :

“That this House resolves that the All India Radio and Doordarshan be converted into autonomous corporations to ensure objectivity, impartiality and independence of the mass media.”

Sir, there is no doubt that TV and Radio are the mass media meant for mass communication. Though its history is as old as 50 years, a serious thought to these media was given only in 1964 by appointing a committee under Shri Asok K. Chander. He made certain recommendations for the betterment of radio and TV and the proposals are as follows :

“The Corporation should be set up by an Act of Parliament laying down clearly its objectives ; the scope of Government's authority should be defined clearly and it should be free of ambiguity ; the right to require the corporation to broadcast certain programmes as also the right to veto broadcasts in certain subjects in the national interest, may be reserved

by Government ; the Act itself should lay down the authority and powers of the governors to prevent possible encroachment.”

Sr, this autonomy has not only been supported by Shri Ashok Chander, but this idea was first mooted by our late Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru in 1948 while speaking in the Constituent Assembly and he said :

“My own view of the set up for broadcasting is that we should approximate as far as possible to the British method, the BBC, that is to say, it would be better if we have a semi-autonomous corporation under Government, of course with the policy controlled by Government otherwise being not conducted as a Government department but as a semi-autonomous corporation. Now I do not think that is immediately feasible. I have merely mentioned this to the House. I think we should aim at that, even though we may have many difficulties. In fact in most matters we should aim at these semi-autonomous corporations, the policy and other things being controlled by Government departments not interfering in their day to day activities. But that is not an immediate issue.”

Though they have gone into the recommendations of the Committee of Ashok Chander, they have not taken any steps. Under the Janata regime, the Government have appointed another committee under the chairmanship of Shri Verghese. He also recommended similar proposals. Whatever may be the causes, Government have not taken these recommendations into consideration. The Ruling Party wants it to be controlled by Government. If it is being used as an organ of the Government, how can it be objective, impartial and independent ?

Sir, the objective of All India Radio and Television is to take the news to the far off places and to educate the rural masses and help in the developmental activities. But our All India Radio is nothing but All** Radio and our Door Darshan is nothing but** Darshan.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : It was partial in Janata Regime. But now

it is the most objective and impartial medium.

AN HON. MEMBER : He should withdraw that objectionable observation.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : These mass media are without any objective. They are there for propagating the Ruling Party's policies. I can give you any number of examples. No less a person than Shri N. T. Rama Rao was not given a chance to speak on Radio and our Late Prime Minister had to intervene for giving him the time. Telugu Desam had won 28 seats, whereas Congress (I) could win 6 seats, in the recent Parliamentary elections. They announced a number of times names of the persons who were defeated, but by whom, they were defeated, they never said. By whom ? They will never mention the name of the person who defeated him. Only one Congress (I) man won. His name was mentioned repeatedly. Regarding N.T.R.'s election, by 6 p.m. all the newspapers had reported that he had won by a huge majority. But AIR and Doordarshan gave the news only the next day. NTR's winning from three constituencies was reported by them the next day. If any young boy belonging to the Congress (I) in Andhra Pradesh makes a statement, Doordarshan will cover it in the first list. But whenever the Chief Minister, MPs or MLAs give any statement, or want to communicate any message to the masses Doordarshan or AIR will not telecast or broadcast it. (*Interruptions*)

I request the Government to take a reasonable view. If AIR and Doordarshan are to be impartial and independent, they should be made autonomous bodies. This will be in the interests of the public, of the country, and in the interests of spreading news among people in far-flung areas.

With these words, I request the hon. Members of this House to join me in supporting this Resolution, and passing it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr Daga, are you moving your amendment ?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Yes, Sir. I beg to move :

That in the resolution—

add at the end—

“After a Committee consisting of top-most intellectuals, renowned journalists and experienced members of Parliament is constituted to go into all the aspects of the matter and submit its report.”

The report of that committee can be considered thereafter. That is my amendment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Before proceeding further, we have to fix time for the consideration of this Resolution. Can we fix it as two hours ?

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : One hour is enough. We can have the entire discussion within one hour. Instead of that, you have yourself started with two hours.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Generally, we fix two hours. If the discussion is over earlier, we can finish it. (*Interruptions*) This arrangement will be applicable to all subjects. So, I hope we can fix it as two hours.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Rober-tsganj) : This is a small Resolution.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister has to reply, and many Members have given their names to participate in the discussion.

I now call Shri Viridi Chander Jain to start the discussion on this Resolution.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I strongly oppose the Resolution moved by Shri Raghuma Reddy. This Resolution relates to conversion of the All India Radio and Doordarshan into autonomous corporations. This issue has been discussed in Lok Sabha several times and committees had also been set up. The Verghese Committee had given its recommendations also. During the two and a half years of the Janata Party rule also, committees had been set up, but no decision had been taken by those committees. What type of publicity was done during the Janata Party rule ? A case was filed against Shrimati Indira Gandhi and court proceedings were broadcast on All India Radio.

[Shri Virdhi Chander Jain]

What do all these things show ? It shows that A.I.R. was not functioning in an impartial manner. It has been the policy of the Congress Government to follow Mahatma Gandhi's principles. Our policy..

(Interruptions). We are functioning under a democratic system. Under this system programmes relating to Lok Sabha proceedings are included in the programmes of A.I.R. and Doordarshan. Everybody is satisfied with this system. A special mention is made about the Opposition parties in those programmes. It is not known why the Opposition is given so much importance. Impartiality should be shown towards us. The Opposition takes initiative in discussion on Demands for Grants. In A.I.R. programmes, in the morning and in the evening broadcast, mention is made about them only. Since Members from the Opposition initiate discussion, only their names are broadcast. No mention is made about other Members. Yesterday an important discussion took place in the House regarding Congressional Briefing.....

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You see the proceedings of yesterday's debate in this House regarding Congressional Briefing. Only one Opposition member's name was covered and then came the names of the Minister and Prof. K.K. Tewary and others because they are from the ruling party. So, what he says is not at all correct.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Broadcast on A.I.R. is altogether different from coverage in newspapers. We have to say in the matter of newspapers. The names of Members from Opposition only were mentioned in the important discussion that took place yesterday. Tiwari Ji and Mr. Swell had made notable contribution in the discussion but no mention was made of them on A.I.R. Our grievance is that no mention was made about them despite the notable contribution made by them. We are not getting coverage in an impartial way. We are from the Congress Party, that is why our names are not mentioned. A.I.R. and Doordarshan programmes need radical

changes because we have to build national character. We have to make good citizens in the country. We have to impart education to the youth so that they can become good leaders and develop good qualities. But A.I.R. and television are not playing this role. We cannot build the character of our youth through the feature film shown on T.V. on Sunday. I see that students spend most of their study time in watching T.V. and in this way their study is disturbed. Other activities are also hampered. Hence, it is very necessary to bring about changes in these programmes. T.V. feature films should be such as help in building the character of people as well as the nation and in providing a new direction to the people so that they may be helpful in the progress and advancement of the country under the democratic set-up. We should telecast films on T.V. which may show the progress made by science and technology. Besides, programmes meant for youth can be shown. Programmes on the progress made in the country can be shown. I mean to say that there is need to bring about changes in the programmes being telecast at present.

Since, you have rung the bell, I do not want to take more time. I would like to submit that Doordarshan and A.I.R. programmes should be made impartial in view of the behaviour meted out to us. An Hon. Member has said here that we should also set up an autonomous corporation like the B.B.C. If we do that then the same situation will arise here also as had arisen in London where the speech of Jagjit Singh was broadcast on the B.B.C., as it is an autonomous corporation. Thereafter, such people will start broadcasting their speeches. It will adversely affect our national unity and weaken the nation. Instead, I suggest that all Doordarshan and A.I.R. programmes should be broadcast according to the policies of government, and government should have some sort of control over them. A.I.R. and T.V. programmes should be broadcast according to the policies of the Government, irrespective of the party in power, otherwise they will be of no use. It is, therefore, necessary to have such an arrangement. Our Doordarshan and A.I.R. should play a role which should be help-

fl in the implementation of our policies. If there are certain shortcomings, the hon. Minister should take personal interest and remove them. I would also suggest that the Committee of Members of Lok Sabha constituted for the purpose should also be consulted for effecting improvement and necessary changes should be made in the programmes. Efforts should be made to put an end to obscenity in T.V. films. With these words I strongly oppose this Resolution.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : Mr. Jain you are residing in V.P. House and yesterday two sitting MPs were thrown out of the V.P. House. Was that incident broadcast from your radio ?...*(Interruptions)* Would you broadcast that ?...

***SHRI E.S.M. PAKEER MOHAMED** (Mayuram) : Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to say a few words on the Resolution of my hon. friend, Shri Raghuma Reddy, suggesting that separate independent Corporations should be constituted for All India Radio and Television.

Sir, some years ago Chanda Committee had recommended constitution of autonomous Corporations for All India Radio and Door Darshan. The Government of India examined that recommendation in great depth and decided against implementing that recommendation on the ground that autonomous Corporations would hinder the growth of A.I.R. and Door Darshan.

We have made phenomenal progress in the establishment of Door Darshan Centres all over the country just in two years. This is an unprecedented record in the history of all the countries of the world. We presently have about 170 Door Darshan Centres. Similarly, we also have All India Centre creations in almost all the important parts of our country. All the languages of this country are being given due recognition and importance in All India Radio and also in Door Darshan.

Sir, Unity in Diversity is an exclusive Indian culture. Only on the strength of this culture, Indian independence and sovereignty can be safeguarded. The

State is committed to the establishment of a secular sovereign democratic Republic India. This has been enshrined in the Preamble of our Constitution. All India Radio and Door Darshan are the potent instruments for achieving this goal and if they are converted into autonomous Corporations then this goal will be elusive. Hence I vehemently oppose the Resolution of Shri Raghuma Reddy and I demand that this Resolution should not be accepted by the House.

I would take this opportunity to say, a few words about my place Kumbakonam, which is the oldest city in the country. It found a place in Oxford Dictionary also. In Kumbakonam we have many temples of great historical importance. We have Cauvery river here. As Kumbh Mela is celebrated in Allahabad, in Kumbakonam we have Maha Maham once in twelve years. This is attended by people from all over the country. During Maha Maham days crores of people congregate in Kumbakonam. I refer to this because Kumbakonam is not like other cities; it has its own importance. Here we have only Door Darshan Relay Centre. We get only Delhi Door Darshan Programmes. In Kumbakonam we do not have many Hindi-knowing people. Madras that at least TV Programmes from the Government of Madras should be relayed from Kumbakonam. I want Darshan to take place from Kumbakonam. If Door Station to take some time, I want that at least TV programmes from Madras should be relayed at Kumbakonam.

We are a multi-religious society. I want that teachings of different religions should be broadcast over AIR and telecast in Door Darshan. At least during the thirty days of fasting of Muslim (Ramadan month) when Muslims fast throughout the day, in order to help them there should be frequent broadcasts in AIR from Thiruvananthapuram. It is enough if this is done for 30 days of fasting of Muslims. Door Darshan can also attempt this. Sri Lanka Radio is doing this very successfully, respecting the sentiments of Muslims in that country. 1

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suggest that that should be tried over All India Radio also.

Before I conclude, I would request that All India Radio and Door Darshan should give greater opportunity for respectively broadcasting and telecasting our Hon. Prime Minister's educational plans and programmes for the children of our country.

With these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): I congratulate my friend Mr. Raghuma Reddy for moving this Resolution for autonomy of A.I.R. and Door-darshan. This is a long standing demand. We have voiced it in Parliament from time to time. But the Government of the day naturally prefers that these two media should be under their absolute control as long as possible so that they can use or rather abuse them for their own advantage. This has never been more clearly demonstrated than in the recent elections because the coverage of both Radio and TV has enormously been increased. It has grown from strength to strength.

My hon. friend just now referred to the Chanda Committee Report which says that there should be autonomy for both Radio and T.V. But this is not acceptable to the Government on the ground that this will hinder their growth. The growth depends not on who controls the Radio and T.V. but how much money is allocated. So far as TV coverage is concerned, it is really unprecedented not only in the history of India but in the history of the world. They have shown such a remarkable energy in installation of TV stations. The Sixth Five Year Plan had targeted that only 25 per cent of the population would be covered by T.V. In 1983 a decision was taken to cover 80 per cent of the population by the end of the Plan i.e. by 31 March, 1985. Then the target date was advanced by six months i.e. from 31st March, 1984 to 31st October, 1984. There was definite a purpose behind this escalation in setting up of TV stations. An amount of Rs. 350 crores was to be spent on it. Obviously it was far exceeded, because of the

fact that there was inflation and prices had gone up and that they were installed in break-neck hurry. If one year's work you went to complete in six months, then you have to pay more.

We do not know how much has been spent on this project alone but obviously lot more money has been spent and there has never been any shortfall. All other projects which have been in the Sixth Five Year Plan, have been cut. Even power projects, even projects for coal, rail and everything, have been cut, but not the T.V. platform installation project. More money has been put in it and in lesser time. Definitely, there was a very ulterior motive behind it. Mr. Ranga may cheer me but this is because of an ulterior motive of the ruling party to abuse the T.V. at the time of election, and they have done it day in and day out. They started doing it not only in the election but before the election.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : How could you blame them ? They had to show funeral retrospectively.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Yes, Sir, I know. Even during the 48 hours before the election, when the canvassing stops, this funeral was shown on T.V. And this is the most grossest form of abuse of T.V. which we have ever witnessed in India. I think the demand for autonomy has not come too soon. It has come a number of times but it has come again, not from the ruling party Members because they have got the advantage out of it and they will certainly try to throw it out lock, stock and barrel. But the educated public, the democracy minded progressive people of our country should think whether the time has not come when the ruling party whoever is in power, is likely to abuse this power unless this is made an autonomous body. It was Janata at one time, they may have abused it, I do not say that they would not have abused..... (Interruptions).

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : We went out of power because of our inability to abuse.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I am just reacting to something. An hon'ble friend said that during the Janata regime it was

called **Vani or something like that. To what my hon. friend Raghuma Reddy said that it was All **Radio, the reply is that during Janata time it was **Vani. Well, what I am saying is that it only strengthens the argument in favour of autonomy. If in **time it was All** Radio, if in** time it was **Vani, then both the sides agree that if the other side is in power, they are going to abuse it. Therefore, this is an argument in favour of autonomy and not against it.

I have said that they have abused the T. V. and radio day in and day out before the election and this bears repetition because the way this was done is the most vile form of election propaganda through the Government-owned media with they have not allowed to be autonomous. In spite of Jawaharlal Nehru having said in the Constituent Assembly in 1948 that our radio—then T. V. was not there—will also take after BBC which already had acquired great renown, nothing was done because after a few years, the ruling party understood the use of radio to keep themselves in power. When T. V. was introduced, the Government was lukewarm in its appreciation of T. V., in the money allotted to T. V. My learned friend here cheered me when I said it was an unprecedented programme carried out by India. Never before in India it was done. On the other hand, we are going to celebrate, I think, Silver Jubilee or something, of T. V. this year, which means 25 years ago we had introduced T. V. And now this is the position we have reached. In 25 years, we should have gone much farther. Although T. V. coverage is 85 per cent, actual number of people owning T. V., who can view it in their homes, is not more than two per cent of the population.....(Interruptions).

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Even less.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Not more than means less. Anyway, the point is that this Government was lukewarm in its expansion of T. V. but suddenly it appreciated how it could abuse the T. V. to its own benefit and it suddenly got very enthusiastic about T. V. and about colour T. V.

Colour TV is another aspect of it, because after long regime during which they had been pretending to be socialistic and

the slogans of Garibi Hatao, they understood that the intelligentsia, the middle and the upper middle class, those who can afford, they want to have the same style of living, the same type of comforts, the same gadgetry etc. which is enjoyed by their counterparts in the developed countries and the West. Therefore, they thought that this is one of the ways to satisfy them by giving them coloured TV and video. Now we have electronic computers and other such things which are being introduced here to satisfy the long pent up demands of the middle and richer class, who have been denied some of these or had rather surreptitiously enjoyed these. But now they are being openly enjoyed just because the pretensions to socialism are being gradually given up.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Are you not having middle classes in China and Russia ?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : They have got working class also. Even the working class is having TV. Even peasant have got TV. They have got, what can you do ? They have become much richer than us and you have been sleeping.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : What about West Bengal ?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : West Bengal is still a part of India. Do not forget that. Our progress cannot be more than the progress of the rest of India. This is a demand of all sections of the people who understand that the political process in a democratic country must be such that the media must be impartial. This is not a partisan demand. Any right thinking person, even in the ruling party, has to acknowledge that as long as these media are under the direct control of the Government, as long as the people working there have to secure their jobs by pleasing their political bosses, they will go on singing their praise. Therefore, all right thinking people, all educated people and all democratic people will always support this demand for autonomy for these media. That cannot be left in the hands of one political party which controls them for the time being. Then they will only go on singing

[Shri Amal Datta]

their praise as these people have been doing. We have given illustrations after illustrations and there is no need for that now. We had given that during the time of the last Parliament also. I may tell you whenever statistics are presented about so many lines being devoted to Congress Party and so many lines devoted to the Opposition, these are all misleading because all these things are covered in some guise to serve the interest of the ruling party. For instance, President Zail Singh goes and releases a book and that is covered by Radio and TV. But the book happens to be a biography of Indira Gandhi by Swaraj Paul. This is an indirect propaganda. Then an atomic station is shown to show what good this government is doing. Then again the Prime Minister is going and attending some function. That does not come under Prime Minister's coverage or the ruling party's coverage. That comes under education. The people are being shown who is their Prime Minister and that he is doing such and such good work to the nation. There the Opposition parties are not there to say that you are wasting all your resources. There is absolutely rampant corruption and favouritism in this. Whatever is there in the printed word is taken to be true. Similarly whatever you are showing in radio and TV are being taken as truth by the people who are largely illiterate in the country. Unfortunately 65 per cent of them take it to be the gospel truth and this is how they have been able to substantially influence the voting pattern in these elections. Therefore, they are not going to give up this without a fight. But, of course, if they think about the country's future and their own future, they will also support this Resolution.

17.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose vehemently the Resolution moved by my friend Shri Reddy from Telugu Desam because this Resolution is politically motivated and there is a conspiracy to bring our Government into disrepute through this Resolution. I therefore, oppose it strongly.

I do not know why the Mover of the Resolution has brought into the

discussion the name of Shri N.T. Rama Rao. How could the results have been announced by Doordarshan until they were conveyed to them by the Commission. On their own, they could not have done so. What I want to say is that the hon. Member is trying to defame the media, by levelling baseless charges and this has hurt me. Just a little while ago hon. Member who was speaking before me had stated that the people of India wanted that it should be converted into a corporation but the Government did not do so. He said that the expansion of the TV network was not necessary and that by expanding the TV speedily Government taken advantage of it during the last elections. Both these things are beyond my comprehension. I want to congratulate the hon. Minister and his Department for the rapid expansion of the TV network. During the Janata rule a claim used to be made about honouring the aspirations of the people. How can a Government which functions according to the aspirations of the people be anti-people? Our late Prime Minister and the then Government took the right decision. It was the need of the hour that the new technologies and the scientific advancement being made in the world should reach our country also. In the Sixth Five Year Plan we fixed our target upto 28 per cent. This decision was taken by a popular Government. Now, keeping in view the aspirations of the people the target has been fixed at 70 per cent then what is the crime we have committed? That is why I say that the Resolution brought forward by the hon. Member is a political move to defame Government. I want to congratulate the hon. Minister that he had been inaugurating one T.V. centre each day before the elections. You have opened 7 T.V. centres in West Bengal also and in the entire country about 117 centres have been opened. But my complaint is different. A few months back when our late Prime Minister had gone to Banaras to inaugurate a one-KW TV centre, it was said there that the TV centre would be converted into 10-KW TV centre within three or four months but the same has not been done so far. I would like to quote the example of Singrauli. There is a big coal field on industrial

belt in that area and a one-KW TV centre was to be opened there. For this, the people of that area had donated about Rs. 25,000 but I do not know why that centre has not so far been opened. In this connection, I had also written to the hon. Minister. My area is a tribal area, a backward area and about five lakh workers are employed in the industries located in that area. They pressed for a TV Centre there. I wrote a letter and got a reply that the place fulfilled all the norms fixed for opening a TV Centre but due to resource constraints, the TV centres at Renukut and Champan could not be opened. Now the time has come when Government can fulfil their commitment of opening a TV Centre at Renukut, which is in an industrial belt so that this facility could be made available to the five lakh workers there.

Prof. Madhu Dandavate is sitting here. I would remind him that during the Janata Party rule, commissions after commissions were appointed against our leaders and our former Prime Minister. At that time from morning till evening A.I.R. was engaged only in one work namely to broadcast the hearings in different commissions. You used to broadcast this news everywhere. It is why the people had said at that time that was not Akashwani, but that was **Vani, Shri Amal Datta's Party had also supported them at that time. They had promised to support all their policies. They wanted to be in power indirectly. These people cannot live without power because their programmes are in a mess.

That is why I want to say that the way Doordarshan and A.I.R. have functioned during the last two or three elections, the way they have given time to all the parties, no one can make any allegation against them. Today, no one can say that A.I.R. and Doordarshan have favoured us. Each Party has been allotted time according to its share and that too by draw of lots. In spite of all this, you say that we have indulged in favouritism. It has never been so. Had it been converted into a Corporation, Prof. Madhu Danda-

vate would have criticised it quite often. The late Shri Jawaharlal Nehru had rightly thought that the situation was not favourable not to convert it into a Corporation. It was well thoughtout decision. In any country mass media are very important. One of my colleagues has rightly said that mass-media should remain under the control of the State so that the unity of the country, and the policies of the country could be presented before the people. Sometimes, there are incidents like communal riots or anti-national activities whose broadcast can adversely affect the mind of the people. If the mass media was under the control of Government, these broadcasts can be checked. If the Media are under the control of any Corporation, then that will be a commercial organisation and it would stick to facts while broadcasting without caring for its effect of news about such incidents on the minds of the people. But the attitude of Government would be different and they will function keeping in view the welfare of the people and inculcate moral values among the youth of the country.

I would like to say one thing more. As Shri Virdhi Chand Jain had also said, you should telecast films on TV which have a social message. Such films should not be shown while seeing which with our children, we may have to leave in between. Sometimes such pictures are telecast as make our position awkward I, therefore demand that such films and programmes should be shown as may build up the character of the nation. The fall in our character seen in the recent past should not go further down; rather the character of our youth should go high. Narrow considerations of caste, community class and language weakens the country and these should not be propagated. I believe in objective journalism but nowadays sensational news items are published which vitiate the atmosphere in the country. If it is handed over to some corporation, it will be commercialised, which will never be in the interest of the country.

I therefore, vehemently oppose Shri Reddy's resolution and demand that he

[Shri Ram Pyare Panika]

should withdraw it, otherwise it should be rejected unanimously.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if there is any danger to democratic socialism, it is from these regional and communal parties and if democratic socialism is to flourish and develop, then we will have to be vigilant against extremists, radical leftists, communal parties and regional parties. Ours is a vast country and has a large population.

The Estimates Committee had also dealt with this subject in their Report and today I want to say that it has been discussed in the House many times. When the Janata Party came to power, it did one thing and that was that whenever be it morning or evening—the radio or TV was switched on is was name of the Shah Commission which was heard and people got fed up to hear this name repeatedly. In this way they resorted to character assassination.....(Interruptions). They had to go because of their misdeeds and we did not have to do much. Were AIR and TV independent at that time? People used to ask what the Shah Commission was.

I would like to say that when there is any programme of the Prime Minister it is not a Congress Party programme. That is a programme of the leader of the nation. You say time and again that too much coverage is given to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister does not belong to any one Party. He is the leader of the whole House, of the whole nation. Therefore, when you say these things, these are not correct. So far as Shri N.T. Rama Rao is concerned, he has recently changed his clothes and will change his heart also. Now perhaps he is trying to advance further.

[English]

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : I object to a reference to NTR. He will have no opportunity to defend himself here (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : When the hon. Member from your side was speaking, he mentioned about how the

election results of Andhra Pradesh and other things were not announced. At that time, he wanted to reply to that. But he was not allowed. To that, he is now giving a reply.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : He said about the dress of NTR and all that.....

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Why are you objecting to that? I do not think it is unparliamentary or defamatory.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : When you had come here for the first time, we had seen your dress on that day. I am surprised to see the difference between your dress on that day and your dress today. Where is that dress? You have given up the dress which you had worn on the first day. I was really surprised to find them in such a dress on that day and the persons sitting in the lobby also had this impression that these saints had come here from the Himalayas. But now you have given up that dress and you have also adopted our dress. In this way you are also following our principles. Is it your policy? Would it benefit you in any way? The question arises who would be benefited by Radio and T.V. The policy of Government is to work for the upliftment of the nation. Should this policy be publicized through the Radio and T.V. or something else? Many times the reply is given to many questions.....

(Interruptions)

Now I would like to quote what our late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi had said on an earlier occasion :

[English]

“The Prime Minister recently said that she did not favour giving autonomy to radio and television. The reasons are : the newspapers are biased and do not report the development activities ; they create a feeling of pessimism and despair among the people. AIR and Doordarshan report the progress of the country in various fields and help to build up public confidence in the future of the nation. The argument, however, is not entirely flawless.”

[Translation]

The achievements of the nation are publicised on Radio and T.V. When foreigners come to our country, the Ministers of the ruling party would go there to receive them and not the members of the Opposition parties. I have myself seen that speeches of Opposition leaders are telecast on T.V. On the eve of election leaders of the Opposition are given an opportunity to explain the points of their election manifestoes. It is wrong to say that the Opposition members are not provided with opportunities. I have seen that ministers are afraid of the Opposition leaders. Gadgil Sahab should take note of the fact that Opposition leaders are given more publicity. You also know and the officers of Radio and Television also know that the Opposition leaders are given more publicity. Perhaps they would pull them up for this. We believe in the principles of Gandhiji and non-violence and that is why we do not criticise at all. The Opposition leaders are given wide publicity. Even if they speak one sentence, they are given publicity in four sentences. When Members of our party speak, a list of Members is read out that Sarvashri Harish Rawat, Munsi, Mahajan and Daga also spoke.

[English]

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : For the very reason stated by Shri Mool Chand Daga, he is showing that Doordarshan and All India Radio are not accurate and objective in their reports.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : The disciples of Shri N.T. Rama Rao should reply to this point.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He is not up to date.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You are only saying that time has not come. The time will come some time.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : I want to say it in all seriousness that a

party which has a leader and many followers can think about it. Daily new parties are formed in our country. How could the media be turned into an autonomous body in these circumstances ? How many parties are there in the country ? What is the number of Lok Dal Members ? It has now changed its name as DMKP. They have only two members. What publicity should be given to them ? There are so many parties in the country. They should merge themselves into one united and strong party. Then only some improvements in the media could be considered. What publicity should be given to them who fight among themselves daily ? Now Bahugunaji has been appointed as Vice chairman of the Party. You do not have any policy or programme. You find out new methods to mislead the people. The Opposition parties are misleading the people of the country. Therefore, it is not the proper time to convert Doordarshan and A.I.R. into autonomous bodies. It is a Government medium. The policies and the programmes of the Government of the day are given publicity through it and information about the progress of the country is disseminated through it. You should extend your co-operation to it. If you co-operate, it would bring you credit.

[English]

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : That is what Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru said in 1948.

17 20 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH in the Chair.]

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : I would, therefore, request you to withdraw this Resolution. Changes would be brought about at the appropriate time.

*SHRI SRIHARI RAO (Rajamundry) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise in support of the resolution to make All India Radio and Doordarshan autonomous Corporations. In fact, this proposal has been before the Government for quite a long time now.

*The speech was originally delivered in Telugu.

[Shri Skrihari Rao]

but no action has been taken so far to convert AIR and Doordarshan into autonomous bodies. It is strange to see the hon. Members belonging to the ruling party opposing this resolution. They are opposing this resolution for the sake of opposition. Otherwise, they know it too well that converting AIR and Doordarshan into autonomous bodies is a step towards the right direction and it will serve the interests of the people. The hon. Members occupying treasury benches today were the very persons who have pleaded vehemently once upon a time to convert AIR and Doordarshan into autonomous bodies. There is a shift in their stand now. A pity indeed. At the time when Shah Commission was holding its inquiry, these very Congress Members blamed the then Government and urged that the AIR and Doordarshan should be independent. But now they say that these bodies should not be accorded autonomous status. Sir, we are the largest democracy in the world and occupy the second place as far as the population is concerned. If the All India Radio and Doordarshan are converted into autonomous corporations, they would be in a better position to serve the needs of the people and do justice to them. Justice can also be done to all the parties. If all the parties are to get justice, then it is very much essential that AIR and Doordarshan are kept away from the influence of the Ruling party. This is possible only when they are autonomous. I would like to cite an example as to how the AIR and Doordarshan are functioning at the moment. When our beloved leader N. T. Rama Rao was thrown out of power, though he had a very clear majority, the All India Radio and Doordarshan relayed the news that Shri N T Rama Rao had no majority at all. The truth was known to all. B.B.C. had given the correct news that Shri N. T. Rama Rao enjoyed a clear majority. No one believed the AIR and Doordarshan and depended on the BBC for authentic news. It shows how the people have lost their faith in All India Radio and how they began to growingly rely on BBC for accuracy. What had been said by BBC had finally came true. The BBC version had come true and Shri N T Rama Rao proved his majority. The BBC could predict even the extent of majority that Shri N.T. Rama

Rao had enjoyed. But our own media AIR and Doordarshan had taken a different stand. The mystery unfolded and now everybody knows who is correct and who is not. This one example is sufficient enough to show that people in this country have developed faith in the BBC and they have lost faith in AIR and Doordarshan. The AIR and Doordarshan are the mouth-piece of the Government. They believe in propagating the views of the Government. Their stance is pro-Government. They have no consideration for the people. They do not serve the interests of the people. Other political parties find no place either in AIR or in Doordarshan. These organisations serve the interests of ruling party's ideals and viewpoints. It should not be so. The All India Radio and Doordarshan must be independent. Then only justice can be done to everybody. The conversion of AIR and Doordarshan into autonomous bodies satisfies every section of our society.

Sir, the programmes relayed over All India Radio and Doordarshan are of a very poor quality. The programmes are neither attractive nor appealing. There is no proper method in the selection of programmes. No new talent is being encouraged. For example, I have been listening to the running commentary of cricket right from my school-going days to this day from the same commentators. For the past 20 years there has been no change in the commentators. Is there no new talent available around? The new persons however talented they might be are not being allowed in AIR and Doordarshan. Same is the case with artists too. The young and budding artists are not being encouraged. No talented person gets any chance either in AIR or in Doordarshan. What is the reason for this sad state of affairs? No new person can ever think of getting a chance in AIR or Doordarshan without any influence or recommendation. Those who have no influence can never think of getting a place in those organisations. There is no dearth of talent in the country. There are many talented people. These hitherto ignored but highly talented persons must be picked up. They must be encouraged. But unfortunately the All India Radio and Doordarshan are not doing so. Everybody in the country is fed up listening to the same commentators and the same old artists. That is why I plead for rejuveni-

nation of these organisations. It is possible only when they are autonomous bodies. Government must take steps to convert atonce the All India Radio and Doordarshan into autonomous corporations. When AIR and Doordarshan become autonomous everything will go on a systematic way. New talent will take its rightful place. The programmes would no more be dull and drab. Justice can be done to all. These organisations can progress well. They can establish their credibility once more. People would come to like AIR and Doordarshan. I hope Government would respond favourably. Otherwise, I am afraid, the AIR and Doordarshan would continue to toe the line of the party which is in Government. Today it is the Congress party and tomorrow it may be some other party. All India Radio and Doordarshan would continue to project the policies and view of the ruling party. They would continue to deny justice to people. Hence, to avoid such a situation, I once again plead for the conversion of All India Radio and Doordarshan into autonomous corporations.

I strongly support this resolution.

I conclude my speech by thanking you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN (Jalgaon) : I rise to oppose the resolution brought forward by Mr Raghuma Reddy.

The subject has been discussed on and off in the last 30-40 years, from the days of Pandit Nehru. AIR has been with us for nearly 45 years and the TV made its debut in our social life in 1959. It will soon be celebrating its silver jubilee.

The resolution refers to the very important and sensitive activities of a Department of the Government. In these days of science and technology, information, information systems and communications are of very crucial importance. The success of the government depends to a considerable extent on the proper use of this media.

The media now are attached to a Government Department but it does not mean that they work for the Government. Their function is not of a partisan nature

but to inform society, to educate people, to entertain them and not Members of the Congress Party. There is no discrimination. The audience consists of all the people, not of a particular party or of a particular region. Therefore, it is to raise the cultural standards, the standards and levels of information and judgment of the people as a whole that these media have been functioning.

BBC set up a certain model in Great Britain which was the first of its kind in the whole world. Therefore, some Opposition members and some intellectuals in our country have been advocating that we should follow that model. Such a proposal was brought forward during the days of Pandit Nehru also who, let me stress it, did not regard it as an immediate issue. He said that in the long run we might think of it as a model and move in that direction. But in those days the BBC happened to set a really good model which was praised by the people all over the world. But what is the BBC to-day? The BBC has disgraced itself. Some days ago a speaker openly said that the leaders of a particular country should be killed and such a speech was allowed to be broadcast by the BBC. What a disgrace, what a shame! Is that the standard of autonomy we are going to put before us? The BBC is no longer a model. The BBC's management is utterly hopeless. In countries which are socialist and which have a political structure different from ours they have a different system altogether. We cannot compare ours with them. There are other developing countries. There are developed countries where they have got private enterprises. Their structures cannot be a model for us. We have to think of a model consistent with our own social and political conditions and under the conditions that we have, I think the present arrangement is the best.

In our country AIR and Television are government departments but they follow certain guidelines. The guidelines are that they have to cater to the needs of the people, they have to see that the economic and social programmes of government are brought to the notice of the people and that people are educated. Every morning when I get up, I hear a speech on agriculture. I come from an agricultural

[Shri Y.S. Mahajan]

community. It is such an instructive thing to hear. Every day the agriculturists are told the conditions of weather, what crops are to be raised, how they should be attended to and how different crops are to be looked after. Millions of people are benefited by it. There are programmes for children. There are programmes for women. There are programmes for industrialists. I have to say to the hon Minister. I am interested in the public sector very much. I hope he will put forward programmes which will highlight the performance and the image of the public sector. We had made this demand previously. It was considered favourably at that time but nothing much has happened. We have set up great industries in the public sector with an investment of 5000, 10,000 and 15,000 crores. People talk about losses but then whatever good things are being done should be brought to the notice of the people. In this way the media will render a great service.

Sir, it was also mentioned that the Verghese committee had made certain recommendations. The matter was discussed by Members of Parliament and the Government came to the conclusion that they could not accept the recommendations of the committee. The matter was again considered by the Estimates Committee. It also said since the media have been asked to be impartial—since they are impartial—and help in carrying out the policies of the government nothing much need be done.

Sir, a complaint has been made from the Opposite side, that the media are partisan and not in their favour. Our experience is just the opposite. Even in the last Session we complained that whenever members on the Opposite benches say something it comes in the papers with broad headlines. In the radio and TV also they get prominence whereas in our case they only say that so and so also spoke. Sir, a member after a lot of study puts forward his point of view and then nothing comes on the radio and TV. The only report is that he also spoke. Even then the Opposition members have the temerity to say that the media is partial. The media should be asked to see that they are fair to the Government benches also.

Now, I would like to make a few suggestions. As regards the entertainment programme films are shown which are 30 or 50 years old. I want to know from the hon. Minister why he does not want to pay to the producers of films in recent times? Why should he show old films?

There is a complaint that the management of the media should be in the hands of professionals rather than bureaucrats. Professionals will be able to cater to the needs of the people better and, as such, bureaucrats should not boss over the professionals who are there.

There is a report that provision for R & D is very meagre. Out of Rs. 20 lakhs, Rs. 18 lakhs are spent on the salaries of the staff. Communications is an area which is making rapid strides. The relevant technology is being revolutionised every five or ten years. Therefore, we should spend not Rs. 20 lakhs but ten times that amount on R & D and see that technically our services are the best.

Sir, I must thank the hon. Minister and his predecessor also for spreading the network of TV as a result of which he has brought 75 per cent of our people under coverage of TV. It is really a great achievement to have spread it through the length and breadth of the country within such a short time.

With these remarks I oppose the Resolution with all the force at my command.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Howrah) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I strongly oppose this Resolution, not in the sense that it has been brought by a Member who belongs to the Opposition, but considering the present situation in which—the country is placed at the moment and the significant aspects of it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, saying first things first, I would like to say why I oppose it. The concept of autonomous body and corporation sounds very well. The concept of autonomy in organisations like the Radio and TV sounds very well. Let us study in the whole world where this system operates and in what manner it operates. Mr. Amal Datta from the Opposition, has spoken very clearly and emphatically in support of this Resolution. I would suggest

to him to explain more elaborately the concept of television and TV in the communist countries. In almost all these countries—I say this with all my regard to the nation and for their revolution—even the news item published by various international agencies concerning the western world and developing nations, is not permitted even to relay. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAL DATTA : First you become a communist. Then you will understand.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : That is why I don't become a communist.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You cannot compare Bourgeois System with the Communist system. That much of knowledge you should have.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Let us leave aside that system now.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : These are two different systems. They are not comparable.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, what happened in Poland ? You know what happened in Poland.

PROF N.G. RANGA : Solidarity.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : No radio, no television, in the entire communist world, mentioned even a word. You say you are defending the integrity or fighting the reaction etc. All right. I do not mind. I support it. But I say the system. We should know the system. There is the western world and the developing nations. Sir, just now, the Member from Telugu Desam party, in his speech, was defending strongly the BBC. I was following the interpretation. I think I am not wrong. He said this. He feels, after listening to BBC these days and listening to AIR and TV, that the people have started developing their faith in BBC because what BBC speaks today will be truth tomorrow. I think the Member perhaps was absent yesterday when the discussion was going on, on Punjab. In spite of that, he has this tremendous respect for BBC. I think Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, who claims to be a patriot will expel him from his party. *(Interruptions)* Anyway, Mr. Chairman, Sir,...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You should understand the context...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : I am not yielding. I say this. If I have followed the interpretation correctly—I cannot follow Telugu—he said this, that he has developed tremendous faith in BBC and people have started developing that faith. If that is your feeling, then I say, Mr. Rama Rao may not keep you in the party.

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE : He was remembering emergency days !

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Mr Chairman, Sir, we have paid for what for we stood. I tell them : You have paid for what for you stood. Mr. Amal Datta was very much strong in pleading for the autonomy and independence of the Mass media. Here, I would like to highlight only two points. I have a magazine here with me. It is called 'West Bengal'. A spokesman of the West Bengal Government has said this. Mind you, he is spokesman of the Government—not of a party or of any organisation. It is published by the Director, Department of Information and Cultural Affairs, Government of West Bengal. I can produce thousands of volumes of this copy, wherein they are directly accusing a party like the Congress. It is publicity of a party called the CPI(M). It is done in a tremendous manner. I quote only one thing. This is after the Lok Sabha election held recently. After that you conclude yourself ; you come to your own decision whether it is carrying on autonomy or independence, being a Government Department. The Chief Minister, after the election of Lok Sabha, said this, and it is given in this publication. I quote :

“Congress-I's victory bodes ill for democracy and economic well-being of the masses.”

(Interruptions)

It is a Government book, it is a publication of West Bengal Government.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No side-talk.

(Interruptions)

[Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsi]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please address the Chair. Please don't pay any attention to interruption. Please don't pay any importance to a Member who is sitting and speaking. You carry on.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : What has it to do with TV and Radio ? It is out of context.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him proceed.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : I am not yielding. *(Interruptions)*

*(Interruptions)***

MR. CHAIRMAN (Shri Somnath Rath) : The observations of any Member made while sitting in his seat will not find a place in the proceedings.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Then I will stand up and speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, what the hon. Member speaks here is totally irrelevant and out of context and it is your duty to tell him not to quote from the State Government paper. I would like to remind this House of this particular thing. I am saying to you Mr. Chairman that you should call this Member to order because he is speaking something which is totally irrelevant. He should talk about the Radio and Television and not quote from the newspaper magazine of the West Bengal Government. He cannot quote from it here. You should not allow him to quote from it here. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Sir, it is Parliament...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not precisely quoting from the magazine only referring.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Then what is the purpose of reading out from the magazine here. He is quoting from the magazine and that should not be allowed. This particular Resolution is in regard to Radio and Television. He should not be allowed to quote from the State Government magazine. Sir, what he has quoted from the magazine should be expunged from the records.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Sir, I should not be guided by him. I should be guided by the Chair.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, you kindly give your ruling on this. I want your ruling that what he says is irrelevant.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. If you want a ruling from me, kindly tell me what rule has been infringed by him.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : No rule is to be quoted in this case because the Member is going on speaking irrelevant things.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please tell me what rule is infringed here.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : He is criticising...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAL DATTA : He is not only referring to the State Government's magazine but he is also criticising. Therefore, you should call him to order.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Das Munsi, please proceed.

(Interruptions)

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Sir, he is obstructing the proceedings of the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, I have a point of order. Please refer to Rule 356 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. I will read it out—

“356. The Speaker, after having called the attention of the House to the conduct of a member who persists in irrelevance or in tedious repetition either of his own arguments or of the arguments used by other members in debate, may direct him to discontinue his speech.”

(Interruptions)

Therefore, it is entirely irrelevant. What the Member is saying has no relevance to this particular Resolution. Please

see what he has stated. Let that what has gone on record be read out.

MR CHAIRMAN : Once again, I invite your attention to this rule. It says :

“The Speaker, after having called the attention of the House to the conduct of a Member who persists in irrelevance...”

I have not called the attention...

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Attention of the House, not his attention. You have to inform the House that this Member is indulging in irrelevance, and, therefore, you order him to discontinue his speech....

(Interruptions)

MR CHAIRMAN : There is nothing irrelevant. As per the rule the Point of Order is ruled out.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You have to give your ruling after having gone through what has gone on record ; just not like that...(Interruptions).

PROF K. K. TEWARY : We will not allow this. He is holding the House to ransom...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already given my ruling...My ruling cannot be questioned.

(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not use such words. You cannot say like that.

This will not go on record.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : If you go through the record, while giving your ruling, inadvertently you said that ‘I am ruling out the rules....(Interruptions).

MR CHAIRMAN : The Point of Order is ruled out.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Have you gone through what has been recorded ? Without going through that how can you say whether it is relevant or not ?.....(Interruptions). You have to give your considered ruling. Without considering that how can you do that ? You must consider whether quoting this document is relevant or not for the purpose of this

particular debate. You must consider what he has said and what has gone on record. Without that how can you give your ruling.
(Interruptions)

PROF K. K. TEWARY : if a Member continues persistently to defy the chair and takes the time of the House and indulge in irrelevant talks, you have to devise a method to stop the Member.....
(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : What rule is that ?

PROF K. K. TEWARY : General rule of the House...(Interruptions)**

MR CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go in the proceedings. ...What the hon. Members are now saying will not go in to the proceedings.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT). I got up to say something. But the hon. member has very rightly calmed down. I need not say anything.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I could not hear what Mr. Bhagat said. I would like to hear him again.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : I am glad that you have calmed down. That is what I have said.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : What I am trying to state is this. In this resolution, accusations and charges have been made that the all India Radio and Door Darshan being one of the strongest instrument of mass media, are misusing the power and authority and are only devoting their time for Congress Party's propaganda. I am just trying to refute these charges. In this regard, I would like to establish one aspect, i.e. a document published in the respective States, not only in Bengal, but throughout the country, that document carries as a spokesman of the Government, the functions of the Government and its work. But it should not have political overtones.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Is it not irrelevant ?.....(Interruptions)

[Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsi]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I would suggest that the Chief Minister of West Bengal should be expunged from the records.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : You mentioned the name of the Chief Minister of Gujarat so many times. You did it frequently. What about that ? that also should be expunged.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, you are preventing me from talking every time. I am only asking you how this West Bengal publication is relevant to this debate. What has he got to do with it ? If he can establish that there is a connection between that and TV and Radio, then only his argument would be relevant.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already given my ruling. Please take your seat. There will be no discussion over my ruling.

(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us hear Shri Das Munsi.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : You may expunge my sentences. But do not expunge**.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Neither you nor the Chair can do that. It is not for to say that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : I have been trying to substantiate.....

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : The two sentences of Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsi must be expunged.....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : ... (Interruptions) If you continue like this, I have to trouble you for ever. Take it from me. Not a single day, I will allow you to talk... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : About the two sentences you are referring to, we will go through the record. If they are against the rules, they will be expunged. Mr. Das Munsi, please proceed.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :

The strict sense of the Resolution is this. Please go through the Resolution. What does it say ? It says :

"This House resolves that the all India Radio and Doordarshan be converted into autonomous corporations to ensure objectivity, impartiality and independence of the mass media."

What I was trying to establish is that in Government organizations, political overtones should not be encouraged—even in Radio and Television. If Radio and Television constantly go on saying that the victory of Congress means disaster for Telugu Desam and Lok Dal; or if the Television and Radio say that the victory of Congress (I) means the total denial of the Opposition in the sense of saying that they are corrupt etc., then I consider that is bad; that is unfair. On that pretext, I was trying to say that after the Lok Sabha elections, some publications have come about in various parts of the country, among which one is the Government of West Bengal publication.

About what the Chief Minister has said, there is a quotation. I will quote it. (Interruptions) What is wrong in it ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you not quoting the Prime Minister ?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : What has it got to do with Radio and Television ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you not quoting the Prime Minister ?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : In respect of what ? (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : I want a ruling, Sir, on whether it is unparliamentary to quote from any document published by the Government either in a State or in the Union, i.e. to quote any text from the document published by the Government, by a representative of the people.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is within your rights, when relevant.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : That is all right. What else am I talking ? I quote :

** Not recorded.

‘The landslide victory of the Congress (I) all over India bodes ill for democracy and economic well being of the masses. In West Bengal, the Congress(I) has made significant gains particularly in the strong-holds of the left fores. It is a matter of serious concern for us. There is no doubt that Indira Gandhi dead is more powerful than Indira Gandhi alive. In this election, the Indira Sympathy vote took its toll here in a big way.

The entire election in West Bengal will be reviewed by the constituents of the Left Front Government after full reports are received. We shall make renewed efforts to enlist the support of those who have been swayed to vote for the Congress (I).’

This is the quotation from the document. *(Interruptions)* Sir, I do not mind if such kinds of things are published by the General Secretary of the All India Congress Committee (I) against a political party. I do not mind it; but if such things are said in Radio, Television or any Government publication—by a party against another party, then I consider that that is not impartial; that is not objective. That was my point. It was immoral. That was my point. *(Interruptions)* We all know there were riots in Delhi after the assassination of Mrs. Gandhi. If the Radio and Television go on telling, in their publicity media, that the

riots were conducted by Group A against Group B, or by Group B against Group A, then that is not impartial; that is not objective. To control riots should be their objective; and to appeal for peace and harmony.

Similarly, if any Government document through a published article by any political party, or by the leader of their party says—in that document—that a particular group or party, or a groups was responsible for certain things, and that the Sikhs are made responsible unnecessarily for them and that was why their religion was being attacked—do you consider that to be objective? This was also published in the West Bengal Government publication. I was only referring.....

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : I strongly condemn it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : A similar thing should not be done through any media, not only Television or Radio, but through any media.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Das Munsi, you can continue your speech next time. The House now stands adjourned till 11 a.m. on Monday, the 22nd April, 1985.

18.00 hrs.

[The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, April 22, 1985/ Vaisakha 2, 1907 (Saka).]